



HIGHER *Ground*

21 DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING

An initiative of the
Church of God (Holiness)



The departments of the Church of God (Holiness) invite you to join in 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting, October 5-25, 2026. Believing that spiritual victories are a direct result of prayer, this is an important event in the ministries of our churches and departments.

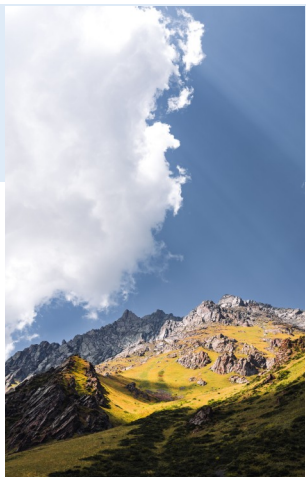
You will find a forward by Dr. Chad Pollard, Director of Home Missions, and an introduction by Dr. Jim “Umfundisi” Lo, Director of World Missions. These are followed by 21 days of devotionals by various authors. Each daily reading is accompanied by prayer requests from the Church of God (Holiness). Additional daily readings follow for those who would like to continue.

Thank you for uniting with us to pray for Higher Ground.

Authors: Dr. Chad Pollard, Dr. Jim “Umfundisi” Lo, Faith Trussell, Rod Davis, Brandon Speak, Delbert Scott, Erica Wait, Jon Kreutzweiser, Karen Speak, Nathan Teed, Rigoberto C. Linares, Matthew Lee, Jim Purtle, Cindy Purtle, Austin Tolley, and Ashlee Englund

COGH Home Missions
913-432-2378
www.coghhomemissions.com

COGH World Missions
913-432-0303
www.coghworlmissions.org



Forward:

An Invitation and a Challenge

By Dr. Chad Pollard, Director of Home Missions

So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer. Ezra 8:23 NIV

We are inviting and challenging our Church of God (Holiness) community to a collective time of prayer and fasting. We invite you to a time in which we seek the Lord and His will for our lives, our churches, our communities, and our constituency. Join us in prayer and fasting over the next few weeks. Pray God will move and do things that are beyond our abilities and imagination.

If we truly want to see people in our churches and communities come to know Jesus or grow deeper in their relationship with Him, the answer is dedicated and focused prayer. If we truly want to see an outpouring of God's blessing on our lives, our churches, our communities, and our constituency, the answer is prayer and fasting. We need the Lord's intervention. We need to humble ourselves before Him!

Over and over there are accounts in the Bible where God came through for His people as they cried out to Him.

"From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I" (Psalm 61:2).

"Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and sacrificed it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. He cried out to the LORD on Israel's behalf, and the LORD answered him" (1 Samuel 7:9).

"Then Asa called to the LORD his God and said, 'LORD, there is no one like you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this vast army. LORD, you are our God; do not let mere mortals prevail against you'" (2 Chronicles 14:11).

Let us move forward into this collective time of prayer and fasting in anticipation of what the Lord will do in us, our churches, our communities, and the Church of God (Holiness).



Introduction:

Lifting Prayer to Higher Ground

By Dr. Jim “Umfundisi” Lo+, Director of World Missions

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘Father . . .’” Luke 11:1-2a NIV

When I began teaching at Indiana Wesleyan University where I served for 28 years, I invited Dr. Wesley Duewel, the former president of Oriental Missionary Society (now OMS) to come share with the student leaders of the missions club. As their faculty advisor, I told the student leaders that I would be spending a few hours with Dr. Duewel before I would hand him over to them. As a new professor I wanted some advice. In the confines of my office, I asked Dr. Duewel, “What should I focus my teaching on as I seek to equip young men and women for ministry?”

I thought he would tell me to teach them how to craft sermons in ways that would draw in a congregation, or how to effectively do outreach, or how to make meaningful hospital visits to patients. Instead, he shared, “Show them the importance of prayer.”

I must have looked quizzically at him, for he continued. “What I mean by show them is this: show them the importance of prayer by what you do and by what you say in regards to it.”

I thought to myself, “For years, haven’t I been doing this?” I presented many lessons about the spiritual discipline of prayer. I did this as a pastor and as a missionary. And I would use the Gospel of Luke as the springboard to get me into the topic. Since Dr. Luke emphasized the importance of prayer, I thought this was a good starting point.

Alfred Plummer, a theologian of years gone by, called Luke’s gospel “The Gospel of Prayer.” And indeed, it is. From Luke 1 to 10 the emphasis is focused on the prayer life of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

In Luke 3 we see Him praying by Himself. In Luke 4 He is praying in a place of

solitude. In Luke 5 He is described as praying in a lonely place. In Luke 6 we are told that He is again in prayer. In Luke 9 we find him praying a blessing over bread and fish, and in that same chapter we read of Him going to the top of a mountain to pray.

Then in chapter 11 a shift takes place. From modeling by what He does, Jesus moved to teaching His disciples with words. But it was only after my interaction with Dr. Duewel that I realized that for years, I had missed something when reading Luke's gospel about how Jesus taught. Often times, before Jesus used words to teach on spiritual truths, He "taught" by example . . . living out what He was teaching. As I re-read Luke, what caught my attention was the part about a certain unnamed disciple, having seen the Lord's practice of prayer, approach Him and ask Him to teach him and the other disciples how to pray.

I found myself asking the question, "Why would Jesus' disciples be requesting Him to teach them how to pray?" I mean, didn't the disciples already know how to pray? Hadn't they been taught many prayers? They were a part of the Jewish nation. The Jewish people were a praying people. They set aside special times for prayer every day: 9 a.m., noon, and 3 p.m. Everybody was supposed to stop what they were doing at those times and pray.

The Jewish people understood at least 4 big things about prayer:

1. They understood about the significance of prayer. The rabbis taught the people that God desired their prayers and that God would hear them as they lifted up their voices to Him. They taught the laity the following phrase: "The Holy One yearns for the prayers of the righteous." No true Jew with a right spirit ever doubted God's priority for prayer.

2. They also understood about the strength of prayer. The rabbis rightly believed prayer was not only communication with God, but also a mighty means to release His power. Again, the rabbis quoted the following words: "Prayer, the weapon of the mouth, is mighty."

The Jewish nation knew the account of Moses, of how God miraculously answered Moses' prayers with the dividing of the Red Sea, the giving of good water to the Israelites in the wilderness, and the daily supply of manna from heaven. Perhaps the most miraculous answer that God gave to Moses was when he prayed that God would spare Israel after the incident with the golden calf.

3. The Jewish nation understood about the sacrifice of prayer. Once the

Jewish temple had been destroyed in 70 AD, and once sacrifices became forever impossible for the Jews, prayer became the supreme sacrifice offering. In the writings of the rabbinical fathers is found the following quote: “God said to Israel, be assiduous in regards to devotions . . . There is no finer quality than prayer . . . Prayer is greater than all the sacrifices.”

The Law of the sacrifices stated, “If a man has a bullock, let him offer a bullock . . . If not let him offer a ram . . . or a lamb . . . or a pigeon. And if he cannot afford a pigeon. Let him bring a handful of flour, or let him bring nothing at all, but come with words of prayer.”

Sacrifices were to be brought and placed before the Almighty. In a way, the sacrifice of prayer in our hustle and bustle modern culture may be this: being willing to take time to daily place ourselves before God.

4. The Jewish nation understood about the steadfastness needed in prayer.

The Jewish teachers taught that prayer needed to be constant and consistent, not to be done simply when individuals needed something.

And yet, even though the Israelites knew all these wonderful truths about prayer, for them, prayer had degenerated to formalism in regards to when they prayed, where they prayed, and the way they prayed.

The disciples, being part of the Israelite nation, knew about prayer. But notice the request they make to Jesus: “Lord, teach us to pray.” They had prayed all their lives, but something about the quality and quantity of Jesus’ praying caused them to see how little they really knew about it.

Their request to Jesus became an opportunity for Him to teach. Class was now in session. And as the great Teacher, Jesus taught. And through his teaching we see the Son of God lifting prayer to a higher plane.

As I reflected upon the prayer life of Christ, I noticed that He lifts prayer to **higher ground**.

1. Jesus lifts prayer to the plane of loyalty. In 2 Chronicles 16:9 are these words: “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him” (NKJV).

A probing question that I had to grapple with was, “Am I in my heart, in my mind, in my life, and my activities loyal and committed to God?”

The word “loyal” can be defined as being faithful to authority, faithful and true, as to being faithful to a king with unswerving allegiance. Am I loyal? Is

God the authority in my life? Am I faithful and true to Him, as a servant is to be unto their King, pledging to honor that loyalty even with their own life?

I found that I could not answer that question in the affirmative. The reason? Because, as I reflected on my relationship with God, I had made Him my servant with me vying to be the master. When I needed Him, I would make contact with Him. My times of prayer often took place when I was faced with a crisis . . . when my life had gotten messy . . . when life was ready to deal me a knock-out blow. In essence, I prayed to use God. My prayers were not about what I could do for Him, but what I wanted Him to do for me.

2. The second reality that I discovered is this: Jesus lifts prayer to the plane of love. The wording and forms of prayer that the Israelites used were set, and they were then simply read or repeated from memory. Prayers easily became a routine, a semiconscious religious exercise, able to be recited without much mental or passionate involvement by the individual.

But Jesus is not pleased with this, and thus, he lifts prayers to the plane of deep love. I see how Jesus wants us to pray out of love by how he addresses God when He prays. He calls Him "Father."

Among the plethora of books on the Lord's Prayer is one by N. T. Wright, which is entitled *The Lord and His Prayer*. In it he makes the often-made point that the word for "Father," which Jesus probably spoke in Aramaic, would have been "Abba." Many interpreters have enjoyed pointing out that this is a word implying intimacy, a certain quality of relationship. Wright wants his readers to recognize that we are dear to God, and for this reason He is near to us and He hears us. In fact, Wright points out that a contextual rendition of this title would be "Daddy." The image being conveyed is that God is not a stern Victorian father, the autocratic head of a family. Instead, He can be pictured as a modern dad who gets down on the floor to play with his kids.

