

2025 PRAYER FOCUS: HIS STORY

“And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding” (Jeremiah 3:15).

The theme of this year’s national conference was “This is my story!” We all have a story—a story of redemption and of a journey of faith. We have all seen God work in our lives and in the lives of those around us. This story that we have is truly His story. If we share of answered prayer or a changed life, it is His story. If we share of a new church being planted, it is His story. We have the privilege of sharing His story.

Our national conference began with the theme “This is my story,” but the message that went with us as we left conference was, “Love like Jesus—Live like Missionaries.” Loving like Jesus opens the door for us to tell our story of what it means to walk with Jesus. To live like a missionary is to pray for and look for those opportunities to be Jesus to those around us and to look for ways to tell who Jesus is.

OCTOBER PRAYER FOCUS — PRAYING FOR PASTORS

Pastors are called to equip the body of Christ to “Love like Jesus and live like Missionaries.” Amazingly, that task is often met with resistance. Not everyone believes they can actually live like missionaries, and some struggle to love like Jesus.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. This month we encourage you to pray daily for your pastor, for the pastors in the Missionary Church, and for the pastors in your community. Perhaps you are already praying daily for your pastor(s). Allow this prayer page to simply fuel the prayers you are already praying.

In addition to the challenge of equipping people to love like Jesus and live like missionaries, they weep with those who weep and feel the pain of grief as they watch families in the church suffer loss. They carry the weight of relational conflict within the body. Yet, they are our champions—the ones who encourage and challenge us to be more and more like Jesus. They do it because of God’s call on their lives. They do it because God has put within them a love for His people. Keep these servants in your prayers.

PRAY FOR THESE KEY EVENTS THIS MONTH:

- EASTERN REGION CONFERENCE—OCTOBER 10-11—the Eastern Region will be affirming a new Regional Director. Pray for the Lord’s will in this transition.
- MLC/GOC meetings—October 13-17—Pray for God’s presence and leading in these meetings.

Wednesday, October 1

THE GIFT OF SHEPHERDS: “And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding” (Jeremiah 3:15).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you that through the centuries you have given shepherds to provide care, instruction, and correction for your people. We praise you for the call you have placed on their lives. We praise you that you give us shepherds who have your heart, so that they can feed us with knowledge and understanding. We pray for these shepherds, that they will not grow weary in the work you have called them to do. Remind them that they serve because of your call on their lives. Equip them with your shepherd's heart.

Thursday, October 2

EQUIPPERS: "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-12).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you that you give different gifts to members of the body of Christ, and that you give some specifically for the purpose of equipping your Church for the work of ministry. We praise you for those you have placed in our local church. We pray you will anoint them as they labor to equip the body for ministry. We pray that your Church will remain teachable and eager to engage in the work you have called us to do. We pray that, in all of this, the body of Christ might be edified.

Friday, October 3

GODLY EXAMPLES: "The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock" (1 Peter 5:1-3).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you for the godly leaders you have put in our lives to shepherd us. We praise you for those who have served willingly—often sacrificially—and have set an example of humble leadership. We pray for these pastors, that you will encourage them and equip them. We pray you will empower them to be good shepherds through good times and challenging times.

Saturday, October 4

NEW LEADERS: "For this reason, I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you" (Titus 1:5).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for pastors who have eyes to see your call on the lives of those in the next generation. We pray that, like Titus, our pastors and leaders will look for next generation leaders who can become church planters, pastors, and disciple-makers. We pray you will give our pastors grace and wisdom to walk with these next generation leaders you are calling into ministry.

Sunday, October 5

GOOD WORK: "This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work" (1 Timothy 3:1).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you that you put in the hearts of some a desire to give oversight to the Church. We praise you that you equip those you call. We pray for these leaders, that they will never lose sight of the fact that their role is a calling and gift from you. Remind them that it is your church. We pray they will seek to be more and more like you so that they can give godly leadership. We pray you will guard their hearts and minds from thinking more highly of themselves than they should.

Monday, October 6

ABIDE: “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me” (John 15:4).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for this amazing relationship that is available to all of us—the ability to abide, to rest, and to receive sustenance in you. We praise you for the privilege of bearing fruit simply by abiding. We pray for our pastors, that they will always seek to abide. We pray they will see abundant fruit, not because they are gifted teachers or leaders, but because they abide in you. We pray their example of abiding will teach others to abide as well.

Tuesday, October 7

PREACH: “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching” (2 Timothy 4:2).

