



World Mission Prayer League

Board Requested

Day of Prayer & Fasting

January 6, 2020

We invite you to join us in a special time of prayer and fasting as you are able on Epiphany Day—January 6, 2020. The Minneapolis Mission Home will be open from 6am to 8pm for your convenience to come and go as your schedule permits. Board and staff members will share a short devotional at the top of each hour to further guide our prayers as we focus on the following Board directive (MMSD 10/7/2019):

to direct staff to organize a concerted day of prayer and fasting to ask God for guidance regarding the following questions:

- (1) What expression of community is needed for WMPL to accomplish its mission?**
- (2) How can WMPL best instill commissioned living in the next generation?**

If you are not able to join us in person, please pray wherever you are—or choose another time during that week to pray. Then please let our Board Chairman know how you may have sensed God's answer or leading in response to your prayer during this time. Email: chairman@wmpl.org or send a written note to our Minneapolis Office, ATTN: Board Chairman.

This guide is being made available to facilitate World Mission Prayer League members to pray for our community. The guide draws upon passages from 2 Corinthians Chapter 4 to help fuel our prayers for the League.

All Scripture is from the NRSV. Each theme was inspired by and draws freely from "*Prayer Shield: 40-Day Prayer Guide for Sent Ones*" —an online pdf document prepared by The Sent Ones Prayer Guide Team.

**THE BOARD OF THE WORLD MISSION PRAYER LEAGUE
DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING – JANUARY 6, 2020**

TIME	THEME / THOUGHT	SCRIPTURE	COMMENTS
6 AM	Ministry	2 Cor 4:1	“We” is the key word.
7 AM	Sin and Temptation	2 Cor 4:2a	The truth is that even a little sin can have severe consequences.
8 AM	Honesty, Truthfulness, Hearing God’s Voice	2 Cor 4:2b	We can believe all that He says is true.
9 AM	Obedience, Integrity and Grace	2 Cor 4:2c	One of the big issues of the body of Christ in general is hypocrisy.
10 AM	Patience in Waiting	2 Cor 4:4, 6b	Waiting for God’s timing can be difficult and patience feels hard.
11 AM	Humility, Service, Flexibility and Holy Spirit Leading	2 Cor 4:5	Oh, how we need Christ’s humility but... some people seem easier to serve than others.
12 PM	Victory in Christ	2 Cor 4:6a	Light shines the brightest where it is dark!
1 PM	Being in God’s Presence and Manifesting His Power	2 Cor 4:6b-7	We’ve been given direct access to the King but sometimes we doubt His capacity.
2 PM	Taking a Stand	2 Cor 4:8a	The crushing is for Satan, not for us! What good news this is.
3 PM	Confusion, Unmet Expectations, Hope and Worship	2 Cor 4:8b	It is perplexing as to why we get confused so often!
4 PM	Thriving as Single, Family, Team & Community	2 Cor 4:9-10	We seek health and wellness for our community and its witness.
5 PM	Sharing the Gospel, Boldness	2 Cor 4:13	We’re compelled to share the Good News of Christ through avenues of service.
6 PM	Community	2 Cor 4:14	He has called us and made us the body of Christ.
7 PM	Perspective, Allegiances and Eternal Glory	2 Cor 4:17	We may be tempted to fuel a pity party but count the cost and trust in the eternal hope: Christ.
8 PM	Spiritual Insight	2 Cor 4:18	Pray that we would look with spiritual eyes.

2 Corinthians 4

¹ Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷ But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. ¹¹ For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death is at work in us, but life in you.

¹³ But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵ Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸ because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

6 AM – Ministry

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart... (2 Cor. 4:1)

“We” is the key word: God has given us—the World Mission Prayer League—a ministry. Just as the body has many parts, so too there are many roles to be filled in carrying out this ministry. The most celebrated are often those who go; however, there is so much more to the ministry the Prayer League is engaged in. Without the prayer, friendship, encouragement, administrative, technical, and financial support of the senders and the Prayer League office team, then the ministry either would not exist or would be in a very different form. Let us not underestimate the role of support to the sent ones and the role of mobilizing the senders in the ministry God has given them.

