

# *One Holy Passion*

*A Daily Devotional Guide for  
40 Days of Prayer and Fasting for the 1040 Nations*



*Frederick Osborn*

Bibles for All Ministries

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40 Days of Prayer and Fasting for the 1040 Nations*

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With Rosemary L. Lester

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***There are two journeys in life: the inward journey and the outward journey. Unfortunately, many people take the outward journey first. The outward journey is forced on us by life, which we must take ready or not. The inward journey is entirely voluntary. Some will choose to never take it.” – Tom Bruno***

*One Holy Passion is for those who choose to take the inward journey of discovery... when we take the inward journey of the spiritual or heavenly man then we are better prepared to take the outward. The Lord desires that we live our lives with purpose, and that our outward and inward journeys be in perfect harmony with His will for us to be involved on some level with the fulfillment of His “Great Commission” for His Church (Matthew 28:19-20).*

## **Introduction**

After returning from the mission field in India for another visit to the US, I was presented with a copy of a prayer guide written by the wife of my Pastor, Sis. Rosemary Lester. Our home church was nearing completion of a time of prayer and fasting inspired by her devotional guide, “*One Holy Passion*.” Immediately, I recognized this material as something that could be as inspirational and meaningful to the church in India as it was to my home church family. I edited the guide, added the material by Dr. Cooper and Bill Bright, had it translated into Tamil, printed, and distributed. When Sis. Rosemary visited Chennai in January, 2007 I presented a copy to her.

Because Rosemary Lester wrote this *Daily Devotional Guide* to speak to the members of our church during our special 40-day period of prayer and fasting leading up to Easter Sunday, 2006, it was my task as Editor to preserve as much of the original content as possible, while making “*One Holy Passion*” meaningful and relevant to as many people as possible. As I reworked this material, I could sense the love and compassion of Rosemary for the Lord and for His body, the church on every page. Those who use this guide for strength, direction, and exhortation will, I believe, find Rosemary’s loving words echoing the Holy Spirit’s voice encouraging them to persevere to the end of their own 40-day spiritual journey. Although “*One Holy Passion*” was originally intended for a specific church to use for a specific period of time, it can now be used by any individual or group and can be started any time of the year.

In addition to the *Daily Devotional Guide* I included in this work the same supplemental instructional material that was in the Tamil to help believers understand the discipline of prayer and fasting from the Christian context. Finally, I added more quotes from respected Christians on the subject of prayer and fasting, and some information on the people, culture and religions from around the world.

The final result is what you now hold in your hand. May this prayer and fasting guide lead you on your own personal spiritual journey and at the same time lead you to pray and fast for missions and missionaries around the world. May God bless all who surrender themselves in “*One Holy Passion*” for His glory.

Frederick Osborn  
India Field Director  
Bibles for All Ministries

# 1. WORSHIPING, PRAYING, AND FASTING YOUR WAY INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

"God is a God of missions. He wills missions. He commands missions. He demands missions. He made missions possible through His Son. He made missions actual in sending the Holy Spirit." – George W. Peters

## WORSHIP AND PRAYER

When Christians enter into times of prayer and worship they can experience transcendent moments that touch the heavenly realms. Pray and worship opens the life of the believer to the mystical qualities of the kingdom that Jesus came to show us (Matthew 13:11). There are three things that are essential for all Christians if they are to grow spiritually. One is Bible Study. The other two are prayer and worship. As the Christian studies their Bible, they are led to respond to God in prayer and worship. Prayer is the proper response to knowing who God is; worship is the proper response to knowing God. Both prayer and worship lead the believer back to the word of God where they get deeper and fresh revelations of God, which in turn lead them to a more effective prayer-life and more powerful and intense worship.

The great Bible scholar, Dr. James Boice pointed out that “We have a great responsibility in prayer. Prayer is not an empty exercise. It is vital. We have to take those verses at face value; if we don’t receive, it’s because we don’t ask. If we ask according to God’s will in the name of Christ, we will receive. Christians often say, and rightly so, ‘if it be your will.’ If we mean by that what we should mean – that we certainly don’t want to ask for anything contrary to God’s will, and that we want God to override our prayers if we are asking for the wrong things – then it’s proper to use that phrase in our prayers.” *Practical Christianity*, Editorial Director Ron Beers, Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Ill., First Printing 1987, p415. In the same essay, Boice exposed the wrong attitude when “if it be your will” is tacked onto a prayer as an “escape clause” for our own lack of faith and unbelief that anything is really going to happen as a result of our prayers. Praying “if it be your will” the way Christ taught us to pray (Matthew 6:10) is not some form of fatalism (If what we asked for in prayer happens, it must have been God’s will... if our prayer is not answered then it must not have been God’s will). Praying “Thy will be done” in faith is offering ourselves as doers of God’s will, asking him to guide us and lead us, while submitting ourselves to accomplish his purposes.

Unlike other religions, Christian prayer is not intended to get God’s attention. Jesus taught us that God is our loving, heavenly Father who knows what we need before we ask (Matthew 6:9, 32). Other religions teach that prayer is intended to somehow persuade God to hear and move on behalf of the person praying. Offerings of food, flowers, money, incense, blood, and animal or human sacrifice, etc. are attached to the prayer as further appeasement or inducement for the deity to act on their behalf. In Christian prayer, the attitude of heart is to focus our attention on God so that we might be able to clearly hear from Him. Oswald Chambers in his devotional, *My Utmost for His Highest* stated it this way: “Do we expect God to come to us with His blessings and save us? He says—Look *unto Me*, and *be saved*. The great difficulty spiritually is to concentrate on God, and it is His blessings that make it difficult. Troubles nearly always make us look to God; His blessings are apt to make us look elsewhere. The teaching of the Sermon on the Mount is, in effect—Narrow all your interests until the attitude of mind and heart and body is concentration on Jesus Christ.” Unfortunately, many Christians fall into the same patterns of prayer as other religions and believe if they pray long enough or hard enough... or with enough emotion... or pray the right words in the right order then God will hear their prayers. (Note Elijah’s confrontation with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel in 1 Kings 18:17-40 and in

particular verses 25-29). Trying to capture God’s attention so He will focus on us long enough to do or give to us what we ask is not the issue of Christian prayer. The issue of Christian prayer is to focus our attention on God – to concentrate upon Him because He is our salvation. In prayer, we clear our minds of all the distractions, difficulties, trials, wants, and needs of our life and devote our thoughts totally upon praise and worship until we have heard from Him. And when we hear from the Lord, salvation is near to us:

*“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. He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore.”* Psalm 121:1-8

If we were honest, most Christians would admit that much of their prayer time is a struggle to concentrate on our Father in heaven. Instead our thoughts tend to wander from one person, place, or thing to another. We are too easily distracted by the things of this world. Not just our trials or difficulties, but more often with the mundane things. We pray “give us this day our daily bread” and instead of concentrating upon Jesus Christ the “bread of life” and the “hidden manna” that came down from heaven to sustain us spiritually, we start going over our shopping list and the ingredients we will need for Sunday supper. While we are praying “thy kingdom come, thy will be done” we struggle to keep our thoughts about our favorite sports team, or the great summer vacation we shared with the family from intruding on our meditations concerning the heavenly realms where Jesus is seated on His throne. Sometimes it seems that only when the crisis comes and we are facing some great difficulty or trial that our mind becomes focused like a laser in prayer.