PRAYER: Thank you, Lord, that you have called some to preach the Word. For those you call, you equip and anoint. We praise you for those who have spoken words of rebuke and exhortation into our lives. We praise you for those you have used to convince us of our need of Jesus. We pray for our pastors, that you will continue to equip and anoint them. Give them the boldness they need to preach those truths that may be hard for us to hear. We pray they will not become weary in proclaiming your word.

Wednesday, October 8

SACRED CALLING: “Therefore, take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20:28).

PRAYER: Father, we are humbled by the reminder that we have been purchased by the blood of Jesus. We praise you that you have redeemed us. We praise you for pastors who have proclaimed the good news. We pray for our pastors, that they will never forget this sacred trust of overseeing the Church that you purchased. Guard their hearts and minds.

Thursday, October 9

YOU ARE LOVED: “The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: ‘Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you’” (Jeremiah 31:3).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for your everlasting love. We praise you that it was your lovingkindness that drew us to you. Right now, we pray for our pastors, that you will remind them that you love them. Remind them in those times of greatest struggle that you love them. We pray they will remember the times you drew them to yourself by your lovingkindness and you affirmed them. Bless them today. Renew them in your love.

Friday, October 10

HONOR THEM: “And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. Be at peace among yourselves” (I Thessalonians 5:12-13).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you for our pastors who serve our church. Although we don’t always like it, we praise you that you use them to admonish us. We pray you will help this church body to esteem these servants appropriately for the work they do. Give us grace to receive the admonishments as from you.

Saturday, October 11

SUPPORT THEM: “Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer is worthy of his wages’” (I Timothy 5:17-18).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for pastors, many of whom serve sacrificially and yet willingly because of the call on their lives. We praise you for those who have been willing to serve bivocationally because of that call. We pray you will help us, as your church, not to take these servants for granted. Lead us to be generous in our support of them, so that they can be free to focus more on ministry than on survival. Meet their needs, we pray.

Sunday, October 12

SOUL THIRST: “As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?” (Psalm 42:1-2).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we thank you that you are the only satisfier of our souls. You alone can quench the deepest thirst. We pray for our pastors, that their passion for you will never wane. We pray they will seek you with all of their heart, soul, and strength, and that you will fill them so that they are truly satisfied in you. We pray they will regularly seek your presence so that they might find rest and peace.

Monday, October 13

SUBMIT: “Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you” (Hebrews 13:17).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for pastors who care about the welfare of our souls. We confess that we are not fond of submission or of having others rule over us, and yet you have called imperfect men to give oversight to your church. Give us grace to submit even when we don’t fully understand. We pray for our pastors, that they would lead with joyful hearts. Remind them of the weight of responsibility placed on them. Remind them, too, to submit to you and trust you to lead your church.

Tuesday, October 14

SHARE: “Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches” (Galatians 6:6).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you for those who have taught us your Word—who have instructed us in how to walk with you. We praise you for their faithfulness. We praise you that they do not teach for earthly reward, but to please you. However, Lord, you have blessed us through them. Show us how to bless them in meaningful ways with all good things. Teach us to be generous with those who help us walk this Kingdom life.

Wednesday, October 15

TRUST: “But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, That I may declare all Your works” (Psalm 73:28).

PRAYER: We praise you, Lord, for pastors who have put their trust in you—who always seek to draw near to you. We praise you that you have put that desire in their hearts so that out of that place of intimacy with you, they may declare your good works. We pray for our pastors, that they will never lose the desire to draw near to you. We pray for those who are going through tough times, that they will put their trust in you. Remind your church to pray for pastors so that they might continue to faithfully declare your works.

Thursday, October 16

PREACHERS: “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Romans 10:14).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you for those you have called to preach the Word. As we read this passage, there is a sense of urgency. We recognize that we need more preachers. We pray you will move among this next generation to call them into ministry. We pray our young people will sense the urgency of proclaiming the Gospel. We pray our church will be eager to bless and encourage this generation to accept your call on their lives.

Friday, October 17

ANOINTING: “Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes. With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth” (Psalm 119:12-13).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for your Word. We praise you for pastors who desire that you teach them. We praise you for pastors whose hearts and minds are open to the instruction of the Holy Spirit. We pray for our pastors, that you will anoint them so that they might faithfully declare your statutes and judgments. We pray their love for your Word will never fade, and that they will continually bless your name.

Saturday, October 18

KNOW HIM: “That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death” (Philippians 3:10).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you that you know us. We are reminded of Psalm 139, where the psalmist expressed how complete your knowledge is of us and declared that such knowledge is too wonderful. Remind our pastors and the rest of us that you know us very

well. You know our thoughts before they are expressed. You are acquainted with all our ways. We pray for our pastors that, like Paul, they will seek to know you and the power of your resurrection, and even the fellowship of your sufferings. Lead all of us to a deeper intimacy with you.