In addition, we know that any ministry carried out in the name of Jesus Christ is subject to attack. The enemy hates anything that lifts up the name of Christ, the Savior for all peoples. Often goers will have only a few other believers near them or even in the whole country, but also, those senders and office support workers do not always have like-minded people in their congregations or among their fellowships, either. The enemy uses such scarcity of community to make workers and supporters alike feel isolated and alone in their ministry engagement. This is why it is crucial that all our workers know that there are many behind them, encouraging them, cheering them on and covering them with prayer!

Pray today for our workers to be filled with the Holy Spirit for their ministry and pray for yourself that God would give you the grace needed to be a faithful support to each one.

Pray that all supporting teams and individuals, congregations and other fellowships, and partner agencies would be sensitive to the needs of Prayer League workers and would actively help where appropriate, and for clear communication on all sides.

Pray that God would open all doors for workers to continue in their ministry and would provide all permissions, visas, finances, and resources needed, whether they serve in other countries or within the USA.

Pray that God would give Prayer League workers, Board members, and all our fellowship vision and direction in the ministry we are engaged in. Pray that the Father guide us into the expression of community we need in order to be committed to know Christ, committed to pray for the Kingdom advance, committed to share the gospel and ourselves with those who do not know him, and committed to encourage Christians everywhere in this global task so that God is glorified and more people participate in his Kingdom.

Pray that God would provide community and co-laborers for Prayer League workers whether in other countries or North American workers (Luke 10:2).

Pray these verses over World Mission Prayer League and the people we serve:

“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” 2 Cor. 9:8

“While we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.” Acts 6:4

(Other references: 1 Cor. 12:24-26)

7 AM – Sin and Temptation

We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; (2 Cor. 4:2a)

Sin is always there to tempt us—even Jesus, our high priest, was tempted. Sometimes the pressure to be “perfect” or uphold some other kind of image or expectation causes us to try to bury our sin in excuses, categorize it “as not that bad,” or dismiss it altogether. The truth is that even a little sin can have severe consequences. Look at the decision David made to number his forces (2 Chronicles 21). Rather than trust in God to win his battles, he trusted in numbers, even intending to include the Levitical priests in his calculations. His trust in the quantity of his resources rather than the Lord led to the death of tens of thousands of Israelites. Sin alters our intimacy with God and those around us—even to destroying a calling and a ministry. Jesus Christ died to remove our sin and shame, to set us free from its bondage, and to make us a holy and pure people. However, all we need do is look within and around to realize we are not fully there yet. The enemy enjoys hounding us with temptations and getting us to sin. He also takes delight in persecuting us for our shortcomings and beating us down. Therefore, we are in a struggle this side of the grave. But God has given us victory over sin every time we confess our need for the Savior and repent! We can be a people that repent often because we are needy and he is worthy. He is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse! (1 John 1:7-9) This truth is counter to our culture that, on the one hand, takes very lightly the consequences of sin and believes a few good works can cancel out the bad deeds (and thoughts are not sinful—just actions) and, on the other hand, is ready to publicly condemn any perceived wrong with fierce and quick action. Our workers need to lean moment by moment into the one who is our High Priest, the One who is without sin (Hebrews 2:17-18).

Pray that workers have the strength and discernment to overcome the temptations of the evil one and renounce all secret and shameful ways.

Pray that God would convict members of our community of any sin and that His kindness would lead them to repentance (Romans 2:4). Pray that their example of repentance would influence those around them.

Pray for healthy accountability and people around each of us to spur us on in righteousness and holiness in all areas of our lives.

Pray that the power of the Holy Spirit will grow us in daily holiness, to live in demonstration of the fruits of the spirit, and to seek the intimacy with God without which we cannot serve and minister.

Pray these verses over the Prayer League and those we serve:

“Let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.” Hebrews 12:1-2

“Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:14-16

"Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested." Hebrews 2:17-18

8 AM – Honesty, Truthfulness, Hearing God’s Voice

We refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God’s word; (2 Cor. 4:2b)

One of the many things that we love about Jesus is that He is trustworthy. We can believe all that He says is true. In this way, we want to reflect Christ; desiring that others know us as people of honesty and integrity because of what Christ has done. But there are many challenges to living a life of honesty and truthfulness, especially when we live in cultures of moral poverty and ethical paradox. Combined with Satan’s love for twisting the truth, we may be led to question foundations in the Word such as God’s character and our ability to hear or understand Him: “Did He really say...?”; “He couldn’t have possibly meant...?” This is why digging into God’s revelation of himself and holding firmly to God’s truth is so essential to our community and ministry!