It is only when we discover the true meaning of Christian prayer that we will use prayer as a means to daily practice the art of abiding in and soaking in the presence of God. Prayer then becomes the means to leave behind the hundred “little foxes” that run through our thoughts every day and cause us to miss the present reality of the kingdom of heaven that is within

each and every one who has been born – not of the flesh, but of the Spirit. Salvation is found in the presence of God. As the Psalmist wrote, when we lift up our eyes in prayer from the temporal things around us and look beyond our horizons to the spiritual realm, the hills where God dwells – at that moment (the moment we see the Lord) is when Salvation (healing, health, prosperity, mercy, etc.) comes to us.

“The whole idea of the prayers of the saints is that God’s holiness, God’s purpose, God’s ways may be brought about irrespective of who comes or goes.” – Oswald Chambers

Once prayer takes its rightful place in the life of the believer, it naturally leads to worship, which is our response to knowing who God is. Jesus expressed it this way: “...*true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth*” (John 4:23<sub>b</sub>-24). Jesus modeled the life of prayer and worship; His life was lived to give glory to His Father. The attitude of the Christian should be the same. Although Jesus was God Incarnate, He did not make demands or cling onto His divine rights while in His humanity. He laid aside His own glory and authority and maintained His role as the humble Son of Man. Not only did He humble Himself as a servant, but He went even further and humbled Himself to the point of assuming the guilt and humiliation of a criminal’s death on the cross – even though He of all those who ever walked the face of this earth was least deserving of suffering so (Philippians 2:5-8).

“It is when your soul has been blasted bare, when you feel raw and undone, that you can be better bonded to the Savior. And then you not only meet suffering on God’s terms, but you meet joy on God’s terms. And then God – as He does every morning at 7:30 when I cry to Him out of my affliction – happily shares his gladness, his joy flooding over heaven’s walls filling my heart in a waterfall of delight, which then in turn always streams out to others in a flood of encouragement, and then erupts back to God in an ecstatic fountain of praise. He gets your heart pumping for heaven. He injects his peace, power, and perspective into your spiritual being. He imparts a new way of looking at your hardships; He

puts a song in your heart.” Joni Eareckson Tada, *Suffering and the Sovereignty of God*, John Piper/Justin Taylor General Editors, Crossways Books, Wheaton, Ill., © 2006, p 196

Although the word of God commands us to worship (Psalm 29:2; 96:9; Jeremiah 7:2; Matthew 4:10; and Luke 4:8), it is not enough to worship simply out of a religious duty. In fact, it could be argued that “worship” motivated solely out of obligation is really not worship at all. In the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of John’s Revelation, he gives us a heavenly glance at true worship before the throne of God in heaven. John says in part: *“Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!’”* This passage reveals that worship, when it is done from the right motives, is just and right – it is appropriate for a person to give God the honor that is due to Him – we owe Him that honor simply based upon who He is.

True worship incorporates the whole being – body, soul, and spirit. “We are created in such a manner that our own humanity is fulfilled through this highest expression of love and devotion of which human beings are capable, namely love and devotion toward God.” R.C. Sproul, *Practical Christianity*, Editorial Director Ron Beers, Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Ill., First Printing 1987, p354. Because worship encompasses our entire humanity, the ways and means to express that worship can be varied. It is a mistaken notion that Christian worship must follow an established pattern. When worship becomes fixed and static, it loses its vitality; that is precisely what happened to Israel’s worship by the time of Jesus. He came onto the scene at a time when the Pharisees, Sadducees, and teachers of the law had constricted worship within ritualistic formalities of post-exilic Judaism. Certain Christian denominations have been guilty of doing the same and made worship subject to a cold, lifeless form of liturgical religion. On the other hand, the Bible teaches us that God is a God of order and decency (1 Corinthians 14:40). Therefore, all worship must be done in a reverent and dignified manner as fitting a holy, righteous God.

In the contemporary church, diversity of worship has become an accepted characteristic of modern worship. Prior to the Great Reformation and the subsequent “Awakenings” worship was considered to be sacramental, mysterious, sacrificial, and only to be administered and led by ordained

clergy. For centuries the pendulum has swung away from formal, highly structured worship to the more democratic, individualistic worship common today. Some argue that the pendulum has swung too far, and in some cases worship has become anarchistic and so unrestrained as to border on lunacy. There may be a time and place for breaking through the fences imposed by stale religion with uninhibited worship. There may also be a time for respecting the boundaries where the presence of God demands the transformation and conformity to the letter of His word. Christlikeness is not necessarily non-conformist; it can also be anchored in a structured worship environment. How we know where the balance is found depends a lot upon developing a godly attitude towards worship before launching out into the deep. Richard Lovelace in his essay “Developing an Attitude of Worship” (*Practical Christianity*, Editorial Director Ron Beers, Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Ill., First Printing 1987, pp 362-364) gave three excellent guidelines for Christians to develop a right attitude of worship:

1. *Humility and repentance.* Humility is an attitude of the heart. “To come before God with a true attitude of worship we need to be aware of the gap between God and us.” Entering into God’s presence in worship can never be based upon our self-confidence in our own worthiness or morally upright position. One person is not any more or any less worthy of worshiping the Lord than another. The sole basis of our worthiness is found in the blood of Jesus Christ alone (Hebrews 10:19-22). For most of the last two thousand years, fasting in the Christian context was primarily considered an act of worship. Fasting as a means of humbling oneself before God. Some of the Bible verses that mention fasting use terms like “afflict”, “chastened”, and “humbled” to describe what was happening to those who were fasting. In our modern era, the idea of doing anything that might cause the slightest discomfort is to be avoided. So when the Scripture says, “*A broken and contrite heart – these, O “God, You will not despise”*” (Psalm 51:17), it is hard for many to fathom deliberately seeking through worship a state where humility and brokenness is sought after. And yet it is only by acknowledging and repenting of our sins, and asking Him to cleanse us by the blood of Jesus that God will hear us and respond to our cry when we come before Him worshiping Him with prayer with fasting.
2. *Faith.* “We need faith that frees us from the power of darkness of sin. The central sin within our personalities is unbelief... Through the

illumination of faith, our central darkness is healed and our spiritual blindness is removed. We receive light to see. The goal of this faith is not spiritual achievement but fellowship with God.” A genuine faith is what allows the worshiper to come fearlessly right into God’s presence in worship; by faith we are assured (trusting) of his glad welcome when we come into the presence of God cleansed by the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God.

