

## 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.”

The theme of absolute dependence on God is recorded throughout Scripture. It is easy to see the blessings of dependence and the consequences of self-reliance. The Psalmist wrote, “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it” (Psalm 127:1). In spite of that admonition and the numerous examples in Scripture of those who failed by trying to go it alone, we are often prone to pursue solutions to problems, engage in ministry, and attempt to advance the kingdom without waiting on the King and relying on Him. Jesus told his followers, “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). There is both a promise and a warning in that verse. There is fruit if we abide in and rely on Jesus. Apart from Him we can do nothing. Hopefully we have not come to believe that we can do some things apart from Him. It is only as we rely on Him – fully dependent – that we can realize the kingdom blessings and advances He desires for us.

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

A part of your story – a major part of your story is one of depending on God. You are totally dependent on Him for your salvation, and hopefully, you have proven Him faithful through the years as you have relied on Him for His provision and for His leading. Tell your story of dependence and the blessings that have accompanied that dependence.

#### **WEEK #1 – March 1-7**

This week, pray for the Leadership of the Missionary Church – for Rodney Arnold; Pray also for Regional Directors and members of the MLC/GOC, that they will continually abide in Jesus so that they can bear much fruit.

Pray that their faithful dependence on the leading and power of the Holy Spirit will serve as an example to the constituents of the Missionary Church and to leaders in other fellowships of what God can do as we trust in Him.

Pray that their stories of relying on the leading of the Spirit and on His empowerment will challenge the church to a new level of total submission and dependence on God, so that He can use us to build His Church.

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.

**PRAY FOR THESE KEY EVENTS THIS MONTH:**

- Great Plains Region Men's Conference – March 7-8
- North Central Region Women's Conference – March 7-8
- Pacific Rim Regional Conference – March 21-22
- Great Plains Regional Conference – March 24-25

**Saturday, March 1**

“Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day” (Psalm 25:4-5).

**PRAYER:** Father in heaven, we praise you for leaders who desire to know your ways, for leaders who seek your truth, and for those who wait on you. We praise you for leaders who recognize their daily need of your leading. We pray for our leaders, that you will lead them. We pray you will teach them the things they need to know in order to lead the church well. We pray you will give them patience to wait on you.

**Sunday, March 2**

“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).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you that we have leaders who delight in you. We praise you that you uphold them. We praise you that you make their steps firm and lead them. We pray that when they are weary, you will not let them stumble. We pray they will lean on you daily for strength and direction. We pray they will know that you are the One who holds them up.

**Monday, March 3**

“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).

**PRAYER:** Father in heaven, we praise you for leaders who faithfully seek you – leaders who recognize that the days are evil and that the enemy is subtle in his attacks and distractions. We pray for these leaders, that you will give them the discernment they need to make the most of every opportunity to plant new churches and lead churches to multiply disciples. We pray that you will grant them wisdom as they wait in dependence on you to show them your will for the church.

**Tuesday, March 4**

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you” (John 14:26).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you for leaders to seek to rely on the leading of the Holy Spirit. We praise you that they know that without Him, they cannot lead. We pray for our leaders, that you will teach them all they need to know to lead the church well. We pray the Holy Spirit will continue to remind them of those things Jesus taught His disciples, so that they can lead the church well. Fill them with your Spirit daily.

**Wednesday, March 5**

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

**PRAYER:** Father, we praise you for leaders who truly seek to trust you with all their heart – for leaders who do not rely on their own understanding, but who seek to know your ways and your will for the church. We pray for them. We pray they will continue to seek you. We pray you will continue to remind them of how much they need you. We pray they will always acknowledge you and that you will direct their paths. Keep their eyes on you so that they don’t veer to the right or left, nor run ahead, or lag behind. Direct their paths.

### **Thursday, March 6**

“The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace” (Exodus 14:14).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you for the story of Moses and the Exodus, and for this reminder from Exodus 14 of how dire the circumstances appeared to be – the Red Sea in front of them, Pharaoh’s army behind them, and yet you had them wait. Father, our leaders often face what seem like insurmountable obstacles and then often sense the attacks of the enemy. Please, Lord, remind them that you will fight for them if they simply trust in you. Fill their hearts with peace. When they face the most difficult challenges, show them your strength.

### **Friday, March 7**

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase” (1 Corinthians 3:6).