Pray that God would help each one in our community to be honest and truthful in every circumstance.

Pray that we would rely in greater measure on the perfect example of the truthfulness of Christ.

Pray that we would know Jesus’ voice more clearly and be confident of His leading in our life and ministry.

Pray that God would cancel the lies that the enemy has tried to plant in our hearts. Ask Him to show us what lies we believe and are deceiving us and rebuke them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ! Pray for truth to replace the lie and for us to abide in Christ and His truth so that the lie has no power over us.

Pray that God would protect our community from situations of corruption, impure motives and misdirected ambitions, and that He would give wisdom and courage when issues are to be addressed.

Pray these verses over the World Mission Prayer League and those we serve:

“Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.” Psalm 143:8

“The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” John 10:3-5

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect

harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Col 3:12-17)

9 AM – Obedience, Integrity and Grace

But by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. (2 Cor. 4:2c)

Our mission involves a commitment to know Christ (Handbook ¶15) and we want people to look at us and see Christ. We want people to see the good in the World Mission Prayer League, too, and be attracted to it. And we pray that they will not see where we fall short. However, we know that one of the big issues of the body of Christ in general is hypocrisy. We can talk a big talk but when it comes to actually living what we preach and teach, we often fall short in practice. Praise God, His grace covers our shortcomings and God even uses our shortcomings to show us the necessity of His grace in Christ Jesus. But we never want to take this grace for granted. We rather want to show the power of Christ to forgive, set free and transform a broken people into His workmanship created for good deeds. Through our obedience to Christ, we want people to look at the World Mission Prayer League and see that there is something different. We want them to look at us and feel conviction in their own hearts about their obedience to the Lord's commands. In some ways, we might be the only example of obedience to Christ for others to observe and learn from. We might even be their only access to Jesus!

Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to do His transforming power in our lives. May the Spirit convict us of sin so that we may repent and walk the walk even more closely. May we look more and more like Jesus. Pray that those we serve would see Jesus in us!

Pray that His grace would cover the areas where we fall short and that He would be glorified in our confession, repentance and hope in Christ.

Pray that we would know the abundance of His grace for daily living, in our homes and in community, and that God would cancel the enemy's schemes to bring about our condemnation.

Pray that we would be obedient to Christ and that what we share of our lives would glorify Him and exemplify an authentic and compelling witness for Jesus that attracts others to Him and His Great Commission.

Pray this verse over the Prayer League and those we serve:

“They refused to obey, and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them; but they stiffened their necks and determined to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and you did not forsake them.” Nehemiah 9:17

“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.” 1 Corinthians 15:10

10 AM — Patience in Waiting

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Cor. 4:4)

[God], who has shone in our hearts to give the light (2 Cor 4:6b)

The gospel is light and God has put this light in our hearts. We have personal evidence that His light CAN transform a life. He has taken dead sinners and given them life! We need to remember what the Lord has done in us. There is power in our testimony of God's goodness in our lives. Every time we share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those God leads us to serve—light is shone. But for those that are blinded by their own unwillingness, or this world, or the enemy, they cannot perceive it. The glory of Christ Jesus is in their midst, but they are unaware or can feel uncomfortable and turn from it.

There is power over darkness in sharing the light that Jesus has given us. However, sometimes we want the people we seek to mobilize in churches, other groups and fellowships, colleges, and others in North America to see the light of the gospel so powerfully and the Great Commission so intensely that we can get discouraged when our friends and other Christians continue to be blind.

God has put in our hearts a deep love for the people we serve and so waiting for God's timing can be difficult. Patience feels hard when people's eternity is at stake and we desire for more people to be engaged in the Great Commission for the furtherance of the Kingdom. However, we are assured that God is not slow in answering prayers; His ways are above our ways; His timing is perfect. He will glorify himself and He is at work. Lord, give us patience to wait upon you.

Pray that World Mission Prayer League workers and Board would have patience and wait on the Lord's timing for His guidance to be revealed. Pray that by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony, blindness would be overcome!

Pray for opportunities for us to share our personal testimony and that it would be a powerful witness to those we serve. Pray that our expression of community will be such that others would see the light of the gospel and want to follow Jesus in like manner.

Pray against discouragement from lack of results from our witness.

Pray that God would continue to give us His heart for the people we serve.