I had the head knowledge of prayer. I had heard great lectures on prayer and wonderful sermons on the importance of praying, but I had not experienced the "wonder" of prayer. That meeting with Dr. Duewel was a divine appointment. He shared that I should seek to approach the throne of God with love. We can do this because God is a loving Father.

We need to connect love with our prayers.



Day 1: Why Pray?

O You who hear prayer . . . Psalm 65:2 NKJV

My late father-in-law, Leland Trussell, was a man of prayer. He always used to say that it is God's nature to hear and answer prayer. One of God's titles in the Word is "O You who hear prayer" (Psalm 65:2). It is who He is!

But why should we pray?

The truth is that prayer is God's plan to involve Christians in His work. For purposes unknown to us, He chooses to work in response to the prayers of His people. God also loves for us to pray because prayer is His means of keeping in touch with His children. It makes us increasingly like Him, because you can't spend time with someone and not be influenced by their character!

John R. Rice, one of the very best authors on the topic of prayer, suggests several additional reasons why we should pray:

- Because God repeatedly commands it (Luke 18:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Philippians 4:6, 1 Timothy 2:1, Ephesians 6:18-19, Matthew 26:41).
- Because prayer is God's appointed way for Christians to receive from Him (James 4:2).
- Because prayer is God's way for Christians to have joy (John 16:24).
- Because prayer is the cure for worry, the prescription for peace (Philippians 4:6,7).
- Because answered prayer is a powerful argument against skepticism (1 Kings 18:39).
- Because prayer is the only way to have the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13).

So, let's pray!

Faith Trussell

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- Expansion of Spanish materials to new markets

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- The council as we lead HHYC and its ministries.

Home Mission Board

- Wisdom for the Home Mission Board as they make decisions.

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

- The salvation of students.

World Mission Board

- Papua New Guinea: Local translators to be able to devote the needed time and energy to see Scripture translated into their own languages. This is a very counter-cultural thing to do and a major hurdle that needs to be overcome for each translation program.
- Jamaica: A renewed commitment to evangelism that results in many souls being saved.
- Middle East: Colleagues are teaching at two new universities this fall. Pray for wide-open doors and hearts on these campuses.
- Missionaries: Protection from diseases, viruses, and infections.

My Local Church

- Pastor and family (2 Timothy 2:15, Jeremiah 3:15).





Day 2:

Hindrances to Prayer

Your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. Isaiah 59:2 NKJV

“I pray and pray, and I don’t think God even hears me!” Elena’s friend, Cara, sobbed as she related her recent struggles. The truth was, Cara had been walking in willful disobedience to God. There were things of her own making that were hindering her desperate prayers.

Self-will, rebellion, and disobedience led King Saul to cry out, “God . . . does not answer me anymore” (2 Samuel 15:22-23). Psalm 66:18 states that if I hold a particular sin in my heart, He will not hear my prayer.

Jesus clearly taught in Matthew 6:14-15 that **people who will not forgive others** will not be heard when they ask God for forgiveness.

Covetousness is a very “respectable” sin that is found in the best of families. But it is a sin that God hates (Colossians 3:5, Ephesians 5:5, 1 Timothy 6:10, Malachi 3:7-9). Many Christians have their hearts so set on material possessions that God cannot answer their prayers.

Discord in the home grieves God and hinders fellowship with Him. Peter specifically tells husbands to treat their wives lovingly “that your prayers may not be hindered” (1 Peter 3:7).

Offended brothers unreconciled are mentioned by Christ in Matthew 5:23-24 as things that need to be resolved prior to coming before God. **Debts unpaid** are mentioned in Psalm 37:21: “The wicked borrows and does not repay.” Could these be reasons that some Christians’ prayers are unheard?

Finally, Proverbs 28:9 tells us that **indifference toward the Bible** makes prayer detestable to God. Time spent in the Word—meditating, studying, memorizing, surrendering to, and following it—results in a rich prayer life!

Lord, search our hearts!

Faith Trussell

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- Making additional inroads in selling to the Global Methodist Church.

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- Those who attend events on the Hill in 2027 to be moved upon and changed for God's glory.

Home Mission Board

- Our Home Mission church Grace Meadows Fellowship in Maysville, AR, Pastor Dan and Jeannie Merkley, and their ministry team.

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

- Growth of the student body, specifically through the online program, which helps provide financial resources to the college.

World Mission Board

- Caribbean Conference: Pastors and believers to be ever broken for souls, declare war on spiritual barrenness, and commit to winning the lost to Christ.
- Cayman Brac: A revival of holiness.
- Middle East: The dean of the seminary where Jason teaches underwent open-heart surgery in August. We pray for complete healing.
- Missionaries: Larry and Christy Doyle and their boys, home on furlough.

My Local Church

- The church board to sense God's leading for the direction my church should go in the coming year (Acts 6:5-7).





Day 3:

What's in Your Bucket?

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28 NIV

Imagine walking down Main Street in your town, carrying two five-gallon buckets filled to the brim with water, each weighing about 50 pounds. You move slowly, eyes fixed on the ground, each step guarded for fear of water sloshing out or falling under the heavy burden.

No, your life is not burdened with water, but it is filled with the heavy concerns that you carry. Insecurity, pride, trauma, false narratives, guilt, sin, anxiety, anger, and exhaustion may plague you every day, even every moment. The longer you carry those buckets of burdens, the heavier they become.

Jesus meets you on the main street of your life to offer an invitation of hope, help, and freedom from those burdens.

Jesus first invites you to “Come to me . . .” (Matthew 11:28). That invitation is to ALL who carry buckets of burdens, and the promise is He will give you rest and salvation—real freedom from those burdens. The Psalmist wrote, “Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him” (Psalm 62:1).

Then Jesus said, “Take my yoke . . .” (Matthew 11:29). Paradoxically, Jesus lightens your load by giving His yoke. You surrender and obey Him, and HE in turn partners with you in life and provides rest for your soul. Jesus lets you know His yoke is easy. It will not choke you; it will not drag you down. It is custom made for you—His “burden is light” (Matthew 11:30).

Thirdly, Jesus said, “Learn from me . . .” (Matthew 11:29). Jesus is the best teacher for He is “gentle and humble in heart” (Matthew 11:30). He is right here with you through life, guiding, teaching, and assisting. You learn from the G.O.A.T.!

“Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens” (Psalm 68:19).

Rod Davis

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- Some young people to feel the call to minister as a part of the H&B.

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- The Retreat Team as they plan and prepare for Quest Retreat (March 5-7, 2027) and Youth Retreat (March 19-21, 2027).

Home Mission Board

- The wise management of resources and grant funds so they can do the most good for the Kingdom.

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

- Current students to be called into vocational ministry.

World Mission Board

- World: The persecuted Church worldwide.
- Caribbean Conference: That pastors and all who fill the pulpit would not be parrots, but preach prophetically, declaring the inspired word that compels spiritual transformation.
- Myanmar: Salvation of souls.
- Missionaries: Safety while traveling, during country unrest, and when political tensions arise.

My Local Church

- Worship team/tech team (Colossians 3:16-17).





Day 4:

You Gotta Ask!

*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
Matthew 7:7 NIV*

Prayer is a great privilege. Jesus commands you to ASK, SEEK and KNOCK. You gotta ask! James writes, “You do not have because you do not ask God” (James 4:2). Nothing is too big or too little for God to handle. The angel told Mary that nothing is impossible with God (Luke 1:37).

A couple of keys to prayer are found in Matthew 7:7-12.

#1 Pray persistently. All three verbs are present tense (ask, seek and knock), encouraging you to *keep on* asking, seeking, and knocking. Jesus said askers receive, seekers find, and, for those who knock, the door will be opened. Do not be shy about asking, for the scriptures tell you to pray continually and not to worry, but instead pray about everything (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Philippians 4:6).

#2 Pray expectantly. In faith, believe that God hears your prayer and will answer your prayer. Because your heavenly Father is perfect, you can trust Him to always provide what is best for you to live for Him and do His will. God is honored by your expectancy as it demonstrates your confidence and trust in Him.

God’s Word shows you repeatedly that God hears and answers prayer even when it seems impossible. Noah prophesized that God would destroy the world by a flood, and the people believed it impossible. But HE did it. Elijah prayed for fire to fall on a water-soaked altar and sacrifice, and the prophets and followers of Baal said it could never happen. But HE did it.

You can’t feed over 5,000 people with just five loaves and two small fish, but JESUS did. Dead men don’t come back to life after being dead four days, but JESUS called to Lazarus, and he walked out of the grave.

Do you believe expectantly as you pray?

Rod Davis

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- The H&B to be able to find ways to better serve the Church of God (Holiness).

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- The Kids Kamp Team as they prepare for Kids Kamp, July 5-9, 2027.

Home Mission Board

- South Park Church of God (Holiness) in Overland Park, KS, and Pastor Austin Tolley, his wife, Luanna, and their three children.

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

- Our weekly chapel services (Wednesday) to be filled with the Lord's presence and for His anointing to be upon the speaker.

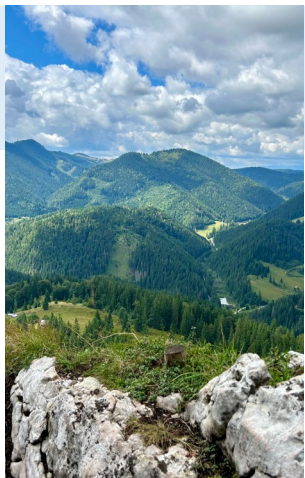
World Mission Board

- Christians to respond to God's call to serve as global missionaries.
- Haiti: Wisdom for those whom the people have chosen to lead the country.
- Asia: Wisdom to know how to assist international worker "Wara."
- Missionaries: Protection from the "arrows" of the evil one.