3. *The Holy Spirit.* “He is the energy force that enables us to move forward spiritually. Through the Holy Spirit, we are made holy.” The purpose of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer and the function of worship are harmonious in that both work to conform us to Jesus and lead us in truth. The Holy Spirit works from the inside-out to bring transformation; worship works from the outside-in to conform the life of believer to Christlikeness. Holy Spirit will lead the worshiper into deeper truth and at the same time the Father will be glorified in and through spiritual worship. It is safe to say that any worship that does not possess the elements of truth in the inner man and glorification of the Father is flawed at the very least.

Is fasting ever a bribe to get God to pay more attention to the petitions? No, a thousand times no. It is simply a way to make clear that we sufficiently reverence the amazing opportunity to ask help from the everlasting God, the Creator of the universe, to choose to put everything else aside and concentrate on worshipping, asking forgiveness, and making our requests known—considering His help more important than anything we could do ourselves in our own strength and with our own ideas. Edith Schaeffer.

## FASTING

Prayer and worship are but two of the classical spiritual disciplines recognized by Christians through the centuries. Other disciplines include meditation, study, simplicity, solitude, service, submission and supervision, confession, celebration, etc... In one way or the other every one of these disciplines intersect with prayer and/or worship. One other spiritual discipline that deserves special attention at this point is fasting. Fasting is directly related

to this this special time of *One Holy Passion*. However, before anyone begins a time of prayer and fasting, it would be wise to have a complete understanding of the discipline of fasting from the Christian perspective. People from every religious background include some form of fasting as part of their rituals. However, the reasons Christians fast are unique because they are done according to the instructions God gave us in His word, the Bible.

The Christian fast is unlike any other fast done for health or religious purposes. The Christian fast is not done as a means of punishing the flesh to show it who is the master; neither is it done as a means to please God and cause Him to show the person who fasts more favor. “This may come as a surprise to you, but fasting isn’t for God. He’s not going to think you are a better Christian or a more spiritual person because you fast. Your worth to God is totally dependent on Christ, who made you valuable and acceptable to the Most High God on the cross. So if you are fasting to prove to God how good you are, don’t bother. Instead, dear reader, fasting is for you. It’s a spiritual tool that God created to help you strengthen your spirit, learn self-control of the flesh, draw closer to your Father, and focus on prayer.” Susan Gregory, *The Daniel Fast*, Tyndale House, Carol Stream, IL., © 2010, p12

“Prayer is primarily a wartime walkie-talkie for the mission of the church as it advances against the powers of darkness and unbelief. It is not surprising that prayer malfunctions when we try to make it a domestic intercom to call upstairs for more comforts in the den...Until you know that life is war, you cannot know what prayer is for: Prayer is for the accomplishment of a wartime mission.” – John Piper

Another mistake to avoid when fasting is to practice it as its own reward. Fasting from certain kinds of foods may have a reward in and of itself, but the spiritual transformation and heavenly rewards of the sacrifices and abstentions involved with the fast will be lost if what has been given up becomes the focus. There are a number of fasts available to the health conscious, but the physical benefits of any fast should be kept separate from the spiritual to avoid any confusion as to the motivation. Whether fasting is done as an individual choice or corporately, the major pitfall to avoid is thinking by giving up and sacrificing food as part of a fast will somehow make you spiritually advanced. The Hindu Brahmins believe that abstaining from eating beef purifies them and keeps them from gaining any bad karma. The

Jews held a similar belief by the 1<sup>st</sup> century; they believed their diet made them spiritually superior to the Gentiles and would not eat with nor associate with anyone who did not share their dietary laws. Jesus had to break down that mentality in His Jewish-born and raised disciples in order for them to be able to reach out to the Gentiles (Note Mark 7:18-23; and Acts 10:1 – 11:18). If the Christian fasts without a clear spiritual purpose in mind they might end up believing that by abstaining from meat or some other food they are purifying their body and keeping themselves from sinning. To this day there are still some Christians who believe if they follow the dietary laws of the Old Testament they will receive a special spiritual blessing from God.

Any Christian may choose to follow dietary guidelines from the Mosaic Law. However, if their obedience to the Old Testament dietary laws is not done out of a sense of true humility and voluntarily, it tends to lead to a legalistic self-admiration for their own success in following them. This can make them puffed up, self-sufficient, insufferable, and severe judges of anyone that falls short of their self-imposed sacrifices. In the end their self-denials will only do for them what the worthless absolutions to idols do for other people. Practicing fasting (or any of the other spiritual disciplines) out of wrong motivations will only hinder the work of the Holy Spirit in the souls of those who work at them. In fact, it can have the opposite effect in that instead of becoming skilled at the true, sacrificial spiritual disciplines, they will become expert at performing their religious duties. Fasting and the other spiritual disciplines are intended to deny and die to the self so that the kingdom of heaven will be manifested in the heart of the believer. Pursuing the spiritual disciplines apart from that right motivation will only end in strengthening and building up the “kingdom of self” in the life of Christian.

The fourteen verses of Isaiah chapter 58 provide the spiritual guidelines for those who truly want to fast for Him. In the first two verses, God is calling for a prophetic voice to remind the people of their sins. The people had performed the right religious duties of offering prayers and sacrifices. They had fasted according to the law, but they did not understand why their situation had not changed: “‘Why have we fasted,’ *they say*, ‘and You have not seen? *Why* have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?’” The Lord’s response was immediate and clear (58:3<sub>b</sub>-5). Their fasts were outward ritual only – evidenced by the fact that there was no real change of behavior in how they treated their neighbors. While fasting, they disregarded the needs of others, exploited their employees, quarreled and fought. Therefore, their fasting prayers would not be responded to. Their fasting was unacceptable to

God because it was only an outward show of obedience, but was not from the heart; they were willing to bow their knees, but not their hearts.