Pray these verses over the World Mission Prayer League and the people we serve and seek to mobilize:

“The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”
Psalm 27:14

“But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.” Revelation 12:11

11 AM – Humility, Service, Flexibility, & Holy Spirit Leading

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. (2 Cor. 4:5)

Jesus is our perfect example of humility. Though God, Jesus did not come to be served but to serve—to the point of death! He also did nothing of His own to glorify Himself but only did what the Father showed Him. His chief aim was to glorify the Father. Oh, how we need the same humility as Christ Jesus. We may ask ourselves, "What can we do for Jesus as community?" Or we may state, "We are doing this or that for Jesus." However, it is not what we can do for the Savior but what He has done for us! Everything we have is from Him: our gifts, talents, treasures, assignments and ministries, and the stewardship of His resources is also from Him. They are all His and we cannot take any credit. But sometimes maybe we want to. Our hearts can be so full of pride that we are led astray. Another way we express our pride is to compare ourselves to others. This can destroy us, our relationships, team life, and entire ministries if we allow comparison motivated by pride to get a foothold. We are in need of the constant reminder of Christ's humility and the power of the Holy Spirit to transform our hearts. Instead of comparing, humility builds each other up. May we remain humble!

Another aspect of humility is serving others and regarding them as better than ourselves. Individually and corporately as members of the World Mission Prayer, we are servants of Christ the Lord. Christ is our perfect example of being a servant. Nothing was beneath His position in the world. Jesus even literally did the job of a servant (as in doing the job of the hired help) by washing His disciples' feet. Then He proceeded to tell all his followers to do the same. He has called us to be servants to all—this means our families, our teammates, our co-workers, the membership and those we desire to mobilize, etc. The truth is that some people seem easier to serve than others, but God has not called us to pick and choose whom we serve but to serve all those that God has put in our lives. We also see from Jesus' example that serving means being flexible. Plans change and being open to the leading of the Holy Spirit is necessary for service.

Pray that the World Mission Prayer League community would be humble as followers of Jesus Christ, that we would do nothing to glorify ourselves but to do everything to glorify the Lord Christ.

Pray against any pride in us that wants recognition or to feel like we have accomplished something apart from the unmerited grace of God. Pray that we would continually remember that every aspect of our lives is from God and that all credit is His.

Pray that comparison would not get a foothold. Where there is an issue may we be made aware of it and repent. May the community humbly build each other up in and for the glory of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pray that God would give us a greater capacity to serve and that He would grant us much joy in it.

Pray that we would learn/re-learn to be flexible and open to the Holy Spirit leading us in our service in additional ways.

Pray that we would have Christ's same heart to serve, that we would exemplify regarding others as better than ourselves, and be servants to those God has placed in our lives.

Pray these verses over us and those we serve:

“I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other.” Isaiah 45:5-6

“If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.” Philippians 2:1-8

“But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.” Luke 22:26-27

12 PM – Victory in Christ

For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts (2 Cor. 4:6a)

Light shines the brightest where it is dark! Just think of the night sky when the moon is full and the stars are twinkling. The places where World Mission Prayer League serves are spiritually dark. There may have been little to no gospel witness for generations or there may have been life in Christ that has grown cold and lost its witness for Good News. But God is the same God that spoke light into creation and He is still speaking light into the peoples of this world. In some places we observe the darkness overcoming the light, but that advance will not have the final victory. On the cross and through the resurrection Jesus won the final victory over evil. Since then we have been called to be lights for Christ in the darkness. We shine for Him as we walk in the truth and in His victory. The light has come to this nation. The very fact that the Lord has brought us here is evidence of his bringing in the light, repeatedly. He is still speaking this same phrase over our areas of influence. Speak it out with Him: “Let light shine out of darkness!”

Pray that the victory that Jesus won on the cross would be manifest in the lives of our workers, the WMPL community, in our membership, and in the congregations we serve.

Pray the light and blood of Christ over each of us—that we would persevere through all attempts of the enemy against us because of the finished work of the cross and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Pray that the light of Christ would cast the darkness out from the lives of Christians we serve as World Mission Prayer League. Pray that eyes would be opened and that many would turn from darkness and cold hearts to the light and power of the gospel.

Pray that we would walk holding fast to the victory of Christ by living a blameless life, holding onto the truth and shining like stars in the darkness.