My Local Church

- Finances—God to help us give generously and for Him to provide the finances for us to keep up our facility well and invest in ministry opportunities (Matthew 6:19-21, Philippians 4:19).





Day 5: Fighting Fear and Anxiety

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Philippians 4:6 NLT

A few years ago, I preached a revival in a church near my home. It is interesting when you preach several messages in the short window of a week to discover which message speaks the most to your audience, and what I found is the message from this passage regarding not being

afraid was the most influential.

I find fear and anxiety seep their way into the lives of so many, and even many who are Christians. But our text admonishes us not to worry about anything. That is not possible for some on their own.

Our text continues by telling us how we can put it into practice. We need to pray about everything and thank God for the blessings we have received from Him.

Prayer helps us to focus, not on our circumstances, but on the God who can do the miraculous and redeem even the worst of circumstances for our good. We lay our needs before Him in faith. We also thank Him, for sometimes we get discouraged and things look dark, and the perspective of praise draws us to a clearer picture of our lives and the blessings of God we have been given. Prayer invites us to lift our eyes to see where our help comes from. Our help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Brandon Speak

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- The H&B staff and leadership to be able to discern what new curricula or other products are most needed.

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- The Youth Council as they prepare for Youth Camp, July 18-25, 2027.

Home Mission Board

- The Credential Committee.

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

- Our students to encounter the living Jesus in all their experiences on campus (class, chapel, small groups, athletics, student life activities, encounters with staff, etc.).

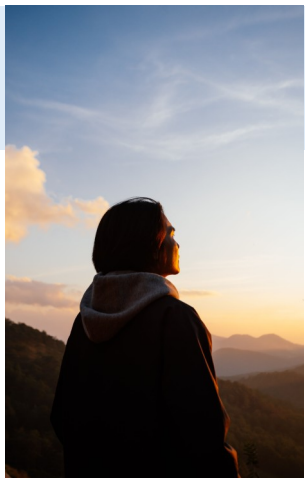
World Mission Board

- Rev. Philip Gumbs as he gives direction to the Caribbean Conference.
- Cayman Brac: Young people who made decisions during VBS last August to faithfully keep walking with God.
- Grand Cayman: Carlson Benjamin and the Red Bay Church, that their outreach plans and ventures would yield new souls for the Kingdom.
- Missionaries: That they will be able to maintain a close, daily walk with God, finding deep spiritual rest and not relying merely on their own strength.

My Local Church

- Sunday's services and weekly prayer meetings (2 Corinthians 3:15-18).





Day 6:

Seek His Face

When You said "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek." Psalm 27:8 NKJV

I have recently been reading a book on prayer, and towards the very beginning the writer stated something which stuck with me. "Many people struggle to learn how to pray because they are focusing on praying, not on God. . . . In prayer, focusing on the conversation is like trying to drive while looking at the windshield instead of through it" (Paul Miller).

That idea resonated, for many times when we hear people speaking on prayer we get the impression it is about the time we spend, the words we use, the requests we bring, doing the work of the intercessor, and that sort of thing. The question I have is simple: Is that what is at the heart of prayer? I think we are looking more **at** the windshield than we are **through** it if we approach prayer this way.

The psalmist stated he was going to seek the face of the Lord. Perhaps the reason prayer is something so many Christians struggle to be consistent at and to be anything more than superficial at is because we focus more on the activity than the God whose face we are called in Scripture to seek. Let's be challenged today, and in this time of prayer, not to focus on praying itself as much as through prayer looking to and relating with our God.

Brandon Speak

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- More writers to feel the call to contribute to H&B.

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- The campus board as they seek to steward the Hill and make decisions for the future.

Home Mission Board

- New Heights Church of God (Holiness) in Hallsville, MO, as well as Pastor Kevin Allred, his wife, Olga, and their three children.

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

- God's financial provision for KCC so that the mission of the institution can continue moving forward.

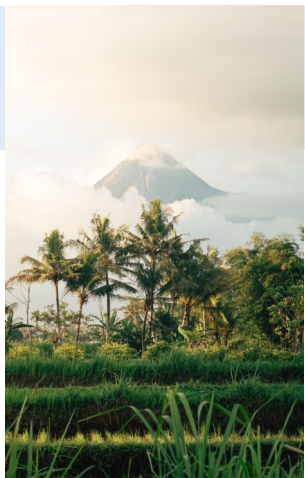
World Mission Board

- The Church of God (Holiness) churches in the USA to be generous givers to global missions.
- Missionaries: Jason and Tammy and family, currently on furlough.
- Caribbean Conference: That spiritual strongholds of generational curses/sins/wounds would be broken in our congregation and communities.
- Grand Cayman: Victory in the Cayman Islands in the battle against same-sex marriages.

My Local Church

- God to raise up workers/leaders in my church (Matthew 9:37-38).





Day 7:

Not Ashamed

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes . . . Romans 1:16 NKJV

Am I ashamed of the gospel of Christ? At times in my life I remained silent when I should have spoken up. A philosophy professor was ridiculing Paul's conversion story. The class was laughing hilariously. I couldn't think of a way to stop

this blasphemy when another student asked the simple question, "How can you prove that didn't happen?" The laughter stopped. The professor was silent. I may not have been ashamed, but I certainly wasn't equipped to confront the opposition.

The gospel is worth standing up for and adds eternal value to our human life. Through the gospel comes the power of forgiveness and redemption. Sometimes our memory dims of what we were before we were changed by the power of God. Think back to your pre-salvation days and be grateful that the gospel brought forgiveness from sin!

The gospel also provides adoption into the family of God. One of the most beautiful acts of God or man is the act of adoption. Adoption is where we go from being "nobody with nuthin'" to being somebody with everything! Adoption makes us a full participant in family!

Finally, the gospel gives us the key to eternal life in heaven! Jesus is preparing a place for us. It is now under construction and will be better than we can even imagine! Thank God for the gospel!

Delbert Scott

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- Each employee by name: Gordon and Nancy Snider, Dan Merkley, Arlene McGehee, Joy Cunningham, Eric Englund, Linda Hayton, Pam Kuhn, Shawna Wright.

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- Greg and Sharon Wright and family as they faithfully serve as caretakers of the Hill.

Home Mission Board

- God to open doors of opportunity for new church plants and ministries within the Church of God (Holiness).

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

- Students who already know Jesus to stand firm, love boldly, and walk in the Spirit.

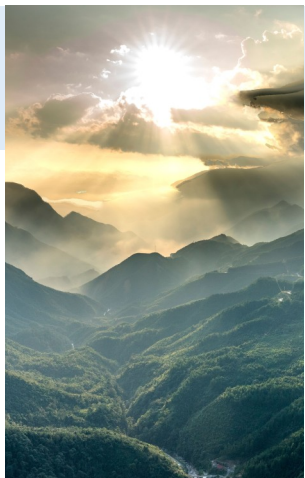
World Mission Board

- Spiritual and numerical growth in our churches in the Eastern Caribbean: Pastor Philip Gumbs in **Anguilla**; Pastor Calvin Mills in **Baughers Bay, Tortola**; Pastor Dalton Grenyion in **East End, Tortola**; Pastor Steve Leonard in **North Sound, Virgin Gorda**; Pastor Gleason Brooks in **The Valley, Virgin Gorda**; Pastor Stephen Marcel in **St. Croix**; Pastor Didacus Cadette in **St. Lucia**; **St. Vincent**; and **St. Thomas**.

My Local Church

- “God, what role do you have for ME in your kingdom and in my local church?” (Matthew 9:37-38)





Day 8:

Thinking about Heaven

Set your sights on the realities of heaven . . .

Colossians 3:1 NLT

Ever wonder what heaven is like? Paul instructs us to “think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth” (v. 2). We are earth bodies.

Earth is the only world we have ever known. It is not natural to spend our time thinking about a place where we have never been.

So why should we think about heaven? It is where, through the grace of God, we will inhabit eternity. Did you ever make a hotel reservation over the internet? Certainly, I want to know what it looks like and what I can expect. A hotel is for one night. Heaven is for eternity.

Focusing on our long-term home helps conform our present actions to the will of Christ. We should ask, “Does this activity jeopardize my reservation in heaven?”

It is in heaven that a great reunion will take place. Not only will we meet the saints of all ages, but also, we will be reunited with those who recently died, those for whom our hearts ache every day. “He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain” (Revelations 21:4).

Heaven will be more beautiful than anything we have ever imagined! “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them” (Revelations 21:3).

Delbert Scott

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- God to give wisdom to the Board of Publications.

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- The projects this year on campus, including fencing, electrical work, and two decks that need repaired or rebuilt.

Home Mission Board

- The Mountain View Church of God (Holiness) and new pastors Matt and Leandra Martin and their three children.

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

- The advancement team and that God would bring new donors and financial partners to the school.

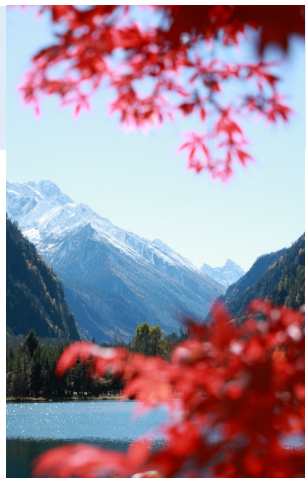
World Mission Board

- Haiti:
 - National Director, Jeudilus Noel. Due to severe civil unrest in some areas, the ministry is taking place under difficult circumstances.
 - For churches and a school to be able to resume their activities as before at Bonnette and Boston City.
 - The Haiti Foodbank, a feeding program for school-age children.

My Local Church

- Children that attend my church and our ministry to them (1 Timothy 4:12, Matthew 18:10).