“Almost everyone believes that prayer is important. But there is a difference between believing that prayer is important and believing it is essential. ‘Essential’ means there are things that will not happen without prayer.” –  
Dee Duke

In the verses immediately following verses 3-5 of Isaiah 58 the Lord defines for His people the evidences of having a right attitude of heart when approaching God with fasting prayers. Fasting was intended to produce spiritual results in the life of the person fasting. Christian fasting should be accompanied with a positive response to God’s commandments for justice... *“To undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free”* and to take care of the less fortunate among them. When our fasting is coupled with feeding the hungry and ministering to the afflicted, *“Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you...”* but when we fast, going our own ways and seeking our own pleasures, our fasting will have no effect. Verse 12 reveals that when a corporate fast is called for, *“Those from among you shall build the old waste places; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.”* The fast God calls for is not intended to be some kind of spiritual bribe to get Him to respond to us. It calls for those who fast to examine themselves spiritually, seeking those “breaches” in the walls of soul (mind, emotions, and will) where our enemy, the devil, has come in and laid waste to our life individually or corporately. Fasting, coupled with repentance in faith is the way to identify and fix the point at which virtue is running out the life of the believer and where judgments are breaking in to fill the void. “The sum is that, if they keep such fasts as God has chosen, he will settle them again in their former peace and prosperity, and there shall be none to make them afraid. See Zechariah 7:5, 9; Zechariah 8:3-5. It teaches us that those who do justly and love mercy shall have the comfort thereof in this world” (*Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible*).

"You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving." – Amy Carmichael, missionary to India

Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked –  
– Ps 82:3, 4

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Without question, the most important aspect of the believer’s spiritual life is prayer. Prayer is our lifeline to God. This is why Jesus said ‘*we should always pray and never give up*’ (Luke 18:1). One of the most overlooked aspects of prayer is fasting. There are some 35 fasts recorded in Scripture. Fasting (*nesteuo*, Greek) means to abstain from eating voluntarily. From the Bible we learn that fasting was part of Jewish worship under the Levitical Law (Leviticus 16:29). It was also a common practice during Christ’s day (Matthew 9:14; Mark 2:18-20; Luke 5:33-35) and was continued among Christians in the early church.” (Dr. David Cooper, Senior Pastor Mount Paran Church of God, Atlanta, Georgia) In the contemporary church, the so-called *Daniel Fast* has become the most popular of the three types of fasts commonly practiced by Christians (the other two being the *absolute fast* with no food or drink; and the *normal fast* for a limited time as in the case of Esther 4:15-16). The *Daniel fast* is a limited diet in which only certain foods are restricted; it is called the *Daniel fast* because it is often patterned after the diet practiced by Daniel (Daniel 1:1-7; 10:2-3).

Bear up the hands that hang down, by faith and prayer; support the tottering knees. Have you any days of fasting and prayer? Storm the throne of grace and persevere therein, and mercy will come down. John Wesley

Richard Foster in his book on the spiritual disciplines describes the most extreme of the biblical fasts: the *supernatural absolute*. This is a total fast, meaning no food – solid or liquid – and no water. Paul went on an absolute fast for three days following his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:9). In the Old Testament, Moses and Elijah entered into what can only be considered *supernatural absolute* fasts of forty days (Deuteronomy 9:9; 1 Kings 19:8). Esther is another example when she called for an absolute fast for three days when the Jews faced extermination in the Persian Empire (Esther 4:16).

Because of the risk of damage to the body from dehydration, it is not recommended that the *absolute* or *supernatural absolute* fasts be practiced for periods longer than 24 hours; beyond that, they can be very dangerous to your health. It is strongly advised to drink plenty of liquids, including pure water (preferably distilled) when fasting; and if more than 24 hours, take vegetable and fruit juices as well. Obviously, if God is leading a person to undertake an *absolute* or *supernatural absolute* fast, they should obey. However, it is strongly recommended that anyone who thinks they are being called to an extreme fast to be certain and without a doubt, that God is leading them. One way of making sure is to have close prayer partners and spiritual advisors who confirm God is calling them to such a fast and who will stand with them and pray for them as they fast.

“Prayer is reaching out after the unseen; fasting is letting go of all that is seen and temporal. Fasting helps express, deepen, confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God.” Andrew Murray

The roll call of great Christian leaders who were determined to make prayer and fasting a regular part of their lives is too long to try and give a complete listing. Just a few of the more recent names reads like a hall of fame of great men of God: John Wesley and his brother Charles with their friend George Whitefield; Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox, Jonathan Edwards, Matthew Henry, Charles Finney, Andrew Murray, D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones; and the list goes on and on. Added to this list is the roll call of inspired missionaries who all knew and lived by the daily power of prayer to sustain them. We cannot examine the lives of any of these men and women without asking “Why were they so convinced of the need for fasting and prayer?” When you review point by point the biblical reasons why Christians ought to fast, it becomes no wonder why fasting prayers can cause the fire of God to fall upon the life of the individual or upon the life of the church that adopts this spiritual discipline.

#### WHY CHRISTIANS OUGHT TO FAST:

- It prepares us for spiritual warfare (Matthew 4:2; Mark 9:29) *“It is possible for the most obscure person in a church, with a heart right toward God, to exercise as much power for the evangelization of the world, as it is for those who stand in the most prominent positions.”* – **John R. Mott**

- It can result in vibrant personal revival. Fasting prayers can cause someone to be filled with the Spirit. (Acts 13:2-4) *“Bear up the hands that hang down, by faith and prayer; support the tottering knees. Have you any days of fasting and prayer? Storm the throne of grace and persevere therein, and mercy will come down.”* – **John Wesley**
- If they are seeking divine direction for their life fasting helps to regain a strong sense of spiritual determination. (Judges 20:26; Acts 14:23) *“To know the will of God, we need an open Bible and an open map.”* – **William Carey**
- It brings revelation by the Holy Spirit of a person’s true spiritual condition, resulting in brokenness, repentance, and change. (1 Samuel 7:6; 2 Samuel 12:16; 21-23; Jonah 3:5) *“Come as the fire, and purge our hearts with sacrificial flame; let our whole soul an offering be to our Redeemer’s Name”.* – **Andrew Reed**
- When faced with what seems to be an overwhelming task (Nehemiah 1:4) *“If missions languish, it is because the whole life of godliness is feeble. The command to go everywhere and preach to everybody is not obeyed until the will is lost by self-surrender in the will of God. Living, praying, giving and going will always be found together.”* – **Arthur T. Pierson**
- To gain deliverance or protection from the Lord (2 Chronicles 20:3; Ezra 8:21-23; Esther 4:13, 16:9-31) *“I have felt the impact of your prayer in these past weeks. I am certain now that nothing has had a more powerful influence on this life of mine than your prayers.”* – **Jim Elliot**
- To humble oneself before God for personal revival. (Psalm 69:10, 11, 13) *“I am ready to burn out for God. I am ready to endure any hardship, if by any means I might save some. The longing of my heart is to make known my glorious Redeemer to those who have never heard.”* – **William Burns**
- Fasting stirs up the inner workings of the Holy Spirit – sometimes in most unusual, powerful ways. (Ezra 8:21) *“No erudition, no purity of diction, no width of mental outlook, no flowers of eloquence, no grace of person can atone for lack of fire. Prayer ascends by fire. Flame gives prayer access as well as wings, acceptance as well as energy. There is no incense without fire; no prayer without flame.”* – **E. M. Bounds**
- As an expression of worship fasting can transform prayer into a richer and more personal experience. (Luke 2:37; Acts 13:2, 3) *“Here am I,*

