

## 2024 PRAYER FOCUS: SALT & LIGHT

“Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is” (Ephesians 5:15-17).

Paul gives powerful instructions. Be careful how you live! Be wise! Make the most of every opportunity! Don’t be foolish! Understand what the Lord’s will is! It is an invitation to total dependence on the Lord because the days are evil.

This month we focus on seeking greater dependence on God. It is not just about depending on Him for our daily needs or for his leading in ministry but depending on Him in every aspect of our lives because the days are evil. There is an enemy who seeks to destroy not only the work of God in the planting of churches and making disciples, but also the work Christ has done in each of us. His desire is to mar the image of Jesus in each of us.

He wants us to live as foolish people, to overlook opportunities to represent Jesus, to not recognize the evil of our day, and to miss God’s perfect will.

Walking as children of light or walking as Jesus walked requires that we are focused on seeking Jesus, becoming more and more like Him and recognizing that apart from Him we can do nothing. It is about becoming dependent on Him for who we are becoming as much as we depend on Him for what we do.

### MARCH PRAYER FOCUS — SEEKING GREATER DEPENDENCE ON GOD

We are changing the format this year. Instead of a daily scripture and prayer, we want to focus on a different region of the Missionary Church each week and a different department at Bethel University. We also want to challenge everyone to look at the theme of the month and ask each week what the Lord wants to say to us.

#### WEEK #1

**PERSONAL REFLECTION — FIRM STEPS:** “The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand” (Psalm 37:23-24).

- Is the Lord your delight or simply a resource you run to in times of need?
- When have you sensed Him steadying you so you did not fall?
- Where do you need His strength today? Where do you need to grow in greater dependence.
- Take a moment to worship Him — to delight in Him and to praise Him for upholding you.

## **BETHEL UNIVERSITY — HUMAN RESOURCES**

- Pray for these staff members who deal with compensation and employment issues that God will give them grace and wisdom.
- Pray they will lead with pure hearts and with faith as they trust in the Lord's provision.
- Pray for the Lord's abundant provision so that these staff members can be generous in compensation for faculty and staff.
- Pray they will model servant leadership.

## **EASTERN REGION — CHURCHES IN PENNSYLVANIA, NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, MARYLAND, AND FLORIDA**

This is perhaps our most ethnically diverse region. There are 50 churches comprised of many cultures: Hispanic, Brazilian, Haitian, Jamaican, and Anglo. This unique blend makes for a rich conference.

### **REGIONAL DIRECTOR: JEFF GETZ**

**STAFF MEMBERS INCLUDE:** Rosa Reyes Santiago, Sabrina Passoni, Edwin and Carmen Colon, Aurea Marciano, Tulio Abel DeSousa; Marcos Crespo; Ron Eade; and Drew Toucher.

**MISSION:** Pray for Jeff Getz and his staff as they seek to make followers of Christ and facilitate the health, growth, and multiplication of leaders and churches.

**PRAY FOR IMMERGE** — IMMERGE is a network of emerging leaders who are being mentored, coached, and equipped as they pursue their life callings in nontraditional ministry contexts, especially among immigrant communities.

### **PRAYER FOR THE VARIOUS REGIONAL MINISTRIES:**

- Women's ministry
- Men's ministry
- Youth Ministry

### **PRAY FOR THEIR FIVE "CONNECTIONS" AND THEIR LEADERS**

- Cleonir and Cremilda Robelo — Boston District Director
- Joe and Dorca Bello and Paula and Aurea Marciana — New York and New Jersey
- Marcos and Rubi Crespo — Eastern Pennsylvania
- Terry and Connie Farr — Western Pennsylvania
- Clau and Bea Calvalho — Florida

## **WEEK #2**

**PERSONAL REFLECTION — GOD’S STRENGTH:** “‘Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand’” (Isaiah 41:10).

- As you reflect on this week’s verse, what is your greatest fear?
- Where is the Lord leading that will require you to lean on Him in greater measure?
- When have you sensed the strength of the Lord in a way that you know beyond any doubt that it was His strength?
- Take some time to reflect on your journey with Christ. Praise Him for those times when He carried you through circumstances you could not handle on your own.

#### **BETHEL UNIVERSITY — INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT**

- Pray the Lord will give this team the gift of faith as they seek financial support for Bethel.
- Pray the Lord will lead them to people and businesses who share a vision for multiplying disciples of Jesus.
- Pray that these staff members will lead with a sense of dependence on the Lord.
- Pray the Holy Spirit will equip them as His ambassadors.

#### **NORTHWEST REGION**

##### **REGIONAL DIRECTOR: BOB RANSOM**

This week we encourage you to pray for the churches, pastors, and leaders in our Northwest Region, which includes churches in Washington and Oregon.

This region has the fewest churches of any of our regions. They are located in one of the most liberal parts of the country. In Oregon, approximately 29% of the population attend church regularly and in Washington, about 30% attend regularly. This is a great mission field.

