

2025 PRAYER FOCUS: HIS STORY

“Go home to your friends and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you” - Mark 5:19.

As we continue to look ahead to the 2025 National Conference that will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana, we embrace the theme of “This is my Story.”

Peter reminded the believers in the early church who had been scattered because of persecution of their true identity. “But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy” (I Peter 2:9-10). To people who had likely lost much because of persecution, these words were a reminder that they were somebody.

Your story is about becoming somebody by the grace and mercy of Christ. Your story is one of transformation, of becoming part of a holy nation, of being made holy so “that you might proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” You are not who you once were because of an encounter with Jesus. It is a part of your story.

FEBRUARY PRAYER FOCUS — PURSUING HOLINESS

A part of your story is your journey of becoming more and more like Jesus. Your story is one of hope for anyone who is stuck in a cycle of sin. There is hope. Christ not only forgives but transforms. Tell the story.

WEEK #1 – February 1-7

This week, pray for the Leadership of the Missionary Church – for Rodney Arnold, Regional Directors, and members of the MLC/GOC – that they will be overwhelmed by their identity in Christ as holy men and women of God. Pray that God will bless and encourage them as they seek to be more and more like Jesus.

Pray that their stories of transformed lives will challenge all of us to pursue lives of holiness as a reflection of our true identity in Christ.

Allow the Holy Spirit to use the following Scriptures and prayers to inform your prayers for our national leaders. Your prayers matter more than you will ever realize.

Saturday, February 1

“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called

you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’” (1 Peter 1:13–16).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you for leaders who are fully aware of the grace that has been extended to them. We praise you that they recognize that you have given them a new life. We pray that they will be able to comprehend a measure of your holiness so that their hearts will be drawn to continue to pursue holiness because you are holy. Guard their hearts from anything that would take their eyes off of you.

Sunday, February 2

“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Corinthians 7:1).

PRAYER: Lord, again today we praise you for leaders who have a desire to be more and more like Jesus. We praise you for their examples of holiness. We pray that they will continue to seek to cleanse themselves. We pray they will perfect holiness so that they will always lead with pure hearts.

Monday, February 3

“Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled” (Hebrews 12:14–15).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, you understand the challenges of working with the Church. You know that there are disagreements and that sometimes there are those who are just difficult to deal with. We pray for our leaders that they will pursue peace even with those who are challenging, and that they will also pursue holiness that will not allow them to compromise your Word just for the sake of peace. Grant them wisdom. Guard their hearts from any bitterness that might be because of betrayals and conflicts over earthly matters.

Tuesday, February 4

“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You” (Psalm 119:9–11).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for your Word. We praise you that it has the power to keep us from sin. We pray that our leaders would continue to be students of your Word. We pray they will never wander from your commandments. We pray the Word will shape their lives and not just their strategies. We pray your Word will continue to transform them into holy men and women of God.

Wednesday, February 5

“Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:14–15).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you for the unity we have witnessed among our leaders. We don’t take this for granted. We believe this unity comes because they are men and women who seek you first. We pray that you will guard their hearts and tongues so that they do not

become complainers. Protect them from meaningless disputes about matters that are of no concern to the Kingdom. We pray their holy, godly leadership will serve as examples to the rest of the church.

Thursday, February 6

But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints” (Ephesians 5:3).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you for these saints you have called to give leadership to the Missionary Church. We know that Satan has a target on the back of every Christian leader – looking for ways to cause them to stumble. We are crying out to you asking that you protect our leaders from the attacks of the enemy. Keep them from anything that would not be worthy of you. Lead them to continue to pursue holiness so that the things of this world have no appeal.

Friday, January 7

“Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness” (Hebrews 12:9–10).

PRAYER: Lord, we know that none of us like to be corrected even when it is so that “we may be partakers of His holiness.” We pray for our leaders that you will give them ears to hear what the Spirit is saying. We pray they will listen to those words of correction and counsel. We pray this not just for their sake, but for the sake of the church. Continue to purify their hearts.

WEEK #2 – February 8-14

This week we encourage you to pray for Bethel University – for Dr. Bellefeuille, her cabinet, and staff, that God will remind them that they are part of a holy nation – a people belonging to God, and that their stories will be stories of being transformed, and that each one will pursue a life of holiness because He is holy.

Pray for students, that they will be amazed at this grace that has given them a royal status. Pray that students will not just be satisfied with being assured of salvation, but that they will fully embrace their citizenship in a holy kingdom and that they will pursue lives of holiness.