*send me; send me to the ends of the earth; send me to the rough, the savage lost of the wilderness; send me from all that is called comfort on earth; send me even to death itself, if it be but in your service, and to promote your kingdom” -- David Brainerd*

- Helps to us to respond to deep sorrow (1 Samuel 31:13; 2 Samuel 1:12, 12-16, 21, 23, Psalm 35:13, Daniel 6:18) *“Whole days and weeks have I spent prostrate on the ground in silent or vocal prayer.” – George Whitefield*
- It helps us better understand the word of God by making it more meaningful, vital, and practical. (Jeremiah 36:6) *“People who don't believe in missions have not read the New Testament. Right from the beginning Jesus said the field is the world. The early church took Him at His word and went East, West, North and South.” – J. Howard Edington*

*“If you take missions out of the Bible, you won't have anything left but the covers” – Nina Gunter*

There are two schools of thought on fasting. One school of thought says that fasting is always about food. “The definition of a biblical fast is ‘to restrict food for a spiritual purpose’... So when we consider biblical fasting, it always has to do with restricting food for a spiritual purpose... Therefore, refraining from watching television or playing video games for a period of time might be a good decision, but it is not a fast.” (Susan Gregory, *The Daniel Fast*, Tyndale House, Carol Stream, IL, © 2010, p11.) Martyn Lloyd-Jones, a Welsh Protestant minister, preacher, and medical doctor who was influential in the Reformed wing of the British evangelical movement in the early 20th century represents the other view that fasting can include other things besides food, “Fasting, if we conceive of it truly, must not... be confined to the question of food and drink; fasting should really be made to include abstinence from anything which is legitimate in and of itself for the sake of some special spiritual purpose. There are many bodily functions which are right and normal and perfectly legitimate, but which for special peculiar reasons in certain circumstances should be controlled. That is fasting.” Those who hold to the view that a person can not only fast from food, say we can also fast from TV, entertainment, technology (cell phones, computers, Internet, etc.), or any other regular activities to spend quality time with God. Because it is this author’s belief that the primary purpose of fasting is to devote one’s self to a special time of prayer apart from the normal distractions

of daily life, this chapter will take the view that fasting can involve more than food.

“We tend to think of fasting as going without food. But we can fast from anything. If we love music and decide to miss a concert in order to spend time with God that is fasting. It is helpful to think of the parallel of human friendship. When friends need to be together they will cancel all other activities in order to make that possible. There's nothing magical about fasting. It's just one way of telling God that your priority at that moment is to be alone with him, sorting out whatever is necessary, and you have cancelled the meal, party, concert, or whatever else you had planned to do in order to fulfill that priority.” James I. Packer

When we take a closer look at fasting in the Scriptures, it becomes evident that the Lord Himself can call anyone to fasting for personal reasons. The Lord can also call the spiritual leaders of the community (ecclesiastical or national) to call a fast for corporate revival. Moses fasted forty days on Mount Sinai when he received the Ten Commandments (Ex 34:28). And elsewhere the Bible says Jehoshaphat “*proclaimed a fast for all Judah... to seek help from the Lord*” (2 Chronicles 20:3-4). Immediately after His baptism, the Gospels tell us how Jesus went into the Wilderness for forty days of prayer and fasting; there He was tested and challenged to the limits of His human endurance, but returned from that time fully prepared for the time of earthly ministry that lay ahead of Him that would end at the cross.

If the attitude of our heart is right when entering into the fast then we will be looking ahead to the spiritual benefits of the discipline. The Christian should always keep in mind the fact that all have been called to the same ultimate vision and mission as Jesus Christ. That vision and mission was passed on to all those disciples who would come after Him in what is called *The Great Commission*: “*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.*” (Matthew 28:19-20). Therefore, the ultimate goal of any spiritual discipline should be to advance the kingdom of God, to make disciples, and to glorify the Lord. The fast is one means to prepare followers of the Master to achieve the ends for which Jesus Christ came in the first place – and will come again to reap the harvest of in the second place.

"The great Pioneer Missionaries all had 'inverted homesickness' this passion to call that country their home which was most in need of the Gospel. In this passion all other passions died; before this vision all other visions faded; this call drowned all other voices. They were the pioneers of the Kingdom, the forelopers of God, eager to cross the border-marches and discover new lands or win new-empires" – Samuel Zwemer

Devoting a special time to fasting while leaving the interferences of daily life and withdrawing into our prayer closet (any place where we are secluded and for a time can remain undisturbed), serves the purpose of bringing about spiritual transformation. Moses provides us with the supreme example of this when he experienced the presence of God in a way that changed his life forever. "Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony *were* in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him" (Exodus 34:29). The Apostle Paul grasped this idea and later used this image to convey to the church in Corinth the glory of the New Covenant we have had the privilege of entering into: "*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord*" (2 Corinthians 3:18). The end result of this spiritual transformation that is the purpose of fasting is to clear away all the impurities in our spiritual life so we will more clearly reflect like mirrors the glory of the Lord.