**PRAYER:** We praise you, Lord, for leaders who recognize that they only have a part in the harvest. We praise you that they know that they partner with others in sowing seed and tending to the ministry of making disciples. They know that you are the One who gives the increase. We pray you will bless our leaders. We pray they will always value the contribution of others and that they will give you glory for the increase. We pray for a level of dependence that recognizes that there is no fruit apart from you.

## **WEEK #2 – March 8-14**

This week, we encourage you to pray for Bethel University – for Dr. Bellefeuille, her cabinet, and staff, that God will remind them of His power to provide. These are challenging days for Christian universities. Pray that leaders at Bethel will rely on the Lord more and more during these trying times.

Pray that students will observe the absolute dependence on God by their professors. Pray they will catch this kind of dependence and learn to trust in the Lord more and more, especially as they complete their education and seek His will for their future.

Pray that as the team looking for a new president for Bethel puts their full confidence in the Lord, that He will lead them to the person He has in mind to give leadership to Bethel in this next chapter of her history.

Pray for the faculty, that they will rest in the confidence that God is using them to shape the lives of students to be Christ followers.

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

### **Saturday, March 8**

“The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold” (Psalm 18:2).

**PRAYER:** Father in heaven, we praise you for the faculty and staff who serve at Bethel University. We praise you that they have made you their strength and that they daily put their trust in you. We pray for them, that you will be their shield from any attacks of the enemy. We pray they will daily seek your face as they invest in the lives of students. We pray you will renew their strength daily.

### **Sunday, March 9**

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

**PRAYER:** Father, we praise you for the many ways you have provided for Bethel – for the faculty and staff. We praise you that you have sustained Bethel through the years. We praise you that you have faithfully ministered your grace to the faculty and staff at Bethel. We pray for these servants, that they will continue to trust you to provide all they need for life and godliness, and that they will trust you to equip them daily to teach this next generation. We also pray for your provision, that faculty and staff can be generously compensated for their work.

### **Monday, March 10**

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you for your invitation to us to come and find rest. We praise you for your invitation to walk with you. We pray for professors at Bethel who may be feeling extra weary as they teach through the end of the semester. We pray they will seek you and rely on your strength and your leading for all they do, so that they can find rest, and also so that you can use them most effectively to impact students.

### **Tuesday, March 11**

“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).

**PRAYER:** Today we come to you again, Father, on behalf of Bethel University faculty, staff, and students. We pray for students who are fearful – fearful of the next test, of not graduating, of not finding a job, fearful of not being good enough. We pray they will seek you and rely on your strength and leading for all they do, so that they can find rest, and ultimately, so that you can use them most effectively to impact students. We pray for

faculty who carry a burden for their students and who are concerned they won't be able to have the impact they desire. We pray you will strengthen them. We pray they will put their full confidence in you to use them as you see fit.

### **Wednesday, March 12**

“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).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you for the promise of your presence. We praise you for the assurance of your presence with each professor as they step into the classroom. We praise you for the strength and courage of faculty and students. We pray that you will be present in each class. We pray that your presence will bring a sense of peace and confidence. We pray that as students and faculty enter each class, they will know that you have entered before them.

### **Thursday, March 13**

“Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many, and in horsemen because they are very strong, but who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the Lord!” (Isaiah 31:1).

**PRAYER:** Father, we praise you for the training the faculty at Bethel have received. We praise you for their scholarship and for their commitment to excellence in education. We praise you for the expertise they have in their given fields. We pray for each professor, that they will not only rely on their education, experience, and training, but also on you to provide just the right words, lectures, and assignments that will help students grow, not only in their field of study, but also in faith in you.

### **Friday, March 14**

“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).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you for every student on Bethel's campus. We praise you for the potential in each one. We praise you that you can work in them more than anyone can imagine or think. In a few weeks, these students will be leaving campus – some graduating and some seeking summer employment. While they are concerned about the next season of life, we pray that you will remind that their greatest hope is in you. We pray for each one, that they will trust you not just for jobs and provision, but for transformation to be more and more like you.

## **WEEK #3 – March 15-21**

The focus for this week is praying for pastors, that they continually grow in total dependence on the Lord. Seminary training, leadership books, and seminars are all helpful, but if we only rely on those sources, we will miss the greatest things He has in store for us.

Praise the Lord for pastors who put their trust in the Lord and accepted a call to ministry. Praise Him for their journey of faith and for their story of trust in you.