Day 9: Before You Say Another Word

Our Father in Heaven . . . Matthew 6:9a NLT

When Jesus first taught His followers to pray, He began by addressing God as “Our Father in Heaven.” Paul tells us that Christ is the “image of the invisible God” (Colossians 1:15), and Jesus Himself said, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9). If we want to know what God is like, we look at Jesus.

And what do we see in Him? We see generosity and compassion. We see His pursuit of the lost and His tenderness toward the broken. We see humble servant leadership, justice for those without a voice, and a willingness to welcome those whom others had rejected. We see quiet strength, mercy, patience, and a deep concern for people. In Jesus, we see the heart of the Father revealed to us.

So when we begin our prayer with “Our Father in Heaven,” we are invited to remember who God is. As we recognize His character, we are reminded of His priorities—what matters to Him, what He cares about, and what He desires for His children. And as we spend time recognizing His heart, our own hearts begin to realign with His. Our priorities become increasingly shaped by His priorities; our desires are formed by His desires. Then, as we continue to pray, our requests naturally flow out of that relationship and understanding. We are not simply bringing our agenda to God; we are learning to bring our hearts into harmony with His.

This is why where Jesus begins matters. “Our Father in Heaven” is more than an opening address. It is a reminder of whose heart we are seeking to know and whose priorities we are learning to share.

The more clearly we see the heart of our Father, the more naturally our own hearts and desires begin to beat in rhythm with His.

Look at Jesus. Remember His character. Remember His heart. And let that shape the prayers that follow.

Erica Wait

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- Success in the continued rollout of our *Word Alive!* preteen product line.

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- Praise for the Harmony Hill contractors who faithfully donate countless hours of labor.

Home Mission Board

- Our ministries in Mexico, led by Guadalupe and Tayde Turrubiates.

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

- Wisdom, humility, and courage in every decision made by administrators.

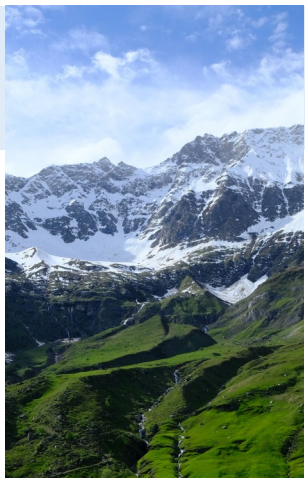
World Mission Board

- Ghana: The seven village churches, church leaders, and national director, George Korah.
- Myanmar: Peace in this country.
- Jamaica: Security and resources for 143 East Street (head office) and all branch churches.
- Missionaries: Ask God to guard our missionaries against loneliness, discouragement, anxiety, and burnout, especially when facing slow progress or adversity.

My Local Church

- Youth that attend my church, that they would determine to follow Jesus and continue growing in their faith (Colossians 3:1-3, 2 Peter 1:5-9).





Day 10: When the Hills Can't Help

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. Psalm 121:1-2 ESV

I remember it like it was yesterday. My dad stood above me, his hand outstretched, urging me on. Only a few yards of a smooth granite slab separated us—the final stretch of a 350-foot alpine face on Longs Peak. At over 14,000 feet, every step felt impossible. My head spun, my stomach churned, and I wasn't sure I could take another step.

In that moment of desperation, Psalm 121 came flooding back. That's the beauty of hiding God's Word in our hearts. It often speaks when we need it most.

Commentators disagree about whether the hills represent refuge or danger. I find comfort in that uncertainty. Whether they represent safety or trial, they cannot bear the weight of our hope. Sometimes we run to places we think will save us, only to discover they cannot. The Psalmist does not ignore the hills—he looks at them honestly, then looks beyond them to the One who can truly help. Our confidence is never in the path before us, but in the God who made heaven and earth. Someone I know recently said, "Don't ever let the presence of a storm cause you to doubt the presence of our God."

Twenty years ago, I finally crawled close enough to the summit for my dad to reach down and pull me the rest of the way. I summited . . . with a bit of help.

Life will bring us all to narrow places where our own strength is no longer enough. When that day comes, resist the temptation to trust your own wisdom or allow the weight of your circumstances to pull you into a valley of sin, fear, or despair. Lift your eyes instead to the Maker of heaven and earth. His hand is already extended, His strength never fails, and His help is always enough.

Erica Wait

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- Praise report: Love offering last February 8.

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- The workers of Quest Retreat and Youth Retreat, that they would feel an uplifting and clear direction as they prepare.

Home Mission Board

- Revival in our existing churches.

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

- The residence life on our campus. Pray for gospel conversations to happen late at night in dorm rooms and common spaces.

World Mission Board

- Cayman Brac: Dr. Gayle and Micki Woods, pastors of Spot Bay and Watering Place.
- Caribbean Conference: That we would prioritize winning, nurturing, and discipling our children/young people, fully engaging them in the harvest.
- Missionaries: Deep, loving communication and unity between husbands and wives.

My Local Church

- Adults at my church, that they would have fruitful ministry during a busy time of life, adequate rest, wise use of time, and strength for each day (Psalm 90:9-12, Galatians 6:9).





Day II: Confident in Christ

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus . . . Hebrews 10:19 NIV

When I was a child I grew up in a semi-Buddhist home. Regularly, my family members would present offerings to our deceased ancestors who were now, supposedly, living in the spirit realm. I can remember bowing down before a large picture of some of those ancestors, praying they would send me good luck. I also presented offerings to them to show them honor and to show that they had not been forgotten.

But I also gave out of fear, for the ancestral spirits can be fickle. One day they can be in a good mood. The next they can be in a bad mood. One day they may like what is offered to them, but then the next day be upset about the same kind of offering that had been offered the day before. I lived in a state of insecurity that if what I offered was not “acceptable,” my ancestors would wreak havoc in my life.

One big reason I was willing to listen to my friend, Andy, share with me about Jesus Christ was because I was told that I could have confidence that He loves me and desires the best for me.

Dr. Jim “Umfundisi” Lo+

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- Increased mobile app sales.

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- The staff of Kids Kamp as they prepare their hearts and minds to serve those who attend next summer.

Home Mission Board

- Our Haitian Ministries in the USA: New York (Jean-Pierre and Marjorie Lors) and Florida (Abner and Roselaine Noel).

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

- Our faculty to teach with wisdom, grace, and love. Ask for divine moments of influence, through lectures, feedback, or simply being present.

World Mission Board

- Haiti: A spiritual awakening and revitalization. People need to turn their faces to God because only He can restore this country.
- Missionaries: Grace, protection, and adjustment for children growing up in cross-cultural settings.

My Local Church

- Senior adults at my church, that they have help through health challenges, continued fruitfulness, opportunities to testify to God's faithfulness throughout their lives, and wisdom for leaving a lasting legacy (Psalm 92:12-15).





Day 12:

Honor God in Your Doing

But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. James 1:25 ESV

I recently had to confront a misunderstanding. I had received information that didn't match previously agreed-upon information. To be transparent, I struggled. Thoughts crept in: "Was this on purpose?" "Were they taking advantage of me?" and others. My mind began filling in the blanks, and they weren't positive.

We planned to meet, but because of illness, we had to delay—more time for my mind to fill in the blanks. So while I waited, I prayed, "Lord, help me surrender this to You. Help me seek the most redemptive path. Help me see this as an opportunity to practice unity in the Body of Christ. Help me stop filling in the blanks and wait." I prayed these things and more over those few days.

When the day came, the Holy Spirit prompted me to pray before we started. My prayer was essentially that we'd work through this together and leave no room for the enemy. What followed was a great conversation. We both felt safe to share openly, united in the same goal as believers. I left feeling closer to that person, with a stronger foundation of mutual trust.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6). If I apply God's truth and not just hear it, I'll be blessed in my doing.

Jon Kreutzweiser

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- Success in the continued update of teen materials.

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- The staff of Youth Camp as they prepare their hearts and minds to serve those who attend next summer.

Home Mission Board

- The Church of God (Holiness) Ministry Council, that God will keep them unified, give them wisdom, and guide their steps as they make recommendations for the future of the general church ministries.

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

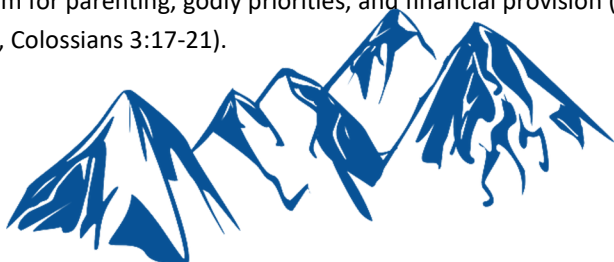
- We have several student common areas and “hangout” spaces on campus. Pray that students wouldn’t just pass time, but encounter Truth even in casual moments. Ask God to make these spaces fertile ground for gospel appointments.

World Mission Board

- Bolivia: National President Rev. Dr. Hector Ali, and Liaisons Paul and Lois Confer.
- Grand Cayman: Increase in the number of youth workers and youth.
- Missionaries: That God would supply all needs.

My Local Church

- Families connected to my church, that they will have strong marriages, wisdom for parenting, godly priorities, and financial provision (Isaiah 40:11, Colossians 3:17-21).





Day 13:

Keep to the Path

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105 ESV

When I was a kid, I attempted hunting a few times. Since we would leave well before the sun came up, we used flashlights to find our way to our tree stands. We could do this because we had gone out in the daylight a few days before and put reflective ribbons along the path that led to our stands. We would start out on the

trail, and pretty soon we would see one of those reflectors. Then we would go a little further down the trail and, again, see another reflector.

The thing is, we couldn't see every reflector at once; we could only see what the light revealed for a few feet. But we knew that we had planned the hike in the daylight, and that if we just kept walking on the path, we would eventually make it to our stands.

When following God, we tend to want a well-lit path with a lamp post every ten feet. But what I've learned is that most of the time there is enough light to take the next step.

Usually, it's not what we can see that scares us; it's what is just beyond the light that makes us afraid. But we must remember that the good works—or the path—are prepared beforehand; we just need to walk in them.