Fasting is merely a means to an end. Therefore, the person who decides to fast must begin the fast and end it with a specific purpose in mind. "Some people find they have missed a meal and decide to call it a 'fast.' Just missing a meal because of circumstances is not a fast unless you purposed beforehand to pray and use the time of not eating for a spiritual purpose. God knows your heart. Also, don't enter into a fast with the idea of seeing how far you can go or how far you can hold out before you have to eat. Begin with a purpose and end at the assigned time. Then begin on a specific date and end on a specific date. Finish strong! Then break your fast and eat in victory, with rejoicing." (Elmer L. Towns, *The Daniel Fast for Spiritual Breakthrough*, Regal From Gospel Light, Ventura, Calif., © 2010, p38)

The following is a short list of reasons to fast taken from an essay on fasting written by Dr. David Cooper, Senior Pastor of Mount Paran Church, Atlanta, GA:

- **Fasting To Confess Our Sins (1 Samuel 7:6).** “Fasting is connected with confession of our sins when we have wandered away from the Lord. Samuel led Israel in a time of confession and fasting which led to spiritual renewal. Confession means to openly admit our sins to God and to receive His forgiveness. Confession brings cleansing: *‘If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness’* (1 Jn 1:9). Confessing our sins to each other is an important part of real repentance: *“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective”* (Jas 5:16). Confession brings healing into our lives.” Fasting to confess our sins is also a primary means of spiritual restoration. Humbling ourselves in fasting frees the Holy Spirit to do His special work of bringing conviction in order to lead us to revival (John 16:7-11). When we yield to the Holy Spirit He changes our relationship with God forever and takes us into a deeper life with Christ. Fasting for the purpose of spiritual restoration gives us a greater awareness of God’s reality and presence in our lives. Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, wrote, “As fasting and prayer bring surrender of body, soul, and spirit to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, they also generate a heightened sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit; they create a fresh, clean joy and a restored determination to serve God. In short, they bring personal revival. Our spiritual power does not lie in money, genius, plans, or dedicated work. Rather, power for spiritual conquest comes from the Holy Spirit as people seek God’s face in consecrated, diligent prayer with fasting.”
- **Fasting and Good Works.** “True fasting leads us to help those in need.” Turning once again to Isaiah 58:3-9, we see the Lord inspiring His people to use their fast as a way to cause them to repent of their injustices to the poor and needy.
- **Fasting and Victory.** “Fasting and prayer brings spiritual victory over the problems of life.” 2 Chronicles chapter 20 tells the amazing story of God’s deliverance of the people of Judah from a massive invading

army. When the news came to King Jehoshaphat, he immediately called for a fast and prayer for all the nation of Judah. As a result, a prophetic answer came to the people promising God's deliverance. As prophesied, the victory came and the people returned to Jerusalem rejoicing.

*A note of caution:* Although the victory described above came with one period of prayer and fasting, that may not always be the case. Remember that God is not a magic genie that we can get to move on our behalf if we fast and pray in the right way. God's ways are mysterious and He will not always move in predictable ways. Israel found the answer they were looking for because God found in them what He was looking for: faith and obedience in a time of crisis. A period of fasting and prayer should be a time of reflection and soul searching even in times of crisis when we are desperately in need of a victory.

- **Fasting and Temptation.** “A life of consistent prayer and fasting helps us overcome the temptations that we face.” Anyone who is honest with themselves will admit they are not immune from temptations. It does not matter if you are a brand new Christian, a seasoned veteran, or in or out of ministry... all are tempted in one way or another in this life. God will never tempt us, but He will allow us to be tempted by the devil as He allowed His Son to be tempted (Matthew 4:1-11). God may call someone to fast in order to confront their weaknesses and to reveal to them an area where they are vulnerable. He does this not to see them “pass or fail” but He tests them the same way the metal worker tests the quality and purity of the gold by turning up the heat and bringing all the impurities to the surface where they can be seen and scraped away.
- **Fasting and Guidance.** “There are those times when we need to receive direction from the Lord about decisions we face... Fasting makes us more sensitive to the voice of God as He directs our lives.” A primary reason for fasting and for all of the spiritual disciplines is found here. James 1:5 says it as well as can be said, “*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.*” Whenever a very important decision needs to be made, it should be a good time for prayer and fasting. The purpose being to position oneself in such a

way that they will become more spiritually sensitive and better able to hear clearly from the Lord. God and God alone can see all of the angles and can see into the future. Everything may seem to be pointing us in one direction – all the best advice we can get and all of our research may say “go in this direction” (Proverbs 14:12, *“There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death...”*) but when we seek godly wisdom, He may point us in a different direction... even one that seems wrong by the wisdom of this world. But we are called to trust in God above all.

Suggestions for Fasting and Feasting: Fast from discontent; feast on thankfulness. Fast from worry; feast on trust. Fast from anger; feast on patience. Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others. Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayers. Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness. Fast from discouragement, feast on hope. Fast from media hype, feast on the honesty of the Bible. Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence. Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that undergirds. Anonymous

Bill Bright also said that “fasting reduces the power of self so that the Holy Spirit can do a more intense work within us.” He pointed out some other ways that fasting helps:

- It produces a heart able to surrender – even a holy brokenness – resulting in inner calm and self-control.
- It renews spiritual vision and faith.
- It inspires a renewed determination or passion to follow God’s revealed plan for your life. The Word of God declares fasting and prayer as a powerful means for causing the fire of God to fall again in a person’s life (Joel 2:12-13). This renewed passion will produce more of the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22) – but more importantly, the fruit of righteousness and spiritual power over the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life (1John 2:16), which are of this world and are used by the enemy of our souls to draw us away from God’s holy presence.

“Fasting helps to express, to deepen, and to confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice everything [even] ourselves to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God.” Andrew Murray

The more we learn about fasting, the more the question shifts from “Should I fast?” to “When should I fast?” Arthur Wallis, author of *God’s Chosen Fast*, said, “Fasting is important, more important perhaps, than many of us have supposed,... when exercised with a pure heart and a right motive, fasting may provide us with a key to unlock doors where other keys have failed; a window opening up new horizons in the unseen world; a spiritual weapon of God’s provision, mighty, to the pulling down of strongholds.” In one sense, it would be easy to think that now you have learned the right motivations, purpose, and benefits of fasting, it would be easy to call yourself to a personal fast whenever you feel the desire to draw close to God or when you need to seek His wisdom or special help. The problem with that is the spirit may be willing, but the flesh is weak. Not only does the flesh often override the prompting of the Holy Spirit, but “being led by the Spirit” and hearing clearly from the Spirit can be highly subjective, and not always accurate (especially for those at or near the beginning of their spiritual journey; or when God is asking a sacrifice of them that they do not want to give). It would not be a bad idea if you are new to fasting, to set a regular schedule for fasting; easing into it slowly by taking small steps in the beginning. You will probably set yourself up for failure if you attempt a major fast (a 40-day fast for example) right from the start. Once you consistently develop a pattern of fasting, your spiritual eyes and ears will become more attuned to seeing and hearing from God and you will begin to recognize when the time is right to let go and let the Holy Spirit lead you to fast. “Those who consistently practice fasting know instinctively when to do so. They recognize certain spiritual conditions and life circumstances as the signal to ‘bear down’ spiritually. I try to live according to Philippians 2:13: *‘It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose...’*”. Bill Bright

