

2024 PRAYER FOCUS: SALT & LIGHT

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. - EPHESIANS 5:25-28

At a time when the family is under attack on so many levels, there is an urgent need for godly men who will set an example of the love of Christ - giving themselves for their wives as Christ gave himself for the church. Boys need godly models to follow, and young girls need to see what a godly husband is like so that they will not settle for anything less. It is difficult for families to be “Salt & Light” if they are not united in following Jesus.

SEPTEMBER PRAYER FOCUS — PRAYING FOR FAMILIES

As we pray for families this month, we recognize that the needs are many and sometimes complex. While we love to see intact families - we know the reality is that there are many families that have been fractured by divorce or the death of a loved one. Pray for healing of relationships. Pray for those single parents who are trying to be “Dad and Mom” and who are trying to teach their children to trust in Jesus. Pray that God will guard the hearts of children in broken homes.

WEEK #1

PERSONAL REFLECTION - “And Adam said: ‘This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.’ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Genesis 2:23-24).

- Pray for those marriages that you know are struggling - pray for understanding and for a healing of relationships.
- Pray for an awakening in this country to the value and sanctity of marriage.
- If you are married, pray for your spouse - pray for God’s blessing and protection. Pray the Lord will show you how to minister to them.
- If you are single and desire to be married, pray the Lord will bring the right person into your life. Pray for patience to wait on the Lord and pray the Lord will fill you with His peace.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY - BUSINESS OFFICE

Pray for the staff in this department that God will give them discernment and wisdom to help families find the resources for their students to attend Bethel. Pray for God’s abundant provision for families and students who desire to attend Bethel.

- Pray that God will bless the families of those who work in the business office.

- Pray that these staff members will see their role as a ministry to the Kingdom of God.
- Pray that they will regularly see God's hand of provision as they seek to help students.

CENTRAL REGION

Praise the Lord for the pastors and their families who serve the Central Region of the Missionary Church. Praise the Lord for the 60 churches in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: KEN SNYDER

- Pray for Ken and His staff as they give leadership to this region.
- Pray for their families that God will encourage and strengthen them.
- Pray for Tim Johnson, regional staff, whose wife recently passed away of cancer.

PRAYER FOR THE REGION

- Pray for the pastors and churches that are in transition. Several pastors are retiring, and another church just lost their pastor due to his resignation. Pray for God's leading in finding replacements.
- These churches are looking to fill staff positions:
 - First Missionary Church - Berne, IN - Pre-teen director/pastor
 - Grace Church - Canby, IN - Student ministries pastor
 - Mt. Olive Missionary Church, Peoria, IL - Worship leader
 - The Rock - Portland, IN - Worship and discipleship pastor
- Pray for the families of church planters - that God will bless them. Many of our planters are bi-vocational. Pray for the Lord's provision.
- Pray for the next generation - that God will call young men and women into ministry.

WEEK #2

PERSONAL REFLECTION: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

- Who are the children in your neighborhood who do not have good role models in their home? Pray for them and for their families.
- Who are the young families in your church or community who are trying to figure out how to raise their children to trust Jesus? Pray for them.
- Who are the students whose faith is being challenged at school? Pray for them.

- Pray that those students who struggle with depression will find hope and peace through the word. Pray for families to be sensitive and compassionate toward students who are struggling with mental health issues.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY - CAMPUS SAFETY/CONFERENCE SERVICES

- Pray that God will use these staff members to keep students safe, and that He will use the conference services staff to minister to those who use the campus for conferences etc.
- Pray that God will bless the families of these staff members and fill them with joy.
- Pray that these staff members will always serve with humility, knowing that they represent Jesus.
- Pray for God's hand of protection over the campus throughout the year.

EAST CENTRAL

Praise the Lord for the 29 churches and 59 ministers who serve in the East Central Region. Praise the Lord for the new Hispanic work beginning in Hilliard, Ohio.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: JEFF KEPHART

- Pray for Jeff and Donna and for their staff, Jeff and Jean Gerig, that God will renew them day by day.
- Pray for God's blessing on their children who are in college.
- Pray that God will give them wisdom as they give leadership to this region.