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).

Jon Kreutzweiser

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- Direction and success as we bring back printing of some of our products.

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- The speakers and worship leaders of the various retreats and camps as they prepare their hearts and minds to deliver what God has or will lay upon their hearts.

Home Mission Board

- All our Hispanic churches and ministries in Texas, led by Director Victor Parra and his wife, Juanita.

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

- Our students who participate in athletics. Pray for health, unity, and Christlike character in competition. Ask for coaches to use their leadership moments well.

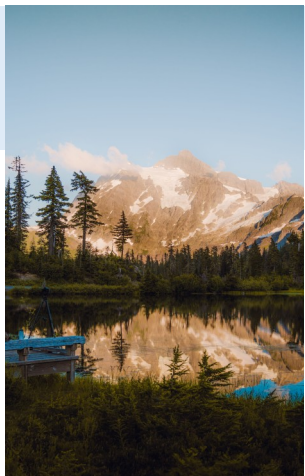
World Mission Board

- The World Mission Board to have wisdom as we deal with global issues: Randy Joe Bland, Paul Confer, Rod Davis, Dean Greenwood, Dwight Purtle, Jim Purtle, Erica Wait, Krystal Wyant, and Joe Trussell (Chairperson).
- Grand Cayman: Ministry leaders within the church.
- Missionaries: Faithful prayer and financial partners.

My Local Church

- Sunday's services and weekly prayer meetings (John 15:4-5).





Day 14: I Am Not Enough

*The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing.
John 6:63 NIV*

“I am going fishing,” Peter said to four other disciples in John 21. They went along with him and spent all night fishing in vain.

In the morning, Jesus stood on the shore and called to them, “Friends, do you have any fish?”

“No,” they replied.

The disciples’ honest reply to Jesus here hits me straight in the gut. Many times I have decided, “I’m going to go do something for God!” then given all my efforts to trying to speak well, teach well, or do outreach well. But did I catch anything? No.

When I go out to “fish” in my own strength, relying on my own abilities, I’m really walking in the flesh rather than in God’s Spirit. If I want God to use me or work in my church, I need God’s Spirit to fill me, empower me, direct me, and open doors for me. When we “fish” His way, in His power, the story turns out very differently: “They were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish” (John 21:6).

Lord, teach us to walk in the Spirit, not attempting to do Your work in our own way and depending on our own strengths and abilities! Fill our churches with Your presence, Your power, and with willing workers who do not depend on their own flesh, but are filled with Your Spirit!

“For it is [not your strength, but it is] God who is effectively at work in you, both to will and to work [that is, strengthening, energizing, and creating in you the longing and the ability to fulfill your purpose] for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13 AMP).

Karen Speak

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- Increase in number of customers and increase in sales of Sunday school literature and *The Church Herald and Holiness Banner*.

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- The campus to be used in every aspect to glorify God and draw the lost to Him.

Home Mission Board

- Renewed desire for fellowship and Kingdom collaboration among the congregations of the Church of God (Holiness).

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

- Current students to be called in to vocational ministry.

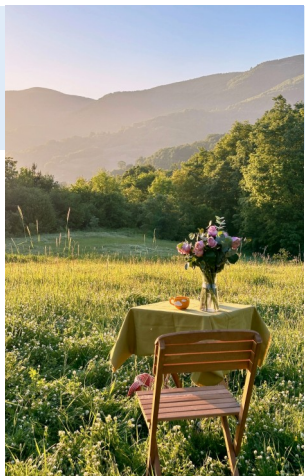
World Mission Board

- The Bible colleges that we are affiliated with: Shiloh Bible College in Myanmar and Zaporizhzhia Bible Seminary in Ukraine.
- Jamaica: Young persons to enter ministry.
- Cayman Brac: Young people to be established in the faith and step forward for places of leadership in the churches.
- Missionaries: Humble hearts that enable them to reflect the heart of Christ to others they serve.

My Local Church

- Passion for prayer and commitment to building a habit of prayer both as individuals and corporately as a church (Acts 4:31, Luke 5:16).





Day 15: Routine Prayer

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 NIV

Is prayer a part of your daily routine? And is your daily routine part of your prayers? According to Google, we spend approximately 70-90% of each day doing the same routine activities.

These are things we often do without having to think too much about them, and—if we are not careful—without including God in them. We might feel like those routine things are things we can handle ourselves, but do you really think God wants to be left out of 70-90% of your life?

Notice that Paul specifically includes the completely ordinary activities of eating and drinking as places we should seek to glorify God. “Even the most regular, seemingly unimportant tasks of my life must be shaped and directed by a heartfelt desire for the glory of God” (Paul David Tripp).

Nothing we do is too small to pray about. Nothing is too boring for God to care about. Take it all to Him today, seek His presence and His glory even in the routine stuff, and let His presence and power fill your life more and more each day!

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done” (Philippians 4:6 NLT).

Karen Speak

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- Wisdom to know which marketing trips are cost-beneficial.

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- An increase in attendance for upcoming events, to further the reach and impact for the Lord.

Home Mission Board

- The Montezuma School and Director Gina Sloan. Pray for the school board as they make decisions.

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

- Faculty to teach with wisdom, grace, and love. Ask for divine moments of influence, through lectures, feedback, or simply being present.

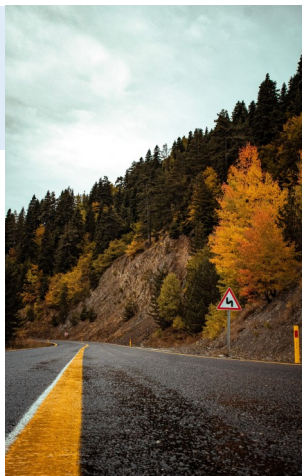
World Mission Board

- The World Missions team:
 - Mrs. Roxene Lo, Office Manager
 - Mrs. Ashlee Englund, Communications Director
 - Rev. Joe Trussell, Chairperson
 - Dr. Jim “Umfundisi” Lo, Director
- Grand Cayman: Men’s ministry.

My Local Church

- Unity (Acts 2:44-47, John 17:20-23).





Day 16: Even When I Doubted

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV

I was reminded last week of an answer to prayer. We had taken a group of teenagers to Harmony Hill Youth Camp, in Fulton, Missouri, in an older church van. The van’s engine began running hot, and the AC stopped working. Because of our mechanical issues we decided to leave camp late Saturday night, traveling the five hours home in the cooler evening.

On I-44 between Lebanon and Springfield, Missouri, we ran into a heavy thunderstorm. The traffic had slowed to nearly a crawl because of the rain. In the left lane, the motor of the van died, and I coasted to the right side of the busy, rainy, divided highway.

On the shoulder of the road, I tried to restart it, but it would not restart. My first thought was, “The engine is probably blown.” I was panicking at the side of I-44, several miles from an exit, in the middle of a heavy thunderstorm, with a van full of teens.

One of the teen boys asked me if they could pray for the van. Even though I didn’t really think it would do any good, I assured him it would be a good thing and asked him to lead the prayer for the van. God answered, even though I had my doubts. The van started, and we made it safely to Oklahoma in answer to a teenager’s prayer.

Nathan Teed

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- Increased visibility of our VBS materials.

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- The finances of HHYC Ministries, that God would bless and help us to manage them wisely.

Home Mission Board

- The Church of God (Holiness) ministry center in Kansas City, Kansas, that was started by 2 or More Church, a newer church plant in the Church of God (Holiness).

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

- God's financial provision for KCC so that the mission of the institution can continue to move forward.

World Mission Board

- Caribbean Conference: That we would restore balance in church attendance and ministry, nurture strong families, and significantly strengthen evangelism by effectively winning and discipling men as Jesus did.
- God to will show COGH World Missions new fields that need to be reached.
- The message of salvation and biblical holiness to be clearly preached and taught.

My Local Church

- Lost family members (2 Peter 3:9).





Day 17: Praise Brings Renewal

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth! He will not stumble; the one who watches over you will not slumber. Psalm 121:2-3 NLT

So many times in my life I have felt that, as an adult, I should be able to handle every issue that comes my way. Sometimes I feel like the problem I am facing is too small to bother God. Sometimes the problem I faced was my fault

because I had messed up or wasn't wise enough to make a better choice. Many times you and I tell ourselves, "It's me. I'm the problem. Why would God help me?"

The problem with this type of thinking is that we are excluding God's influence in these parts of our lives. Any time we exclude God from any part of our lives, we become weak and feeble. This causes us to be discouraged, disoriented, doubting, and perhaps disgusted with ourselves and our life.

The beautiful thing about praising God is that it shifts our focus off ourselves and our problems. Praising God puts the focus on God, who is all-powerful, all-knowing, just, gracious, merciful, and loves us unconditionally. Our human minds are limited in our comprehension of God, but when we praise God, it helps us shift our worries to gratitude. This gives us a peace and joy that nothing else can give. I like the chorus of the hymn, "Turn your Eyes Upon Jesus." When we turn our eyes to Him, "the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace."

Choosing to praise God is a powerful way to renew your mind.

Nathan Teed

Prayer Requests

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- Increased social media presence.

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- New opportunities to develop to allow us to further the reach of HHYC Ministries.

Home Mission Board

- Our Navajo Ministries, led by Eugene and Jean Cody, Sam and Sandy Wilson.

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

- The advancement team and that God would bring new donors and financial partners to the school.

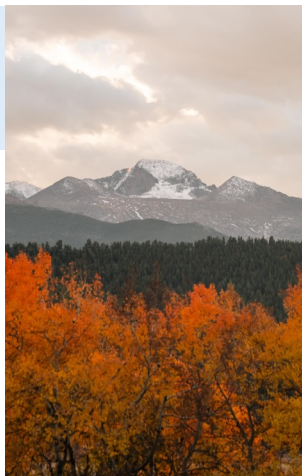
World Mission Board

- The Church of God (Holiness) to have a vision for obeying the command of the Great Commission.
- Haiti: Divine intervention for the improvement of healthcare facilities and access to essential medical services in rural areas.
- Jamaica: The physical health/healing of pastors and church members.
- Grand Cayman: Financial provision for the church building repair project.
- Missionaries: Endurance and inner joy.