Everyone must study his own nature. Some of you can sustain life with less food than others can, and therefore I desire that he who needs more nourishment shall not be obliged to equal others, but that everyone shall give his body what it needs for being an efficient servant of the soul. For as we are obliged to be on our guard against superfluous food which injures body and soul

alike, thus we must be on the watch against immoderate fasting, and this the more, because the Lord wants conversion and not victims. Francis of Assisi

Practicing a variety of spiritual disciplines will help the Christian be attuned to hearing the still, small voice of the Spirit that is always consistent with God's written Word. He will tell them what to if they are listening. There may be times when the Holy Spirit will prompt someone to fast without them knowing exactly why beforehand, but the reason will be revealed before the end of the fast. On a page in her diary, a pastor's wife once reported, "Monday: I awoke feeling the need to go on a fast." Such prompting of the Holy Spirit is not out of the question. If we are listening, the prompting to fast can come anytime, anyplace.

However, before setting out on an extended fast, it is very important to know that you have received the leading of the Holy Spirit to do so. It is also very important to plan ahead and be prepared. Get confirmation from a spiritual mentor who will be there to help monitor your fast in case you run into any difficulties. But if indeed the Lord has led you into a protracted fast, He will give you the strength to carry it out. Pastors and other spiritual leaders will encourage anyone wanting to go on an extended fast to consult their doctor first. It is probably a good idea to consult a Christian doctor who is familiar with the spiritual discipline of fasting, otherwise you are likely to have your doctor recommend you see a psychiatrist first! But for those doctors who understand, they will agree that although fasting can be difficult and painful, it serves a spiritual purpose of helping to break the bonds and addictions people have to external things such as food, drink, sex, etc. as well as giving spiritual strength to break free of unhealthy habits, or codependent relationships; for as Jesus said in Matthew 4:4 *"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"*

Fasting confirms our utter dependence upon God by finding in Him a source of sustenance beyond food.  
Dallas Willard

Consulting your doctor before any major fast is not something that should be brushed aside as unimportant. Bill Bright was someone who had a lot of experience with fasting. In his brief essay, "RELEASING GOD'S POWER THROUGH FASTING" he said the following: "In writing about

fasting, the subject of doctors is a chief concern. (I have included Bill Bright's essay at the end of this book for more details). Author Lee Bueno, who conducts seminars on the physical and spiritual benefits of fasting, makes a strong statement about the attitude of doctors toward fasting in his book *Fast Your Way to Health*:

‘All but one in a thousand doctors react negatively to the subject of fasting. They have never fasted, know little about the subject, and respond only to bizarre stories that they've heard. Lack of understanding creates unnecessary fear and results in unfounded, imaginary dangers and the use of scare tactics by doctors to [make you] avoid fasting.’

My experience has been similar to Bueno's. Even so, I encourage you to consult with your physician before beginning an extended fast. And I strongly suggest that you arrange for a physical exam to make sure you are in good health. You may have a physical problem that makes fasting dangerous and unwise. But be forewarned: even if you are in good health, your doctor may try to discourage you from fasting. If this happens, you may be faced with a dilemma similar to mine.”

Most Christians who are experienced at fasting will testify that anyone who is healthy and that fasts properly will benefit physically as well as spiritually from a partial or limited fast. However, as Bill Bright and medical professionals will confirm, there are certain persons who should never fast – even for short periods – without professional supervision. Here is a short list, but there may be other health issues that should be checked into before you abstain from food or change your diet:

- Persons Who Are Physically Emaciated.
- Those Who Suffer Weakness or Anemia.
- Persons Who Have Tumors, Bleeding Ulcers, Cancer, or Blood Diseases or Who Have Recently Suffered Myocardial Infarction (i.e. a heart attack)
- Those Who Suffer Chronic Problems With Kidneys, Liver, Lungs, Heart, or Other Important Organs or Who Take Insulin For Diabetes.
- Women Who Are Pregnant or Nursing.

It may seem well-meaning for someone who is experienced at fasting to cajole or provoke another to join them in a fast when he or she shows signs of being too timid or afraid to fast because they believe it amounts to starving themselves; but no one should ever feel compelled or pressured into fasting. It is true that fasting is not starvation, but if someone is not ready, willing, or able to embrace the discipline by their own freewill, the spiritual effects for them could be practically nothing, and could even be negative. Always remember that fasting is NOT mandatory for Christians; it is helpful, beneficial, and can produce all kinds of spiritual blessings to those who engage in it, but only when the attitude of heart and mind is right before the Lord.

“A spiritually awake person would see everything as gift, even suffering. We deserve nothing and yet we so often act as though we deserve everything. Nothing should be taken for granted. We should say thank you every day to God and to each other for all that is provided for us. This is one reason why fasting is such an important spiritual discipline. Not just fasting from food, but also fasting from cars, shopping centers, and the news - whatever we have an inordinate attachment to. Fasting can help re-ignite our gratitude for all that we have been given.” Glen Argan

Regardless of whether a person enters into a time of prayer and fasting individually, or as part of a corporate fast, they should not expect to have the same results. “No two persons will experience the same effects of a fast because no two persons go into it in exactly the same condition or with the same needs. But if you sincerely humble yourself before the Lord in repentance, intercession, and worship and consistently meditate on His Word, you will experience a heightened awareness of His presence. Your confidence and faith in God will be strengthened. And you will feel, mentally, spiritually, and physically refreshed.” – Bill Bright. (SEE APPENDIX K “How to Begin, Conduct, and Break Your Fast”)

Because spiritual renewal or revival is the ultimate purpose of a fast, anyone who embraces a fast with the right attitude of heart, seeking a deeper experience of God’s presence will not be disappointed. The earth may not move; the seas may not part before them; the mountains may not smoke with fire; but something will move in the unseen spiritual realm. Often the results

of a fast will not be exactly what a person expected; God does indeed move in mysterious ways and knows far better than anyone exactly what each situation needs. Jesus was like that. People often came to Him seeking one thing, but finding a deeper, unknown or secret need met. God will never disappoint those who honestly, earnestly, and humbly seek Him. Therefore, whenever a person fasts and prays, they will begin to see God's hand move in whatever the situation that drove them to their knees in the first place.