Pray that these leaders will put their full confidence in the Lord to lead the church. Pray that they will teach others what it means to trust fully in the leading of the Holy Spirit. Pray that they will be fully dependent on the Lord for each sermon, counseling session, board meeting, or vision.

### **Saturday, March 15**

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).

**PRAYER:** Father in heaven, we know that every pastor wants to see the church he leads make disciples and grow. We praise you for the burden you have placed on their hearts for lost people. We praise you for the investment they have made in so many people. We pray that as they seek your kingdom and your righteousness, that you will give them abundant fruit. We also know that many of our pastors face financial strains, just like others. We pray they will trust you to meet those needs. We also know that many of the churches are expanding and need resources. We pray that pastors and leaders will trust you for those needs.

### **Sunday, March 16**

“The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way. All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies” (Psalm 25:9-10).

**PRAYER:** Father, we praise you for pastors who walk in humility, knowing that any “success” they have experienced is because of you. We praise you for pastors who are dependent on you and are quick to give you praise. We pray you will guard the hearts of our pastors. We pray they will always walk in dependence on you, so that you can teach them the way you would have them lead, and so that they may walk in humility as they recognize that all they have and all they are come from you.

### **Monday, March 17**

“With my whole heart I have sought You; oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!” (Psalm 119:10).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you for our pastors who earnestly seek you and desire to walk in obedience to you. We praise you for pastors who are not seeking their own way, but who are trusting you. We pray for those pastors today who may be struggling with temptation, that they will see your strength and realize they cannot stand against the enemy alone. We pray you will remind them of your word and that you will nudge them to seek you with their whole heart, especially during times when the enemy is attacking.

### **Tuesday, March 18**

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63).

**PRAYER:** Father, we praise you for every pastor who serves you today with the life, power, and anointing of the Holy Spirit. We praise you for pastors whose words are directly from the Holy Spirit. We pray for a special anointing on every pastor. We pray they will enter the pulpit with a renewed dependence on you, and also with a renewed confidence that you will speak life through them. We pray that pastors will know that apart from you, their words are empty and void of fruit. We cry out to you on behalf of our pastors, that the words they speak will be spirit and life.

### **Wednesday, March 19**

“For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, nor did their own arm save them; but it was Your right hand, your arm, and the light of Your countenance, Because You favored them” (Psalm 44:3).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you for the work you are doing through our pastors. We praise you for the people they have equipped to make disciples. We praise you for the spread of the Gospel message. We pray you will equip our pastors and leaders with a vision to reach their communities for you. We pray that you will equip them with the knowledge to engage with the lost in their communities. We pray they will all conduct their ministries with the realization that none of it can be done apart from you.

### **Thursday, March 20**

“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).

**PRAYER:** Father in heaven, we praise you that you are a generous God. We praise you that you delight to give wisdom to your people, so that they can do what you have called them to do. We pray for our pastors, that you will prompt them to regularly seek wisdom from you. We pray they will ask in faith, fully believing that you will grant them all the wisdom they need. We pray there will be no wavering in their faith, even when your wisdom requires them to wait. We pray they will wait patiently for you to answer.

### **Friday, March 21**

“Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain” (Psalm 127:1).

**PRAYER:** Thank you, Lord, for this reminder of how desperately we need you if we are to be a part of advancing the Kingdom. Thank you for the reminder, too, that you are the only One who can truly protect your Church – your people. Father, we pray for our pastors and church leaders, that they will continue to grow in their awareness of how much they need to depend on you. We pray that dependence will cause them to frequent the place of prayer, seeking your plans and interceding for the protection of your Church.

## **WEEK #4 – March 22-28**

As we continue our focus on seeking greater dependence, we want to pray for each local church, that there will be a renewed sense of dependence on the Lord. It is not just the pastor who needs to rely on the leading of the Lord; but every pastor needs leaders who are also relying on the wisdom of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit – leaders who will support their pastor in prayer.

Praise the Lord for leaders who pray for their pastor and who lead from a place of dependence.

Pray for churches looking for staff members, that they will wait on the Lord, and that they will trust Him to bring just the right person.

“Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; Let such as love Your salvation say continually, ‘The LORD be magnified!’” (Psalm 40:16).

### **Saturday, March 22**

**PRAYER:** Lord, we praise you for your churches. We praise you for all you are accomplishing through each one. We praise you for those times when churches seek you and they can clearly see that you have answered prayers and there are seasons of rejoicing. We pray there will be no end of our people seeking you. We pray there will be no end of pastors and leaders relying on you. We pray there will be no end to praises being lifted to you, because we have seen your hand at work.