My Local Church

- Opportunities to minister in our community (Matthew 10:7-8).





Day 18:

Carry the Torch

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel . . . 1 Corinthians 15:1 KJV

I recently delivered a sermon on the Christian life in comparison to a race. The Panhellenic Games of ancient Greece were a series of four sporting and religious festivals and competitions. One of these festivals was the Isthmian Games celebrated in Corinth in which one of the main events was the footrace. A runner would

carry a torch for a short distance before passing it to a teammate, who would then run with it until they reach their destination. The phrase "passing the torch" is most likely referring to that situation.

Today, "passing the torch" is used in various contexts, and it implies that someone is relinquishing their responsibility to someone else who will take over and continue where they left off. It is truly unfortunate, but this is exactly what many in the faith understand and have done!

"I have done my duty." Sound familiar? We should ask a dear saint by the name of William R. Hunt what passing the torch truly means. He is still sharing the gospel at almost 93 years of age!

Hebrews 6:10 says, "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." Our duty doesn't end with age or past service. Paul says: Declare the gospel. So keep carrying the torch!

Rigoberto C. Linares

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- The H&B to be able to find ways to better serve the Church of God (Holiness).

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- The council to be a help to churches needing fresh ideas or support.

Home Mission Board

- All the pastors of our churches, as well as our retired ministers.

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

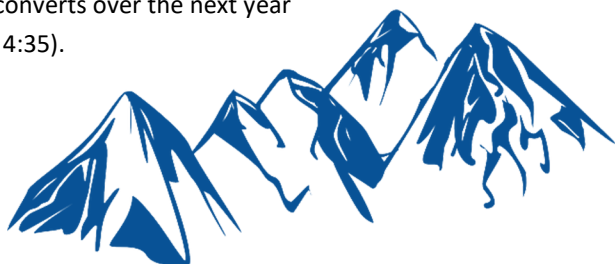
- The salvation of students.

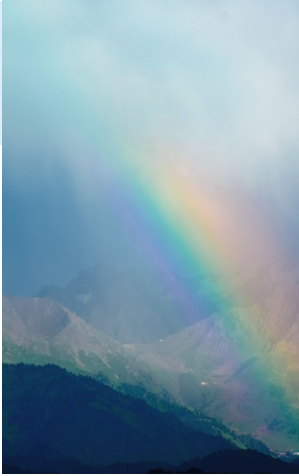
World Mission Board

- Miracles to happen in the Church of God (Holiness), both “here” and “there.”
- Haiti: Economic development initiatives to flourish, creating opportunities.
- Myanmar: That God will use church planters to bring many souls to Jesus and be able to plant new churches where there are none among non-Christians.
- Cayman Brac: A new pastor for the two churches needed by June 2027.
- Middle East: Amidst the ongoing war, we ask for peace and safety for so many believers and their work across the Middle East.

My Local Church

- New converts over the next year (John 4:35).





Day 19:

Jesus Cried, Too!

Jesus wept. John 11:35 KJV

Jesus meets Martha and Mary while they are grieving the loss of their only brother, Lazarus, who had died four days earlier. You can imagine how heartbroken they were. Even with so many people around them, they felt alone, overwhelmed, and misunderstood. But then . . . Jesus came! He felt their pain and showed them compassion!

Does that sound like you—or someone you know? Maybe you feel alone, misunderstood, or weighed down by a heavy burden. This is no coincidence. Let God's Word speak to your heart, help you, and give you the comfort and peace you need.

When was the last time you cried? Maybe someone told you, "Don't cry—it makes you look weak." But who said that? There is nothing wrong with crying. A 2002 Tilburg University study published in *Cognition and Emotion* found that "women cried an average of 3.5 times a month, while men cried an average of 1.9 times a month." Tears are a natural response when we hurt or when we share someone else's pain.

Jesus cried, too! So, go ahead, have your once-a-month or three-times-monthly cries; let the tears come! It will do you good! Our world needs down-to-earth believers who understand, genuinely care, and show compassion.

Rigoberto C. Linares

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- The Herald and Banner love offering next February.

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- Our churches and leaders that faithfully minister to young people to be renewed with vision and purpose to see the lost saved and the hungry fed.

Home Mission Board

- The Home Missions staff:
 - Chad Pollard, Director
 - Jack Smith, Director Emeritus
 - Valerie Biswell, Office Manager

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

- Growth of the student body, specifically through the online program, which helps to provide financial resources to the college.

World Mission Board

- The efforts of the Church of God (Holiness) to help Revelation 7 become a reality.
- Haiti: Support for people in vulnerable situations, such as children and those with disabilities.

My Local Church

- Other churches in my community (1 Corinthians 3:5-8).





Day 20:

Abide in the Truth of Jesus

If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. 1 John 2:24 NKJV

A close friend of mine spent over a decade serving in a ministry that emphasized prayer and fasting. It deeply impacted their faith.

Then the truth came out. The ministry was built on lies, abuse, and cover-up. The leaders were

not who they projected themselves to be. This was soul-crushing.

The most painful part was not disappointment with an organization. It was what the truth did to everything connected to it. If those trusted leaders were wrong about so much, what else had been wrong? What could still be trusted about God, the world, and others?

The book of 1 John was written to Christians experiencing their own kind of spiritual disillusionment. According to 1 John 2:18-27, people who had been part of their community had left and were now teaching something different about Jesus' identity and work.

John did not tell them to ignore what had happened or to stop asking difficult questions. He told them to abide in what they had heard from the beginning. Our faith was never meant to rest on a ministry, a pastor, a denomination, or an institution. Those things are often a means to Jesus, but none of them are Jesus.

As we fast and pray, we need to examine beliefs, consider traditions, and grieve failures, but we do not need to discard Jesus because someone misrepresented Him or because we were disappointed in an outcome of our work and prayer.

When everything else begins to crumble, return to what can bear the weight of your life. Remember what you received from the beginning and abide in Him. “And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life” (1 John 2:25 NKJV).

Matthew Lee

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- Some young people to feel the call to minister as a part of the H&B.

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- The council never to lose the vision that brought HHYC into existence and to be faithful to do our part to advance the glorious kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Home Mission Board

- That God would raise up new pastors and leaders to fill our needs within the Church of God (Holiness).

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

- The PreK-12 ministry of the college, Overland Christian Schools.

World Mission Board

- God to supply needed resources as World Missions seeks to open new fields of ministry.
- God to keep calling individuals to be missionaries and that those called will respond to Him.
- Bolivia: Wisdom, knowledge, and understanding for pastors and members that yield unity and growth.
- Middle East: That the churches would grow in unity and urgency to reach their neighborhoods.

My Local Church

- Sunday services and weekly prayer meetings (Ephesians 6:18-20).





Day 21:

Are You Living John 3:16?

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 NIV

Our eight-year-old son enjoys trying to get in and out of his new bunkbed without using the built-in ladder. One of his methods of getting out of the bed is to jump into my arms. This requires him to believe I can catch him, but when he jumps, there's always a moment when

that belief becomes trust.

Most of us know John 3:16. It is one of the most widely-quoted and familiar passages in the Bible, but today I want to ask a more personal question: Are we living it?

This beautiful passage teaches powerful theological truths: God loved and gave so that we would not perish, but would have eternal life. The hinge is “whoever believes in him,” and yet, Biblical belief is more than mental assent that Jesus lived, died, and was raised from the dead. It means entrusting ourselves to Him—a moment where belief becomes trust, and we leap off the proverbial bunk bed.

Never before in history has information about God been more accessible. We have sermons, podcasts, books, Bible studies, and devotionals available to us around the clock. Yet we can keep learning more about Jesus without actually surrendering more of ourselves to Him.

The book of First John gives us a way to examine that trust: “We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands” (2:3). The difference between knowing John 3:16 and living John 3:16 is whether or not we are increasingly walking as He walked and loving as He loved. (See 1 John 2:6-11.) Prayer and fasting are of little importance if we are still hating our brothers and sisters and wandering around in the darkness.

Today, as you pray, ask the Lord this simple, yet searching question: “Am I living John 3:16?”

Matthew Lee

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for...

Board of Publications (Herald and Banner)

- An increase in number of customers and increase in sales of Sunday school literature and *The Church Herald and Holiness Banner*.

Harmony Hill Youth Council

- Those who attend events on the Hill in 2027 to be moved upon and changed for God's glory.

Home Mission Board

- Revival in our existing churches.

Foundation Board

- Wisdom for the Foundation to know how to most effectively strengthen and support the Church of God (Holiness) with the resources they manage.

Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees

- The salvation of students.

World Mission Board

- The Church of God (Holiness) to have a vision for obeying the command of the Great Commission.
- Caribbean Conference: That our deep commitment to missions would compel us to go and serve beyond our region.
- Haiti: Unity among all groups and communities in the country.
- Middle East: The new believers we left in the care of others would continue to grow and mature in their faith.

My Local Church

- That my church will grow in numbers and in depth of understanding/commitment (Ephesians 1:15-17, Philippians 1:9-11).



Day 22 (Additional): Leaving Sticky Notes



Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. John 15:4 ESV

If you've been around church for even a little while, you know God is always with you. Our kids had a sort of simplified catechism from a kids' devotional book. One of the call-and-response items went like this. Reader: "Who is

always with me?" Kids: "GOD IS ALWAYS WITH ME!"

We know He's with us. But do we **know** He's with us? I'm embarrassed to admit how many times I've caught myself thinking something along the lines of "Well, it would be nice if I could have some help with this problem." Or, "If Jesus were here, this would have gone differently."

God is ALWAYS with us! Maybe we should show up for that!