PRAYER FOR THE REGION

- Pray that God will encourage the pastors and families of this region and equip them to lead their churches to reach their communities.
- Pray for renewed vision and commitment to the Great Commission.
- Pray the Lord will lead as they seek to equip and empower churches in close proximity to each other to labor together to expand the region and the Kingdom.
- Pray that God will raise up men and women from the next generation to serve in these churches.

EXPANDING THE REGION

- Pray for open doors into West Virginia where we have no churches. Pray for persons of peace who can lead the way to multiplying churches in this state.

WEEK #3

PERSONAL REFLECTION: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

- Who are the single parents in your sphere of influence? Pray that God will give them strength and courage to face each day and to continue to honor Him.
- Who are the young couples in your world who are struggling with finances, raising children, and job stress? Pray that God will give them strength and courage and that He will remind them of His presence.
- Pray that God will give strength and courage to missionary couples as they raise support, navigate a different culture, and seek ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus while still maintaining a strong family.
- Pray for the families of pastors - pray especially that God will give the children who often feel they live life in a fishbowl strength to simply focus on Him.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY - CUSTODIAL AND CAFETERIA STAFF

- Pray for God's blessing on these servants who are often overlooked and underappreciated; that God will encourage them and remind them of their value to Him, to Bethel, and to the Kingdom.
- Pray that God will use them to represent Him to the students - simply by a kind word or word of encouragement.
- Pray that God will provide for their families and fill their homes with His peace.
- Pray they will all serve with humility so that students will see Jesus in them.

MISSIONARY CHURCH DAY - SEPTEMBER 20

This day is designed to celebrate the relationship between the denomination and the university. It will give pastors the opportunity to interact with university leadership and students, as well as network with other pastors.

MICHIGAN REGION

Praise the Lord for the 53 churches and 94 pastors making disciples in Michigan. Pray that God will multiply churches and disciples throughout the region.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: DALE RINKE

- Pray for Dale and his wife as they give leadership to the Michigan Region.
- Pray that God will renew them day by day and give them strength and courage to advance the Kingdom.
- Pray for the Lord's continued anointing on them.

PRAYER FOR THE REGION

- Pray for the pastors and their families in this region that God will guard their hearts.
- Pray that God will renew those who are discouraged and restore their calling and vision.
- Pray that God will provide for church planters' needs and that He will lead them to persons of peace.

- Pray for open doors for the Gospel throughout the state of Michigan.

CHURCHES NEEDING STAFF:

- Bethel Missionary Church - Yale, MI - Pastor
- Cass City Missionary Church - Cass City, MI - Associate Pastor
- Elkton Missionary Church - Elkton, MI - Pastor
- New Life Missionary Church - Bay City, MI - Pastor

WEEK #4

PERSONAL REFLECTION - “But Ruth said: ‘Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me’” (Ruth 1:16-17).

- Although this passage is not about marriage, pray that this kind of commitment will be reflected in the marriages in each of our churches.
- Pray for a renewal of this kind of marriage commitment in America.
- Pray that parents will take seriously the responsibility to model that commitment to their children.
- Pray that parents will also take seriously the responsibility to disciple their children.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY - GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AND CAREER SERVICES

- Pray the Lord will provide opportunities for students to experience cross-cultural ministry.
- Pray that God will open doors for every Bethel graduate - not just for jobs but for ministries.
- Pray that God will use global engagement to call some students into full-time Christian ministry.
- Pray that He will protect students who travel abroad.

GREAT PLAINS

This week we encourage you to pray for Andy Petro as he gives leadership to the 26 churches and 58 pastors in the Great Plains Region with churches in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and Texas.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: ANDY PETRO

- Pray that the Lord will renew Andy and his wife day by day and that He will fill them with His joy and peace.
- Pray that God will use them to strengthen pastoral families in the Great Plains Region so that they might be used to multiply disciples.
- Pray that God will grant Andy wisdom, strength and courage to follow His leading on behalf of the region.

PRAYER FOR THE REGION

- Pray that God will renew pastoral families. Pray especially for church planters to not become discouraged.
- Pray that God will affirm for pastors their calling and equip them to make disciples who make disciples.
- Pray that God will protect each family from the attacks of the enemy.
- Pray that God will provide in every way for the multiplication of churches.

STAFF POSITIONS NEEDED:

- Hope Missionary Church - Clatonia, Nebraska - Co-vocational pastor
- Northwinds Church - Keewatin, Minnesota - Pastor