##### **PRAY FOR BOB RANSOM**

- Pray that God will grant him wisdom as he seeks to expand the Kingdom in the Northwest through our existing churches and through finding other like-minded leaders who will partner with us.
- Pray the Lord will grant him favor among the people of the Northwest churches so that they can faithfully labor together.
- Pray for protection from the attacks of the enemy as they seek to take territory for the Kingdom.
- Pray the Lord will renew him day by day.

##### **PRAYER FOR THE REGION**

- Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to pray for the pastors and leaders of the Northwest Region as they seek to plant disciple-making churches.
- Pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit to renew existing churches and prepare the soil for new churches.
- Pray for God’s abundant provision of human and financial resources.
- Pray for purity of heart for pastors and leaders throughout the region.

## **WEEK #3**

**PERSONAL REFLECTION — GOD IS ABLE:** “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen” (Ephesians 3:20-21).

- What are you trusting the Lord to do in you?
- What is the greatest challenge facing you that you need His “abundantly above” all you can ask or think?
- Where have you seen Him receive the greatest glory in your life or ministry?
- Take a moment and praise Him for the amazing things He has done in your life.

## **BETHEL UNIVERSITY — LIBRARY STAFF**

These are the people who can assist students with research projects and point them to the resources they need.

- Pray that God will lead this staff to secure the best resources to aid students not only in their academic development but also in their spiritual walk.
- Pray that they will lead in this ministry as humble servants.
- Pray that God will use these staff members to help create an atmosphere where students sense the presence of the Lord.
- Pray they will be able to come alongside any student who appears to be struggling academically.

## **PACIFIC RIM REGION**

### **REGIONAL DIRECTOR: CAL CHINEN**

This week we encourage you to pray for the churches, pastors, and leaders in the Pacific Rim Region, which includes churches on the islands of Kauai, Oahu, and Kona and Chinese churches in Florida and California.

### **PRAY FOR CAL CHINEN**

- Pray that God will grant him wisdom as he gives leadership to the 20 churches and 34 pastors in the Pacific Rim Region.
- Pray that God will protect him from the attacks of the enemy as they seek to expand the Kingdom in Hawaii and beyond.
- Pray the Lord will give Him ears to hear the whispers of the Holy Spirit that he might know the direction of the Lord for the region.
- Pray the Lord will renew him day by day.

### **PRAYER FOR THE REGION**

- Pray that each church in the region will be seeking the Lord for ways to multiply disciples and multiply churches.

- Pray for unity among the pastors and leaders as Jesus prayed for unity for His followers.
- Pray for God's abundant provision.
- Pray that pastors will continually seek a more intimate relationship with the Lord and that they will lead with pure hearts, fully dependent on Him.

## **WEEK #4**

**PERSONAL REFLECTION — WISDOM:** "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind" (James 1:5-6).

- Where do you need God's wisdom today?
- Where do you struggle with doubt?
- When do you remember the Lord gave you wisdom beyond your years and experience?
- Take a moment and praise the Lord that you don't have to rely on your own understanding but that you can come to Him for wisdom.

## **BETHEL UNIVERSITY — Pray for the staff in marketing and communication**

- Pray for this team that God will give them the creativity to market Bethel well to the community and throughout the Missionary Church.
- Pray God will use them to clearly articulate the mission of Bethel University
- Pray they will be led by the Holy Spirit as they develop every marketing piece.
- Pray that communications from this department will find favor that will result in more students seeking to serve the Lord and greater funding to support them.

## **CENTRAL REGION**

### **REGIONAL DIRECTOR: KEN SNYDER**

This week we return to a focus on the Central Region and its churches located in Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin.

**STAFF MEMBERS INCLUDE:** Tim Johnson, Stephen Lane, Travis Geisel, and Alexis Wilson

### **CHURCHES NEEDING STAFF:**

- Grabill Missionary Church — Lead pastor
- Grace Church, Canby — Student Ministry pastor
- North Leo Church — Part-time Worship pastor

The Central Region leadership established four goals several years ago:

- **PRAYING PEOPLE:** We are committed to being a **praying people**. In everything we do, we seek to invite the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us, so we can get in on what God is doing, rather than focusing on what we want to accomplish.

- **STRENGTHENING CONGREGATIONS:** We help churches develop and strengthen partnerships with each other and develop qualified and competent leaders.
- **MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES:** We long to be part of a movement of disciple-making that stretches across nations and generations — a movement that finds a way to span the gap between head and heart; between knowledge and action.
- **PLANTING CHURCHES:** From the beginning, our denomination has had a heart for seeing unreached people become reached. Whether across the globe, or in our own backyard, we're committed to the planting and cultivation of communities of justice, peace, and Christlikeness.
- **PRAYER:**
  - Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to pray for the pastors and leaders of the region as they focus on these goals.
  - What part will their relationship with Jesus play in the fulfillment of these goals?
  - What resources will the Lord need to provide?
  - What will these leaders need from the Lord to lead the region toward these goals?