Participating in God's presence (or *The Practice of the Presence of God* as Brother Lawrence had it) is very simple, but not always easy. Fasting helps, because it's like a Post-it note on your digestive system, reminding you of His presence.

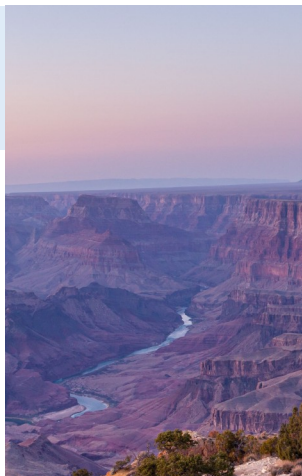
I'm trying to set myself other "sticky notes" to remind me to be conscious of Jesus with me—to participate in His presence. Sometimes these are literal sticky notes. Other times it's a visual cue to bump my brain into the consciousness of Jesus. Other times it's secret codes I leave myself in my work spaces or other places. What are some reminders you can set for yourself right now that will show up in the times when it's difficult to remember Jesus' presence?

Jim Purtle

Prayer Requests:

I want to pray for...

[illegible]



Day 23 (Additional): Joy in Jesus' Presence

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. John 15:11 NIV

I've heard all my life about the joy to be found in the presence of God. Psalm 16:11 (ESV) says, "In your presence there is fullness of joy . . ." If I'm honest, though, I thought I found greater joy in other things.

Standing in bright moonlight at Plateau Point on the Tonto Rim of the Grand Canyon, with a plunge of 1200 feet down to the Colorado River in front of me, and 3500+ feet of canyon wall rising behind me up to the South Rim, I was filled with inexpressible joy.

Sitting at the table on Thanksgiving Day, finishing my last bite of apple dumping, surrounded by people I love, I was filled with (besides lots of food!) another kind of inexpressible joy.

But I've slowly come to realize the most joy-filled things are because of Jesus. He made them. He infused them with beauty and goodness.

And when I say, "Jesus, walk this trail with me," "Jesus, drive this road trip with me," or "Jesus, fill this family celebration with Your presence," He answers those prayers, and the joy is "complete" as He talked about in John 15. It has fullness. And perhaps unexpectedly, even dark, ugly times can have nonsensical shots of joy when I choose to "abide" in His presence.

I'm asking Him to help me see His presence and be filled with His joy, anywhere and everywhere, forever.

Jim Purtle

Prayer Requests:

I want to pray for...

[illegible]



Day 24 (Additional): Trees

But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God. Psalm 52:8 NIV



I've been thinking a lot about trees lately. Psalm 1 describes the person who delights in and meditates on the law of the Lord as being "like a tree planted by streams of water" (v. 3). This is contrasted with the wicked, who are like chaff blown away by the wind.

But sometimes I feel blown away, too. I feel like the dust from which I am formed. Psalm 103 describes human life like grass. He flourishes "like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more" (vv. 15-16).

In 1 Samuel 22, King Saul and Doeg the Edomite were like wind blowing over the priests of Nob. Saul and his minion murdered the whole village—wiped out in a moment. David responds to this tragedy in Psalm 52. He says nothing will stop God from uprooting the evil one—uprooted like the weeds I pull from my garden that dry out on the sidewalk and blow away.

The second half of Psalm 52 is the best. "But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever" (v. 8). Did you know that there are some olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane that were alive in Jesus' day?! Flourishing in the house of God, my roots are there. No matter what wind blows here on earth, there is a part of me connected to heaven's soil.

Cindy Purtle

Prayer Requests:

I want to pray for...

[illegible]



Day 25 (Additional): David's Story

"A miktam of David. For teaching. When he fought Aram Naharaim and Aram Zobah, and when Joab returned and struck down twelve thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt." Introduction to Psalm 60 NIV

I couldn't remember reading the part of David's story to go with Psalm 60. Aram in the North and Edom in the South, David was feeling pressed from both sides. He cries, "You have rejected us, God . . . You have shown your people desperate times . . ." (vv. 1, 3). Why didn't I remember this grave time in David's life?

After researching, I think this references 2 Samuel 8 and 1 Chronicles 18. I realize why the despair of Psalm 60 didn't ring any recognition bells for me: my Bible's chapter header in both Samuel and Chronicles is "David's Victories." Victories! The larger narrative of David's story doesn't mention this dark episode of anguish at all. What it DOES mention, multiple times, is this: "The LORD gave David victory wherever he went" (1 Chronicles 18:6).

What a contrast: the feeling of desperation in the moment compared with God's victory in the big picture! David experienced contrast, and so do I. Psalm 60 gives permission to run to God in the moment with feelings of abandonment, distress, and urgency. The crucial point is to run to God, even if—especially if—it is a prayer of desperation.

The last verse of Psalm 60 claims in advance, "With God we will gain the victory" (v. 12)! God gave David victory that eclipsed everything else. God's victory is David's story. Even when we can't see it in the moment, when we run to Him, God's victory is our story, too.

Cindy Purtle

Prayer Requests:

I want to pray for...

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Day 26 (Additional): Jesus, Our Minister

We have this kind of high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister . . . Hebrews 8:1-2 CSB

You have probably heard this idea preached and expounded upon several times. Christ is our High Priest. But how often have you narrowed that focus, relishing the truth that the Lord **ministers** to you?

If I could ask you, “What is a minister?” you would probably answer with, “Well, a minister is someone who preaches Biblical truth, encourages believers, and lifts others up in prayer.” Perhaps you would add, “They are compassionate, loving, and kind.” Good ministers are all those things, but the greatest of these ministers, Christ, is all these things and more—for you!

Sure, He meets us corporately. He moves and works throughout a body of believers in a church service, revival, or camp meeting. None of that should be belittled. But He also ministers on an intimate and individual level. He speaks to YOU. He intercedes for YOU. He moves to encourage YOU. He loves YOU. He cares for YOU. He provides for YOU. He moves with compassion for YOU. Jesus ministers to YOU!

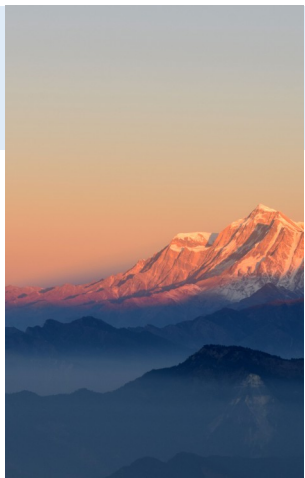
“What is a human being that you remember him, a son of man that you look after him?” (Psalm 8:4). YOU mean everything to Him! That is why He came. That is why He died. That is why He rose again. That is why He ascended into heaven. That is why He ministers to YOU now. That is why He is coming back for YOU!

Austin Tolley

Prayer Requests:

I want to pray for...

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Day 27 (Additional): What Heaven Holds

For the majestic one, our Lord, will be there . . .
Isaiah 33:21 CSB

This beautiful passage of Isaiah (33:15-24) sheds a most glorious light on the joys and wonders of heaven. In this soon-coming, eternal life there will be peace (v. 20), secure dwelling and provision (v. 16), freedom from sickness (v. 24), and the complete absence of iniquity (v. 24). That is

enough to make even the most cold and dry saint rejoice.

Yet, these are not the greatest aspects of our heavenly home. For, as verse 21 states, “The majestic one, our Lord, will be there . . .” God, in His radiance, majesty, and glory will physically dwell with us, and we with Him! “Your eyes will see the King in His beauty” (v. 17). Friend, how beautiful He will be!

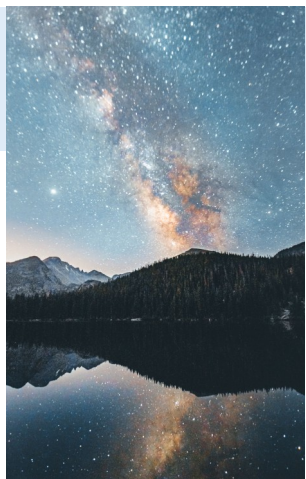
We cannot fully comprehend what it will be like to catch the first glimpse of our Creator, but I am sure you have thought about it. What peace, humility, emotion, wonder, and amazement will wash over us upon a single glance of our Lord. As we gaze upon the Source of love, grace, mercy, and compassion—what joy our hearts will experience! What peace will settle within us! All the cares, worries, and concerns of this life will be forgotten. All the physical, emotional, and mental pain will just wash away. We will see Him! We will be with Him! And it will be beautiful! What a day, a glorious day that will be!

Austin Tolley

Prayer Requests:

I want to pray for...

[illegible]



Day 28 (Additional): Our Great God

*Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
and his greatness is unsearchable. Psalms 145:3
NKJV*

In April of this year, *Artemis II* broke free from the gravitational pull of Earth and hurled toward the moon. The four astronauts on board sent back pictures of Earth from outer space—swirls of clouds over green and blue, a planet

teeming with life traveling through an otherwise sterile and even hostile solar system.

It took the spacecraft about five days to reach our nearest neighbor, five days of traveling through what astronaut Victor Glover later referred to as “a whole bunch of nothing.” From his unique perspective, the earth was really only a spaceship itself, a habitat especially created for life.

The Bible tells us, “The heavens declare the glory of God” (Psalm 19:1). And, while NASA had many of its own reasons for this space journey, the one message that kept coming back to me was how truly great, how awesome our God is.

Our galaxy alone contains stars that are estimated to be in the 100s of billions, and it is thought to be 100,000 light years across. Some research estimates there are close to 2 trillion more galaxies in the observable universe.

System overload. Processing failed. I cannot comprehend such numbers!

These facts alone tell us how great and vast God is. Yet our enemy constantly feeds us doubts. But why should we doubt such a great Creator? His power and plans surely exceed our own.

Ashlee Englund

Prayer Requests:

I want to pray for...