Pray for God’s leading and blessing on these key events:

- February 23 – Bethel Day in the Missionary Church
- February 27 – Collegiate Day of Prayer

Saturday, February 8

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you for the faculty, staff and administration at Bethel University. We praise you for their focus on Jesus and their commitment to your Word. Because these men and women have such influence on the next generation, we pray that you will sanctify completely every staff member, every faculty member and everyone in the administration so that they might be preserved blameless, but also so that students might see holy people investing in their lives.

Sunday, February 9

“And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading to more* lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves *of* righteousness for holiness” (Romans 6:18–19).
PRAYER: Father, we praise you for the students you have entrusted to Bethel. We pray that while they are at Bethel they will flee every form of sin and that they will pursue holiness. Give them a hunger for more of you. We pray they will become slaves of righteousness for holiness. Guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Monday, February 10

“Who *is* like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who *is* like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?” (Exodus 15:11).
PRAYER: Lord, we praise you that there is no one like you. You are, indeed, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, and you continue to do wonders. We pray for students and faculty at Bethel that they would be captivated by your holiness. We pray they will continually be amazed at your wonders and your majesty. We pray that as they see your holiness they will pursue you with all their heart so that they become holy.

Tuesday, February 11

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor” (1 Thessalonians 4:3–4).
PRAYER: We praise you, Lord, that your will for us is our sanctification. From the beginning you have designed us to be like you. We pray for students. This is a vulnerable time in their lives. They are away from home. Temptations abound and Satan is lurking to see who he can destroy. We pray that students will be gripped by the reality of your desire for their lives and that you will give them such a longing to be sanctified that temptations are easily dismissed. Give them that singular focus of pursuing you.

Wednesday, February 12

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things are just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things” (Philippians 4:8).
PRAYER: Father, we praise you for your Word. We praise you that it informs and transforms lives. We continue to pray for our students that you will fill their minds with your Word. We

pray they will grasp the power of these words to the Philippians. We pray you will use this focus to keep their hearts pure. We pray, too, that as they follow these instructions it will mitigate against depression and help them see your power to change lives and even change the world.

Thursday, February 13

“And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we *do* to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints” (1 Thessalonians 3:12–13).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you again for this call or invitation to holiness. At the heart of holiness is not only our love for you but our love for others. We pray for students and faculty. We know that people living and working in close proximity to each other can irritate each other. We pray that the campus of Bethel will be the exception. We pray that students and faculty will truly increase and abound in their love for one another so that you can establish their hearts blameless in holiness before God, and so that the community will see that Bethel is a unique campus where holiness abounds.

Friday, February 14

“For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren” (Hebrews 2:11).

PRAYER: Lord, it is hard to comprehend the depth of this statement that “He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one.” We praise you that we can be one with you. We praise you that you are not ashamed to call us brothers. We pray that students will grasp this amazing grace in which the Lord calls us brothers. We pray they will continue to seek you so that they will continue to be made holy.

WEEK #3 – February 15-21

The focus for this week is praying for pastors, that God will remind them that they are a part of a royal priesthood – a holy nation. Pray that as they become more and more aware of this special grace that they will pursue holiness of heart so that they might reflect the character of Jesus.

Pray that their story will include how the Lord has and is transforming them day by day. Pray that God will use them to call the church to pursue holiness.

Pray for those pastors who are in transition – looking for their next ministry role. Pray they will not lose heart and pray the Lord will open the right doors for each one. Pray for God’s provision.

Saturday, February 15

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is

revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure” (1 John 3:1–3).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you for the pastors who are giving leadership to our churches. We praise you for the call on their lives and for their commitment to ministry. We pray that you will remind them that their identity is in you. Remind them that they are children of God. We also pray that you will continue to purify them as Jesus is pure. We pray they will lead from pure hearts. Fill them with your Spirit.

Sunday, February 16

“Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love” (Ephesians 1:3–4).

PRAYER: Lord, we pray for each of our pastors today as they stand before their respective churches, that you would anoint them so that they preach the Word with boldness. Remind them that you have called them to this ministry and that they are your instruments. We pray that they will pursue holiness that they might always be without blame. Increase their capacity to love the body of Christ.

Monday, February 17

“Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*” (Colossians 3:12–13).

PRAYER: Father, again today we thank you for these servants who shepherd this flock. We pray that you would clothe them with tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, and longsuffering. Give them grace to bear with those who are challenging. Give them an extra measure of grace to forgive those who betray them. We pray they will model what it means to be holy as He is holy.

Tuesday, February 18

“Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began” (2 Timothy 1:8–9).

PRAYER: Lord, we pray that you will remind our pastors of their holy, sacred calling. We pray that they will never be so pressured by the culture that they are tempted to be ashamed of the Gospel. Purify their hearts and minds so that they never compromise the Gospel. Strengthen them so that they can stand strong in the face of dissension and criticism. Fill them daily with your Holy Spirit.