### **Sunday, March 23**

“Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore!” (Psalm 105:4).

**PRAYER:** We praise you, Lord, because you are the source of our strength. We recognize that apart from you we can do nothing. We know that churches experience seasons of discouragement – perhaps because of tragedies within the body or declining attendance. We pray for those churches who are discouraged right now. We pray for them, that they will seek your face. We pray they will find renewed strength and hope as they put their trust in you. Give them strength to lift their eyes to you and off the challenges.

### **Monday, March 24**

“God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water” (Psalm 63:1).

**PRAYER:** Father, we praise you that you are the satisfier of the soul. It is only when our soul thirsts for you that we are satisfied. We pray for our churches, that there will be a deep longing for you. We pray that we will not settle for anything less than you to refresh us and satisfy our souls. Lord, we need you. We need your presence. We are in a dry and thirsty land, and you alone can satisfy this deep thirst.

### **Tuesday, March 25**

“Thus says the LORD: ‘Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the LORD’” (Jeremiah 17:5).



**PRAYER:** Lord, there are so many voices telling the church what it needs to do to become bigger or to become more effective. There are books, training events, and podcasts that all have a better idea. Forgive us for the times we have trusted in those voices rather than waiting on you. Lord, we are not good at waiting. We want instant fixes. Please remind us that there is no substitute for waiting on you. These words of Jeremiah are strong. We don't want to trust in flesh, and we don't want our hearts to depart from you. We declare today our trust in you.

### **Wednesday, March 26**

“Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; and let them say among the nations, ‘The LORD reigns’” (1 Chronicles 16:31).

**PRAYER:** We praise you, Lord, for the privilege of being under your reign. We praise you that we can rely on you to lead us. We pray for every one of our churches, that you would truly reign. Where there are individuals who want to reign, would you move them aside and take your rightful place at the head of the Church. We know you reign over all the earth. We pray you will reign in each of our hearts and in the lives of our churches.

### **Thursday, March 27**

“I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

**PRAYER:** Lord, we desire to bear much fruit. We desire to see each of our churches bear abundant fruit. We pray that each of our churches will recognize that apart from you we cannot bear fruit – we can do nothing. We pray that you will draw our people to you and teach them to abide. Prune us where necessary. Remind us of the privilege of abiding in you. Give us fruit.

### **Friday, March 28**

“I will lift up my eyes to the hills — From whence comes my help? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:1-2).

**PRAYER:** Father, many of us have claimed this verse for ourselves when we have encountered a challenge in life. You certainly have been our help, and we are grateful. We have churches that need your help. Some may not yet recognize how desperately they need your help. We pray for an awakening that drives our people to their knees seeking your help.

### **PERSONAL DEPENDENCE**

In these last three days of the month, we focus on our personal dependence. We are a part of the body of Christ. If we are not walking in absolute dependence on the Lord, it impacts the church of which I am a part.

As you reflect on this theme of dependence, allow the Lord to speak to you about any area in which you need to trust Him more.

### **Saturday, March 29**

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

**PRAYER:** Thank you, Lord, for this invitation. Forgive us for carrying the load alone. Remind us frequently of your offer to give us rest if we take your yoke. Lord, we need you far more than we readily admit and so we struggle under the burdens of work, care of family, etc. Today, Lord, as best we know how, we give these cares to you and step into your yoke. Give us rest as we put our trust in you.

### **Sunday, March 30**

“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).

**PRAYER:** Lord, I praise you for the promise of your presence. You assured Joshua that you would be with Him. You assured the disciples that you would be with them. I claim these promises today in recognition that if you do not go with me, I will fail in so many ways. I recognize that the tasks you have called me to are greater than my ability to accomplish apart from you. Please, Lord, I pray for your presence in all I do.

### **Monday, March 31**

“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).

**PRAYER:** Lord, I praise you for this amazing promise. I can't imagine all that you want to do in me. I trust you to do exceedingly abundantly above all that I can ask or imagine in my life. I submit to your power and your authority so that you might receive honor and glory through me.

## **BEFORE WE LEAVE**

### **HOW IS YOUR PERSONAL PURSUIT OF DEPENDENCE?**

- Is there an area of your life in which you have become self-reliant?
- Is there something in your life you need to surrender to the Lord?
- Are you abiding in Him – recognizing that apart from Him, you can do nothing?
- Do you trust Him to prune where necessary?