[illegible]



Day 29 (Additional): Listen for the Silence

*And after the fire a still small voice. 1 Kings
19:12 NKJV*

Elijah had taken a stand alone in front of an evil king, the prophets of Baal, and the entire nation of Israel. It was a tense showdown where God's response to Elijah's brief prayer was so great that even the unbelieving crowd acknowledged it could only be divine.

That's an amazing story, but sometimes our lives don't resemble Elijah in that chapter as much as they do to him in the next. In 1 Kings 19, Elijah's life is threatened by Queen Jezebel, and he runs away, overcome by fear and loneliness. He is so overwhelmed that he asks God to take his life.

Then, when God wants to give Elijah direction, he tells him to stand in front of a mountain. There is a terrible windstorm, a great earthquake, and a consuming fire. But God is not in the chaos. Instead, Elijah waits and hears a gentle voice, perhaps even a whisper. Then he knows that God is speaking.

There are many overwhelming situations in our lives. And we can allow a lot of noise. Podcasts, politics, opinions, sports, entertainment—we can fill every waking moment. But I've wondered if sometimes I allow too much noise to hear from God.

My mother-in-law has a pillow at her house with these words stitched on it: "Listen for the silence. Only then can you hear the Lord speak."

Ashlee Englund

Prayer Requests:

I want to pray for...

[illegible]



Day 30 (Additional): The Need to Encourage

Not giving up meeting together . . . but encouraging one another . . . Hebrews 10:25 NIV

This report was sent from Africa:

“What began as a simple outreach has blossomed into a divine encounter with God. We are filled with joy regarding what God is doing. During the outreach, we witnessed an overwhelming turnout of Muslims who listened in-

tently as the Word of God was taught through the pages of Dr. Jim Lo’s book, *God’s Call to Holiness*.

“Among those at the meeting were four Muslims who, through conviction by the Holy Spirit, surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ. They have since returned to their homes and are teaching God’s message to their families and friends. These four, who call themselves ‘apostles of Jesus,’ are reporting to us about the many hut fellowships that are being formed, where new believers are being taught about Jesus Christ and where they are being encouraged by each other.”

An African proverb says, “Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable.”

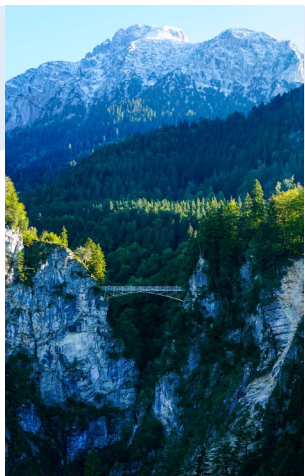
Teaching God’s Word at these hut fellowships is giving the head knowledge these new believers need as they journey with Jesus. Gathering together is providing the encouragement needed to stand strong for Him. This encouragement is needed, since where they live there are many who seek to “break” Christians through severe persecution.

Dr. Jim “Umfundisi” Lo+

Prayer Requests:

I want to pray for...

[illegible]



Day 31 (Additional): Be a Bridge

And since we have a great priest over the house of God . . . Hebrews 10:21 NIV

I became a Christian because I wanted to end up in heaven and not in hell. On the day I made the decision to be a Christian, my heart was filled with great joy. Wonderful peace swept over my soul as I received God's gift of salvation. I thought, "I now have my ticket to eternal life." The faith I possessed was very "Jim Lo

focused."

However, my focus changed when I heard a message about Christians being called to be priests. The Latin word for "priest" refers to one who builds bridges. The pastor stated, "Christians are to be faithfully building bridges for unbelievers to be able to cross over and have a personal relationship with God."

He then ended his sermon by saying, "God needs you to respond to His call, to build bridges."

It was as if he were speaking directly to me. My heart was stirred. I realized that not being a bridge builder was not an option. I knew that I had a decision to make. That day I made my way to the altar, knelt down in prayer, and made the decision that I going to be a bridge builder for Christ.

Our salvation was never meant to be selfish, or kept to ourselves. Instead, we who are saved by Christ are to be building bridges for others.

Dr. Jim "Umfundisi" Lo+

Prayer Requests:

I want to pray for...

[illegible]



Day 32 (Additional): Christ, the Curtain

By a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body . . . Hebrews 10:20 NIV

In southern Africa, many Africans revere their ancestors who have died. As spiritual beings, these ancestors are believed to be intermediaries between the human and the spirit realm. They become the means for communicating with God. To appease the *amadlozi* the practice

of veneration includes ceremonial rituals, where drumming, dancing, and offerings are made.

Many Africans also believe that humans are not allowed to enter into the presence of God. They can only make their needs known to him by going through the ancestral spirits, who will do the communicating for them. The challenge is this: if the *amadlozi* do not feel they have been treated properly they can decide not to present the needs of the people to god.

When I read the words of Hebrews 10 to Sonny Makusha, he asked, “Are you telling me that Jesus Christ is that curtain?”

When I answered that He is, Sonny sat in silence, reflecting. “Does this mean that I do not have to go through the *amadlozi* to have direct contact with God?”

When I told him that he was correct, he got excited. “I want to go through the curtain that is Jesus Christ!”

Dr. Jim “Umfundisi” Lo+

Prayer Requests:

I want to pray for...

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Day 33 (Additional): Freedom from Fear

The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. Psalm 121:6 NIV

Though I was born in the United States, I spent a few years growing up in Hong Kong. While living there, I became scared of the night.

The Chinese can be superstitious. One superstition says that a person who whistles while walking on a moonlit night will soon discover that he is not alone! Whistling at night will attract ghosts who will bring bad fortune because the sound of whistling disturbs the peace of the night.

Another superstition some Chinese believe gives the instruction that people should never point their finger at the moon. If they do, the tips of their ears will fall off or their index finger will somehow be severed in a painful manner. According to this superstition, *Chang'e*, the goddess who resides on the moon, regards pointing as being disrespectful and rude.

I lived with intense fear of the dark for many years. Then I was told about how God is able to free us from fear. Upon becoming a Christian, the fear that had tenaciously clung to my heart began to go away. Knowing that the big, strong, caring God was watching over me to protect me filled me with great comfort and peace.

Dr. Jim "Umfundisi" Lo+

Prayer Requests:

I want to pray for...

[illegible]



Day 34 (Additional): Imprisoned for Christ

*You suffered along with those in prison . . .
Hebrews 10:34 NIV*

A few years ago, I took a group of students with me to China. While there, we heard of Christian men being beaten and thrown into jail. Their jail sentence would last up to three years. But instead of seeing their time of imprisonment as wasted time, some of these Christian men preached God's Word to the other inmates.

One of these Christian men shared, "The government thought they could stop me from starting up a church, but little do they realize that there is a church right in their own prisons."

We were told that one of these prison churches had over three hundred men attending worship services. Some of these Christian young men, upon being released from prison, would go home and spend time with their families, getting reacquainted and enjoying being with one another. Then, boldly, they would go to the market place and preach the gospel, knowing well that they would be thrown back into prison again.

A wife shared, "I am willing to make the sacrifice of having my husband imprisoned again, especially when he is able to go back and disciple those who have been converted. No sacrifice is too great for Christ!"

Dr. Jim "Umfundisi" Lo+

Prayer Requests:

I want to pray for...

[illegible]



Day 35 (Additional): No Shrinking Back

But we do not belong to those who shrink back . . . Hebrews 10:39 NIV

Accepting Jesus Christ is not seen as an individual religious decision in some families. It can be seen as being disrespectful to one's non-Christian parents, as well as a rejection of one's heritage, culture, and ethnic background.

Being Chinese-American, I was not introduced to Jesus Christ until I was 18 years old. School friends, Andy and Nancy, told me about Him. When I told my mother that I had accepted Jesus as my Savior, she received the news nonchalantly. I have a feeling she did not take the news seriously, thinking it was just a "fad" which would quickly be forgotten by me. But after a few months, I could sense the pressure to renounce my newfound faith as she realized I was serious.

I would not be telling the truth if I told you that I never considered turning away from Christ. There were times I seriously considered "shrinking back." Feeling rejected for over 35 years was painful for me. Yes, I loved my mom, but I realized that I needed to love Jesus more. Following Jesus has not always been an easy path to travel on, but I will never shrink back from following God!

Dr. Jim "Umfundisi" Lo+

Prayer Requests:

I want to pray for...

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Day 36 (Additional): God Does Answer!



In everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6 NKJV

Brother Philip Gumbs, Caribbean Conference Overseer, sent me a message, informing me that 22-year-old, Eliza, daughter of one of our Haitian pastors, had been abducted. She had been kidnapped at her place of employment.

I had heard alarms like this one many times over the years of my ministry. Having served in Cambodia, regular reports of young people being taken captive to be forced into prostitution were heard. Seldom did I hear reports of successful rescues.

For days, no news about Eliza was received. No one knew where she was. No one knew how she was doing. But, one morning, as I was praying, the following words came to me: “Be still and know I am God. You may not know where Eliza is or how she is doing, but I know.”

That morning I felt the need to send out a call to fast and pray regarding this horrendous, seemingly hopeless situation. Followers of Christ from Ghana, Bolivia, Haiti, the Caribbean, Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, Kenya, and the USA wrote and shared they would be praying. What especially blessed my heart was hearing from individuals from different denominations sharing that they were joining their prayers with the Church of God (Holiness) association.

Five days of silence passed after her abduction without hearing any information about Eliza. For some, discouragement was settling in. But prayers continued to be lifted up. People were fasting.

Then it happened! Clouds of dreariness parted, allowing the rays of God’s glory to brightly shine forth. The report came—ELIZA IS FREE! SHE HAS BEEN SET FREE!

Dr. Jim “Umfundisi” Lo+

Prayer Requests:

I want to pray for...

**“Prayer is reaching out after the unseen;
fasting is letting go of all that is seen and temporal.
Fasting helps express, deepen, confirm the resolution
that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves
to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God.”**

Andrew Murray