Pray these verses over the World Mission Prayer League and those we serve:

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27:1

“He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with him.” Daniel 2:22

“In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” John 1:4-5

“Do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.” Philippians 2:14-16

1 PM – Being in God’s Presence and Manifesting His Power

To give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. (2 Cor. 4:6b-7)

We know that apart from God the World Mission Prayer League can do nothing of lasting value, but with Him anything is possible! There is no one like Him, no one compares! He is above all things, greater and far beyond our own human comprehension. And if that isn’t enough, we have an unbelievable privilege that we can, in a manner beyond our finite understanding, enter into the holy of holies and be in the glorious presence of the Almighty. In Moses’ day, only he could enter the presence of God. Other people had to be outside and wait for Moses to come out from the glorious presence of the Holy One. But no longer! Through the merits of Christ, we have direct access to the throne of our Creator.

Like Moses we can talk to God face to face, as a friend. However, there are many who do not, yet, have this access to God. They have no understanding of a God who wants His people to come into His presence. We have this gracious gift and yet sometimes we do not enter in nearly as much as we could. We are so busy with our ministry assignments and the regular demands of life that focusing on being with the Almighty is pushed aside and we fail to direct our hearts and minds upon the Lord and to revel in His majesty as we could. May we again be in awe of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords who has given us direct access to Himself.

The Almighty still chooses to involve people to accomplish His ends and He gives us power beyond our own abilities so that He might be glorified. While we know this in our heads, and may have experienced His work in extraordinary ways, sometimes we doubt His capacity to meet the issues we face. Can we trust Him to guide the Prayer League or do we feel we need to rationalize a strategy that seems to be good stewardship of our resources? God has given each of us the greatest resource of all, His Holy Spirit! Many other forces, both human and spiritual, claim that they have the ultimate power and try

to steal the glory from the Lord. But we know the truth—all power is God’s alone. He will exalt Himself among the nations!

Pray for that awe of entering His presence each time we come to Him in our prayers. May each of us, in Jesus’ Name, have encounters with the greatness of God that enliven our faith and strengthen our trust in Him.

Pray for us to be diligent and persevere to protect the time we intend for focusing on the Lord. May busyness and other issues that arise and keep us from entering into prayer be exposed and may we have the courage to put them aside to pray. Pray that God would foil the schemes of the enemy that try to steal this time.

Pray for those with little or no knowledge of this inheritance of the saints. May they be liberated from those forces that claim their allegiance and come to know that they, too, may enter into the presence of the Almighty through Christ and that they may know the glory of the LORD.

Pray that trust in inferior powers would be revealed and lead to confession, repentance and renewed trust in the Almighty. Pray that faith and worship would arise in us to the one true all-powerful God, that He would be exalted and glorified!

Pray these verses over the World Mission Prayer League and those we serve:

“You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” Psalm 16:11 (Other reference: Exodus 33:11)

“Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.” Isaiah 65:24

“He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.” Colossians 2:15

“To the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.” Jude 25

2 PM — Taking a Stand

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; (2 Cor. 4:8a)

God is the Almighty! He has crushed the enemy so that we can stand firm in Christ the Lord. But each of us in the World Mission Prayer League do need to take our stand and put on the full armor of God. God may not give us more to handle than He will give us the strength for, but He may give us more than we can handle so that we rely on Him no matter what the outcome! Since the garden of Eden and Satan’s first act of deception, God has cursed him and promised that there would be one that would crush his head—Jesus! Paul says in Romans, “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under our feet.” (see Romans 16:20) The crushing is for Satan, not for us! What good news this is. We may be pressed but we will not be crushed. In fact, God will crush Satan through us, under our feet. We can stand on this truth! Speak this phrase over each one of us: “The crushing is for Satan, not for you! Take your stand!”

Pray that every scheme of the enemy to crush the Prayer League would be turned on its head and would instead be used for God’s glory and Satan’s defeat.

Pray that we would stand firm on the promises of God and our position in Christ as God's chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession (1 Peter 2:9).

Pray that God would remind us frequently to equip ourselves with the His armor and with the ability to stand firm in the face of the devil's schemes.

Pray that, as we face disturbing circumstances, that the enemy would be crushed and we would call upon God's power to overcome.

