

2024 PRAYER FOCUS: SALT & LIGHT

¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. – Romans 15:13

It is great to know that we serve a God of hope who can fill us with all joy and peace so that we may abound in hope. He is the source of joy, the source of peace, and the source of hope if we put our trust in Him.

DECEMBER PRAYER FOCUS — SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. – Isaiah 9:6

The arrival of the Prince of Peace is great news to all the world and yet for many, the season that celebrates His birth is one of the most challenging and discouraging seasons. For many people, the holiday season is a time filled with sadness, self-reflection, loneliness, and anxiety.

Some enter the season having lost a loved one. Celebrating seems almost inappropriate. Others struggle because the economy has taken a toll on their finances, and they are unable to bless others as much as they would like. Some are stressed because of the difficulty of getting family together.

We have the greatest gift in all the world – the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ who is the source of joy and peace. As believers, let us focus on what we have in Him and not what we think is missing in our lives.

This amazing gift is available to the whole world and the Lord has entrusted us to share it with all we meet. Pray that this Christmas season will fill you with joy, peace and hope. Pray that the Prince of Peace will fill you to overflowing so that you can share the hope with those who do not yet know Him.

WEEK #1

PERSONAL REFLECTION - HE IS OUR PEACE: “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation” (Ephesians 2:14).

- Take some time to praise the Lord for the peace you have with Him.
- Who are the people in your life who have no peace because they do not have Jesus? Take a moment to pray for them.
- Are there relationships that you know of that are strained? Pray that God will break down the barriers that exist between them.
- Pray that the peace of Christ will bring peace between people groups.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY - STUDENT LIFE

- Pray that students will find true peace as they seek a personal relationship with Christ.
- Pray for those students who have nowhere to go for the holidays, that God will provide a place and that their holiday will be filled with joy and peace.
- Pray that students who are struggling with depression might experience the peace and joy of the Lord.

MICHIGAN REGION

- Praise the Lord for the 53 churches and 94 pastors and their families who serve the Michigan Region of the Missionary Church.
- Praise the Lord for the fruit that has come from their commitment to planting new churches.
- Praise the Lord for their vision: “Every Church mobilizing believers to intentionally lead people to Christ and make disciple-makers.”

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Dale Rinke

- Pray for Dale and his staff that they will experience the fullness of peace and joy in this holiday season.
- Pray for God’s anointing as he leads churches to become disciple-making churches.
- Pray that God will use him to bring hope to churches that are struggling.

PRAYER FOR THE REGION – for churches needing staff.

- Bethel Missionary Church – Yale, MI – seeking a full-time senior pastor
- Brown City Missionary Church – Brown City, MI – seeking an associate pastor
- Cass City Missionary Church – Cass City, MI – seeking an associate pastor
- Davison Missionary Church – Davison, MI – seeking a full-time children’s director
- Elkton Missionary Church – Elkton, MI – seeking a senior pastor
- New Life Missionary Church – Bay City, MI – seeking a senior pastor

WEEK #2

PERSONAL REFLECTION - PERFECT PEACE: “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, for in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength” (Isaiah 26:3-4).

- Have you become overwhelmed with the stuff of life and allowed that to rob you of peace? Take a moment and give those things to the Lord so that you can know His peace.
- Who in your circle of friends has lost their focus on Jesus and therefore has forfeited peace? Take a moment and pray for them.

- Is there an area of your life you are struggling to give to the Lord? Take some time to give that to the Lord so that you can know His perfect peace.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY – FITNESS/COUNSELING

- Knowing that students often experience depression, pray that they will encounter the Prince of Peace during this season.
- Pray for faculty and staff in these areas that they will be able to point students to the One who can give them peace.
- Pray that God will put encouragers in the life of each student who will point them to the Prince of Peace.

GREAT PLAINS REGION

- Praise the Lord for the 26 churches and 58 ministers who serve in the Great Plains Region of the Missionary Church.
- Praise the Lord for the work they are doing across seven states – Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Texas.
- Praise the Lord for their commitment to multiplying disciples.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Andy Petro

- Pray for Andy as he gives leadership to the Great Plains Region and serves as coach and pastor to pastors across the region.
- Pray for strength, stamina, and grace, and a keen awareness of his dependence on Jesus.
- Pray that God will grant him special wisdom as he leads this region that is spread across so many miles.

PRAYER FOR THE REGION

- Pray for the Pastors' Prayer Retreat – December 1-4
- Pray for the North Wind Church in Keewatin, Minnesota, as they seek for a senior pastor.

WEEK #3

PERSONAL REFLECTION - PEACE IN CHRIST: "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

- Who are the people in your life who are going through their own tribulation – it could be sickness, loss of job/income or loss of a loved one. Pray they would experience perfect peace this Christmas season as they focus on Jesus.
- Is there someone in your life who is not a believer, who is experiencing a challenging season? Has God placed you in their life so that you can share the hope we have in Christ?
- Is there something that is robbing you of peace because you have taken your eyes off Jesus and tried to carry the load by yourself? Take a moment and give it to Him so that you can have peace.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY – AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

- Pray that God will use students in this department to communicate the peace of Jesus to those who cannot hear the spoken word.
- Pray that God will open doors for ministry to the non-hearing world.
- Pray the Lord will fill these students with His peace and joy so that it comes through in their communication.

VINIA (WESTERN REGION)

- Praise the Lord for the 58 churches and 147 pastors who serve Vinia.
- Praise the Lord for the work these pastors and churches are doing six states: California, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, Washington.
- Praise the Lord for the focus they have on coaching and developing leaders.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Dave DeVries

- Pray for Dave and his staff that God will continue to use them to expand the kingdom in this region.
- Pray the Lord will keep them encouraged and refreshed as they minister to pastors and churches.
- Pray for Dave and his staff as they engage, develop, and empower leaders for kingdom movement.

PRAYER THE REGION

- Pray for Living Oaks Church in Thousand Oaks, California as they seek to fill three ministry roles:
 - Executive Associate Pastor
 - Student and Family Pastor
 - Worship Leader

WEEK #4

PERSONAL REFLECTION - THE PEACE OF GOD: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

- As people celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, pray He will remove anxiety and that we will all bring our requests to the Lord.

- Pray that families that have been troubled will experience peace like they have never experienced before.
- Pray that the message of peace through Jesus will touch the hearts of unbelievers this season.
- Pray that His peace will guard our hearts.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY – ART/MUSIC DEPARTMENTS

- Pray that songs of peace will be heard on campus throughout the year.
- Pray that students will carry the peace of Christ (perhaps in song) to their homes over the holiday.
- Pray that God will use the students in this department to bring joy and peace to the campus.
- Pray that God will use students in this department to be instruments of peace in the community.

CONNECT REGION

- Praise the Lord for the 36 churches and 105 pastors in the Connect Region serving across 8 states: Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.
- Praise the Lord for their commitment to making disciples of Jesus.
- Praise the Lord for the unity He is bringing to this team that spans 8 states.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Kevin Beasley

- Pray for Kevin, that the Lord will renew him day by day and that He will fill him with His joy and peace.
- Pray that God will use him to speak words of peace, joy and hope into the lives of pastors in this region.
- Pray that God will grant him wisdom, strength and courage to follow your leading on behalf of the region.

PRAYER FOR THE REGION

- Pray for Horizon Bible Church in Palm Coast, Florida. They are seeking a part-time worship leader.