Wednesday, February 19

“Holy, holy, holy *is* the LORD of hosts; the whole earth *is* full of His glory!” (Isaiah 6:3).

PRAYER: Father, we know that not everyone will have a vision like that of Isaiah. However, we pray for our pastors that they will be amazed at your holiness. We pray that in seeing your holiness they will long to be holy as you are holy. We pray that you will show them your holiness frequently so that they are continually reminded whose they are.

Thursday, February 20

“Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully” (Psalm 24:3–4).

PRAYER: Lord, we live in a time when we hear of so many moral failures among leaders in the larger body of Christ. We grieve when we hear of the fall of one of these you have called. We pray it would not be among our pastors. Guard their hearts and minds. We pray you will keep their hands clean and their hearts pure. We pray you will tear down any idols. These are your servants and we are interceding on their behalf, asking that you keep them from anything that would prevent them from standing in your holy place.

Friday, February 21

“In that day ‘HOLINESS TO THE LORD’ shall be *engraved* on the bells of the horses” (Zechariah 14:20a).

PRAYER: Lord, we are reminded of the words of hymn writer, Mrs. C.H. Morris, who wrote, “Holiness unto the Lord is our watchword and song.” We praise you that we have pastors who have this desire – to be totally set apart for you. We praise you that they have been called to holiness. We pray you will satisfy that desire. In the time of Zechariah, “Holiness to the Lord” was engraved on the bells of the horses. Engrave those words on the hearts of our pastors.

WEEK #4 – February 22-28

As we continue our focus on pursuing holiness, we want to pray for each local church, that there will be a revival of a desire for holiness – that believers will not make excuses for anything in their lives that is not a reflection of the holiness of Jesus. Pray that the people of our churches will have stories of how their lives have been changed because of Jesus.

Pray that our pursuit of holiness will be about heart transformation and not just about behavior modification. Pray that He will make us holy.

Pray for those churches that are looking for staff members. Pray that God will provide just the right leaders for each church.

Saturday, February 22

“But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth” (2 Thessalonians 2:13).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you for our churches. We praise you that you sanctify your people and make them holy. We praise you that you continue to call us to live holy lives. We pray for every local church – for a fresh outpouring of your Spirit that results in hearts being purified so that we might more clearly show the love of Jesus to the community around us.

Sunday, February 23

“For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Hebrews 9:13–14).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you that you are able to cleanse our consciences from dead works so that we can serve you. We pray for those in our churches who struggle with guilt or with forms of addiction or with anything that robs them of joy in you. We pray you will set them free. We pray you will purify their hearts and make them holy. We pray that the joy of the Lord will truly be their strength.

Monday, February 24

“Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who have sex with men, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:9–11).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you that we are not the same as we were when you found us. You have washed us and sanctified us. We praise you. Because you have called us to make disciples, we have invited people into our fellowship who are not yet clean. There are those living in sexual sin, adulterers and wrongdoers of all kinds. Help us love them in the name of Jesus. Then Lord, we pray that you will wash them and sanctify them so that they can labor with us in making disciples of others.

Tuesday, February 25

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

PRAYER: We praise you for this promise. We pray you will give us the courage to acknowledge our sins, confess them, and seek your forgiveness and cleansing. Lord, we want nothing between us and you. We desire pure hearts. Purify your church.

Wednesday, February 26

“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified by the truth” (John 17:17–19).

PRAYER: Father, we agree with the prayer Jesus prayed. Sanctify your church. Make us holy. We know that churches frequently experience conflict. We know that the conflict is generally not over eternal matters but opinions and sometimes egos. For the sake of the Kingdom, sanctify your church so that our hearts are one and we can be about your business.

Thursday, February 27

“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose” (Philippians 2:12–13).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, keep us from spiritual complacency. Guard our hearts from thinking that we have arrived. Give us the resolve and the hunger to pursue you with our whole heart, soul,

mind and strength. Work in our hearts all that is needed, that we might fulfill your good purpose. Continue to transform us into the likeness of your holiness.

Friday, February 28

“I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another. Yet I have written you quite boldly on some points to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:14–16).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you that we have people who are full of goodness; people who are competent to teach others. We praise you that you have equipped many, not just with knowledge, but with goodness – with holiness so that they help others walk with pure hearts. We pray you will raise up holy, spiritual fathers and mothers who can help the next generation walk with pure hearts before you.

BEFORE WE LEAVE

HOW IS YOUR PERSONAL PURSUIT OF HOLINESS?

- Is there anything in your heart that is not pleasing to the Lord?
- Have you become complacent?
- Are you continually seeking to grow in your faith?
- Throughout this year – seek to be holy because He is holy.