Pray these verses over the World Mission Prayer League and those we serve:

“I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.” Psalm 89:23

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.” Ephesians 6:10-18

(Other references: Gen. 3:15, Romans 16:20)

3 PM — Confusion, Unmet Expectations, Hope & Worship

[We are] perplexed, but not driven to despair; (2 Cor. 4:8b)

We know that God does not give us a spirit of confusion. He is the God of order and He gives us a sound mind. We also know that God is never confused; He knows us and has planned the purpose of our lives according to His good will. He is the Sovereign! So, it is perplexing as to why we get confused so often! Our experience is a reality where some days and events we just cannot see or figure out what God is doing. Things do not go as we expect and sometimes it feels God is doing the opposite of what we have prayed for or sensed He was leading toward. The honest truth is that when the darkness seems to hide His face and we just can't see past the pain, loss or hopelessness, we are tempted to despair. We are tempted to doubt God and even spiral into depression. The enemy enjoys sowing seeds of doubt among us, “Can this place or these people really ever change? Is this worth all the sacrifice? Were you really called to be here?” etc.

However, confusion and hopelessness are not new feelings for Jesus' followers. His disciples were also quite confused about things He said and taught and utterly distraught when He died. It was not until the days and weeks following His resurrection that they could begin to understand His sovereign plan. Their understanding continued to grow as God revealed more at the Ascension, then Pentecost, and then the revelation to Peter of His plan for the nations (Acts 11:1-18). Despite appearances, we can trust in God's sovereignty and that, while appearances can lead us to other conclusions, we know that in all things God

works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).

And He has put hope in our hearts. God's word says in Isaiah 61:3 that He will give us "a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair." Pray this over us. Worship and praise are weapons against the enemy when he tries to come at us with confusion, doubt and despair. Many of the Psalms (originally worship songs) are great examples to us of God taking a spirit of despair and turning it into a garment of praise. Ask God which Psalm to speak (or maybe sing!) over the Prayer League.

Pray for God, who knows all, to give us faith to trust Him for that which He does not reveal to us. "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

Pray that the LORD would thwart the enemy's sowing of doubt, confusion, and despair among us, that He would bind and silence the lies, speak His truth and affirmation over us, and comfort the pain of unmet expectations.

Pray that God would release us from doubt and despair, renew hope in our midst, and clothe us with a garment of praise. Pray for us to step into worship for as long as it takes to know the assurance of answered prayer!

Pray that God would give us eyes to trust beyond what we see in any situation in human terms and trust what He is doing in and among us, yet unseen.

Pray that we would grow in trust of the promise that the prayers of the Holy Spirit are taking place in our weakness and finiteness.

Pray that, while waiting for clarity, we would trust in God's faithfulness to Himself and His will to work all things for good according to His purpose.

Pray these verses over the World Mission Prayer League and those we serve:

"For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:7

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:2

"We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words." Romans 8:22-26

(Examples of Psalms to pray: 37, 77)

4 PM – Thriving as Single, Family, Team & Community

Persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. (2 Cor. 4:9b-10)

The language “struck down” is often used in the Word of God to express what God did to the Egyptians to set His people free so that the nations may know His Name. This language was also used to describe what David did to Goliath. Our God is a God who strikes down evil for His name’s sake! But the enemy also attempts to “strike us down” and one common focus of attack is our health—physical, emotional and psychological—and it can affect us individually and collectively. Physical ill-health weakens us, making it difficult for us to function well and fulfill the ministry God has given us. Sickness and accidents may occur more often at spiritually significant times. Stress and challenging spiritual dynamics can negatively affect our mental health, too. The enemy seeks to strike down the people we love, live and work among, and serve. The physical, mental and psychological health of our partners in mission and those we hope to mobilize may also become targets for increased attack. There are so many other strategies of the enemy to strike us down: abuse, addictions, unemployment/underemployment, environmental issues, etc.

We have died with Jesus Christ so that we may also live in the abundant life of Christ! He has come not just so that we can live, but so we can live abundantly in Him; so that we can thrive! This abundance is not contingent on our circumstances but on His finished work on the cross. Merely living in the abundant life of Christ is an attack on the spiritual forces that seek us harm in our places of service. The nations in which we live are spiritual battlegrounds where darkness rules in the majority of lives and homes. Therefore, to live individually as well as in community in the fullness of life from God is to walk in the opposite spirit of the people around us. May the life of Jesus be revealed in our lives so that others join us in the abundant life of Christ.

Pray for God's grace to provide health and wellness for World Mission Prayer League workers and the people we serve. May we, as single adults, married, family, teams and community, thrive in all circumstances.