Sunday, October 19

NOT IN VAIN: “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (I Corinthians 15:58).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for pastors who set an example for the body of Christ in their steadfastness in doing your work. We praise you that they are not deterred by the things the enemy throws their way. We pray you will remind them that their labor is not in vain. Remind them that this is your church, your ministry, and that you will see it through to completion. Keep them encouraged and abounding in your work.

Monday, October 20

“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature’” (Mark 16:15).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you for the pastors you have called to preach the Gospel. We praise you for their faithfulness. We pray for your continued anointing on their lives and ministry. We pray that in times of discouragement you will refresh that call on their lives. We pray you will continue to increase their ministries. Give them fruit and enlarge their vision.

Tuesday, October 21

“For as the rain comes down and the snow from heaven and do not return there, but water the earth and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10-11).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you for pastors who proclaim your Word week after week—some to large crowds and others to small groups. We praise you that your Word is being preached. Lord, we know that these pastors carry the burdens of so many people. Encourage them. We know there are seasons when some see little fruit. We pray you will remind them that your Word will not return void. Renew their confidence in the power of your Word.

Wednesday, October 22

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for this model from the early Church—for their commitment to sound doctrine, to building community, to worship, and to prayer. We pray for pastors as they give leadership to the local church, that you will equip them to teach sound doctrine. We pray you will lead them to build strong community. We pray their worship—private and

corporate—will be rich. We pray you will lead them to lead the church to be a house of prayer.

Thursday, October 23

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart” (Galatians 6:9).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for pastors who have served for many years—who have served through the good times and the challenging times. We hear too many stories of pastors who are leaving ministry because of burnout, fatigue, and discouragement. We pray for that pastor today who may be ready to quit. Remind him not to grow weary in doing good. Renew him so that he can see the fruit of his labors.

Friday, October 24

“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you” (John 15:15).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you that Jesus calls us friends. I pray for our pastors, that you will remind them of these words from the song, “I am a friend of God.”

Who am I that you are mindful of me
That you hear me when I call
Is it true that you are thinking of me
How you love me it's amazing.
God almighty, Lord of glory
You have called me friend.

Saturday, October 25

“Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well, because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles. We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth” (3 John 1:5-8).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for the faithful pastors leading our churches—pastors who not only serve the “brethren,” but who serve strangers as well. We praise you for the testimonies of their love for you. We pray that each pastor will serve with integrity, humility, and generosity, and that they will equip another generation to serve you.

Sunday, October 26

“But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

PRAISE: Father, we have pastors who are running hard in ministry. Their schedules are jammed with meetings. Their families are interrupted by crises in the church or by the needs of others. Even the thought of waiting on you seems impossible because of all the demands, and yet, the only source of renewal is You. We pray you will lead our pastors to

seasons of waiting on you, so they can run and not grow weary, because they are running in your strength and not their own. Teach them to wait.

Monday, October 27

“Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?” (I Corinthians 9:7).

PRAYER: We praise you for the many pastors who have served sacrificially. We praise you that their call and commitment to you is greater than their desire for riches. Your Word says a laborer is worthy of his hire. We pray for churches, that they will be generous in their compensation of pastors. Where finances are limited, lead churches to find other ways to bless their pastors.

Tuesday, October 28

“So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’” (John 21:15).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for your love for us. We praise you for pastors who love you deeply. We pray for our pastors, that their love of ministry will not exceed their love for you. We pray, too, that the busyness of ministry will not rob them of time to foster that deep love for you. We pray that pastors—and all of us—will consider the question Jesus presented to Peter: “Do you love me?”

Wednesday, October 29

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

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you for those you are calling to start new churches—those who are often leaving well-paying jobs to expand the kingdom through new churches. We praise you for these great steps of faith. We know that many are likely to face financial challenges they had not considered. We pray you will remind them that you will supply all they need. We pray you will increase their faith, and as their faith increases, they will see your provision. We pray you will meet the needs of these planters.

Thursday, October 30

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.’ Amen” (Matthew 28:18-20).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for pastors who are investing in the lives of others—who are making disciples. We pray that you will use our pastors to create a disciple-making movement in their communities. We pray their eyes will be open to the harvest, and that they will look less at the size of their church and more at the size of the harvest. We pray that each pastor will be looking to raise up disciples from the next generation.

Friday, October 31

“but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4).

PRAYER: Father, we thank you for this example from the leaders of the early church. We praise you that they made prayer a priority. We pray for our pastors, that they will give themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word. We pray that prayer will never take a back seat to all the demands on their time. We pray their private prayer times will be rich, and that you will lead them to lead the church to be a praying church.