Pray for supernatural health for our workers. Pray also for wisdom and a willingness to care for ourselves (physically, spiritually, emotionally and psychologically) and for supportive health care when needed.

Pray that God would undo the schemes of the enemy against our community and the people we serve. Pray that God would strike down the enemy's schemes and all his attempts to steal, kill and destroy.

Pray specifically for God’s protection against accidents that would detour us from the service/ministry He has engaged us in. Pray that God would keep us from serious injury.

Pray that God would hold our children in His hands, protect them from the enemy and grow them in the knowledge of Christ. Pray that God would instill in mothers and fathers willingness to entrust their worries to God.

Pray that today we would walk in the abundant life Jesus has given us! Pray that the life of Jesus would be revealed in our lives as community and that it would effect change in those we seek to mobilize and those we serve.

Pray for God to lift the burden of heaviness from concern about our circumstances and bring times of humor and laughter to refresh our souls.

Pray these verses over the World Mission Prayer League and those we serve:

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.” 1 Corinthians 1:3-4

“Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul.” 3 John 1:2

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” John 10:10

5 PM – Sharing the Gospel, Boldness!

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—“I believed, and so I spoke”—we also believe, and so we speak, (2 Cor. 4:13)

After the disciples knew the truth of Christ and had been given the Holy Spirit, they were compelled to share. Even with the threat of prison and pain they were unable and unwilling to stop sharing. They said, “We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20). Paul also felt compelled to preach. He said, “Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!” (1 Cor 9:16). We also feel compelled to share the Good News of Christ through the various avenues of service and engagement in the World Mission Prayer League. But sometimes the privilege of communicating about who the God revealed in the Bible is and what He has done becomes a burden to us, or we may even be detoured by fear of not saying things “correctly.” In the Old Testament, Moses felt burdened and fearful to speak, but God told him He would help and teach him what to say. So, too, with Isaiah, Jeremiah, and others.

Today, pray for encouragement for our community, that each would receive the Word that He is present, and we would rely on the Holy Spirit to speak in and through us—especially in the face of fear!

Pray we would believe afresh today and would share from the Holy Spirit’s work in our hearts rather than from a place of duty.

Pray that God would compel us to share encouraging words in the faith and these would flow freely from our lips.

Pray the Lord would use us to share the faith we hold in common.

Pray against fear and sharing becoming a burden. Pray God would bring others into our community with whom we may share together the riches of His abundant grace and engage in service.

Pray these verses over the Prayer League and those we serve:

“He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.” Mark 6:7

“Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.” Ephesians 6:19-20

(Other references: Acts 4:20, 1 Corinthians 9:16, Exodus 4:10-16)

6 PM – Community

Because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. (2 Cor. 4:14)

Thank the Lord that he has done this for “us.” His plan is for His collective bride, the church of Jesus Christ; it is for us. While the West places a high value on individualism, God reveals that we are not meant to serve Him alone—He has called us and made us the body of Christ because we need each other. God has given us each certain gifts and specific roles so that we can minister to one another and be ministered to, and this will only happen if employed in community. The enemy knows that when we are together in the Lord, our oneness glorifies Jesus and is a powerful force for the expansion of His Kingdom. So he tries everything to cause disunity or distrust between followers of Jesus. He tries to bring division to every relationship—whether that be with a spouse, parent, friend, teammate, Board member, etc. Followers of the Lord Jesus Christ must make every effort to defend community in Christ—the qualities of transparency, accountability, confession and repentance, forgiveness, sharing and carrying of each other’s burdens are just some ways community can defend itself against the attacks of the enemy. Pray for our community to grow in these qualities.

Pray that God would bring deep, strong unity within the Prayer League around its commitments to know Christ, pray for the advance of his kingdom, share the gospel and ourselves with those who do not know him, and encourage Christians everywhere in this global task.

Pray for unity in general for all our Prayer League members: marriages, parent/child relationships, friendships, workers, teams and Board relationships.

Pray that there would be carrying of each other’s burdens, readiness to receive correction, authentic forgiveness of wrongs and restoration.

Pray that God would expose and/or destroy the schemes of the enemy that try to cause division and disunity within our community.

Pray that we would grow in demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit as we work together and that we would be an effective ministry for advancing the Kingdom of God and bringing Him the glory He deserves.

Pray for God’s guidance for how the Prayer League can best instill our commitments into younger generations.

Pray these verses over the World Mission Prayer League and those we serve:

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone?”

And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

“But God, who consoles the downcast, consoled us by the arrival of Titus, and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was consoled about you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more.”
2 Corinthians 7:6-7

7 PM – Perspective, Allegiances, and Eternal Glory

For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, (2 Cor. 4:17)

In the daily grind of our office where we serve or other ministry assignment, it is easy for our vision to get very narrow and that can make our troubles and trials seem very large. We may be tempted to fuel a pity party, beginning in our hearts and then spreading the invitation with our mouths. It may be hard to bring myself to ask, "What is God's perspective on my troubles?" There are no troubles that are too small or large or hard for God to notice. The old hymn, "His Eye is on the Sparrow" reminds us of his care. Like Peter walking on water, when we have our eyes fixed on Jesus, we do not notice the storm all around us. But when we take our eyes off Christ and look solely on the storm we start to sink! Praise God that by His grace He rescues us from drowning and pulls us back into His embrace. In the story of Job, we learn that his view of his circumstances was distorted by the extent of his suffering. But in the end God speaks and reminds Job of how great and awesome He is! He has revealed His perspective in His Word and helps us see it through His Holy Spirit when we ask Him for it. He realigns our narrow view of our circumstances to His purposes.

One of the things that Jesus tells us to do is to count the cost. He tells us that we must be willing to leave everything behind for the sake of following Him. We cannot be His disciple and still hold our allegiance to other things. He tells us to intentionally evaluate who will "finish the tower" or "win the war." We do want to follow Him and leaving all seems right; we want to remain faithful until the end. However, sometimes we are like Peter, and we do not quite realize where following might lead us, or we lose sight of the glory to come and instead place our hope in something more tangible and reasonable. We may count on things other than Christ, like our own abilities, strengths, sweet spots, resources and assets. When we count on those things, they will fail us in the battle for His glory and Kingdom expansion. The cost may seem greater than we can bear, but God's eternal glory and the salvation of people from every population is worth far more value than the cost—whatever it may be.

Pray that God would give us His perspective on our circumstances and troubles.

Pray that, in light of our amazing and awesome God, we would surrender to Him our troubles and receive the grace He provides to ease the burden.

Pray that we would fix our eyes on Jesus who is with us in our troubles and challenging circumstances.

Pray that God would rescue us when we sense we are sinking in our troubles.

Pray that Prayer League members would have the eternal vision that reminds us that the glory to come is so much greater than anything else we might experience here on earth.

Pray that we would let go of anything that holds our allegiance other than Christ.

Pray that we would count on Jesus Christ and nothing else to enable us to complete the journey God has for us. May we trust in Him for the expression of community that is needed so that the Prayer League will accomplish its purpose.

Pray that we would be enabled to complete the task that God has given to the World Mission Prayer League.

Pray these verses over the Prayer League and those we serve:

“I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
‘Hear, and I will speak;
I will question you, and you declare to me.’
I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you;
therefore I despise myself,
and repent in dust and ashes.” Job 42:1-6

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.” Psalm 23:1-3 (Other references: Matthew 14:22-32)

“On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.”
Psalm 62:7

“Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, ‘Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, “This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.” Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.’” Luke 14:25-33

8 PM — Spiritual Insight

because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. (2 Cor. 4:18)

As we look at the world and all its diversity and beauty, it is only natural that we would focus on what is seen, what we can touch, taste, smell, what we can explain with science, culture, nature, etc. But we are not just a natural person. We are spiritual as well. We have access to the supernatural (the unseen) through Christ. We now have been given the mind of Christ. The Holy Spirit of the Almighty resides in us and, having received the Word and the Spirit, we can have true wisdom and know sufficiently the thoughts and intentions of God. He longs to reveal His wisdom and spiritual truths to us. These things will last; all else is temporary.

Pray that we would look with spiritual eyes and that the Holy Spirit would help us see and discern spiritual realities.

Pray that we would not just look at what is seen but seek to see beyond, to what is unseen.

Pray that we would have wisdom from God the Holy Spirit.

Pray that God would reveal to the Prayer League things about our community and service that will help guide the Prayer League to instill commissioned living into the lives of younger generations.

Pray these verses over the World Mission Prayer League and those we serve:

“Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

“Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else’s scrutiny. ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?’

“But we have the mind of Christ.” 1 Corinthians 2:12-16