# ONE HOLY PASSION

*This Devotional Guide is dedicated to God's honor and, lovingly, to my church family all over the world.*

*God graciously helped me to express, as incomplete as it is, the words and thoughts that He brought to my mind and heart so as to join our hearts in prayer truly as 'one voice'. If we do this, God will honor His Word and confirm that in miraculous ways.*

*I pray you receive the Prayer Directives, Scriptures, and Prayer 'prompts' with the spirit of genuine humbleness that I offer them to you. Let us take every opportunity to draw close to the Throne of God together in prayer.*

*Rosemary Lester  
Spring 2006*

## 40 DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR THE NATIONS

*"Jesus will judge us not only for what we did, but also for what we could have done and didn't." — George Otis*

*It is true that not everyone is able to forsake all and go to the other side of the world to be a full-time missionary. Not everyone is able to support a full-time missionary. But EVERY believer is called to be involved on some level in the process of either going or sending. What is often overlooked is the essential role prayer plays in the work of missions around the world. No missionary endeavor will succeed without someone, somewhere praying faithfully for the missionary on the field. The physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial burdens on the missionary in the field are enormous. And no missionary will last long apart from the wonder-working power of the Holy Spirit that is so often released by the earnest prayers of the saints back home.*

*This prayer guide was written with love and incorporated into "One Holy Passion" to help those ready and willing to press in with prayer to reach the nations.*

*Frederick Osborn, 2014  
India Field Director, Bibles for All Ministries*

### WHY PERSEVERE IN PRAYER AND INTERCESSION?

**Matthew 7: 7** *“Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you.”*

*“Call on Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you know not.”*

#### **Prayer Directive:**

Prayerfully set the time and place to pray. Set realistic objectives, but don't be afraid to step out in faith in a new way.

Persevere in prayer because Christ showed us prayer is an ongoing relationship with God. *‘Church, our Lord is transforming us in this process of prayer & fasting.’*

Intercession is to stand for or defend someone's cause and to petition God on their behalf – to see God's will done on earth as it is in heaven!

#### **Pray:**

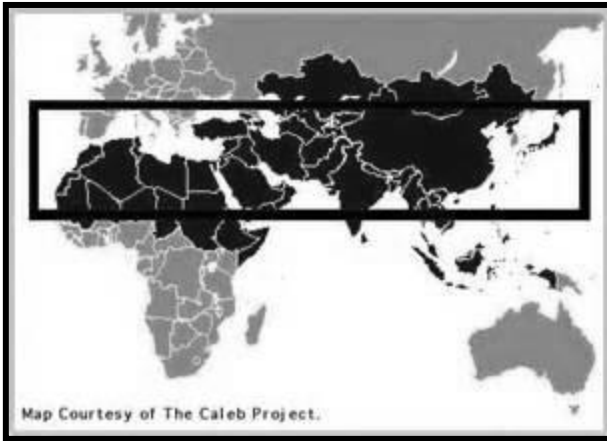
- God would open your heart to know what *He* wants to accomplish in your life.
- To be ruthless in the crucifixion of any thing that breaks fellowship with Him.

**Intercede** today for any evangelists, lay leaders and missionaries from your home church. Pray they will be anointed with great faith, wisdom and God's favor to bless all those who they minister to. Pray for their well-being and for God to supply all their needs wherever they are called to minister.

*“Prayer is not a self-validating exercise; in a world where there is no loving, sovereign, prayer would be weakness at best and folly at worst. No, each and every prayer is a tiny piece of a great cosmic puzzle, which when fitted together will allow for the completion of the grand picture of the Almighty Lord's plan for humanity and the universe.” – Jason Mandryk*

## Christians in the 1040 Window

THE 1040 WINDOW is where most of the world's population dwells. It is also has the fewest numbers of Christians and is the least evangelized region of the world. "One Holy Passion" concentrates on praying for these nations.



<i>Afghanistan</i>	<i>Egypt</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>Mauritania</i>	<i>Sudan</i>
<i>Algeria</i>	<i>Eritrea</i>	<i>Jordan</i>	<i>Morocco</i>	<i>Syria</i>
<i>Bahrain</i>	<i>Ethiopia</i>	<i>Korea,</i>	<i>Myanmar</i>	<i>Taiwan</i>
<i>Bangladesh</i>	<i>Gambia</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>(Burma)</i>	<i>Tajikistan</i>
<i>Benin</i>	<i>Gibraltar</i>	<i>Korea,</i>	<i>Nepal</i>	<i>Thailand</i>
<i>Bhutan</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Niger</i>	<i>Tunisia</i>
<i>Burkina</i>	<i>Guinea</i>	<i>Kuwait</i>	<i>Oman</i>	<i>Turkey</i>
<i>Faso</i>	<i>Guinea-</i>	<i>Laos</i>	<i>Pakistan</i>	<i>Turkmenistan</i>
<i>Cambodia</i>	<i>Bissau</i>	<i>Lebanon</i>	<i>Philippines</i>	<i>United Arab</i>
<i>Chad</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>Libya</i>	<i>Portugal</i>	<i>Emirates</i>
<i>China</i>	<i>Iran</i>	<i>Macau</i>	<i>Qatar</i>	<i>Vietnam</i>
<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Iraq</i>	<i>Mali</i>	<i>Saudi Arabia</i>	<i>Western Sahara</i>
<i>Djibouti</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Senegal</i>	<i>Yemen</i>



### WHY DO WE FAST AND PRAY AT THIS TIME?

- **Mathew 4:2**.....to prepare for spiritual warfare
- **Judges 20:26, Acts 14:23**...seeking divine direction
- **Nehemiah 1:4**...response to concern for God's work
- **Esther 4:13, 16;9-13**...to gain deliverance/protection
- **Luke 2:37; Acts 13:2-3** ... an expression of worship

### Prayer Directive:

God is opening 'doors' of ministry opportunity, so we look to emulate the lives of leaders who fasted and prayed before entering a new 'season' of ministry. Christ fasted 40 days & nights. He confronted Lucifer in the wilderness and began His public ministry. Moses fasted 40 days before experiencing the Presence of God on Mt. Sinai. He was forever changed! What are the demons, barriers or lies that you have been afraid to confront? It is time to face these 'giants' in God's strength and move forward in all that God intends for you.

### Pray:

- For spiritual discernment to see temptation, apathy, or even the lack of desire for spirituality for what it truly is – a strategy of delusion that leads to sorrow for you and all you love.
- For your lost family members. Holding their 'faces in your heart', setting aside momentary fulfillment or food to declare that you will seek Him until you know He has heard your cry.
- For the lost, disillusioned, or lonely students at colleges and universities around the world. Pray against the enemy's illusions on their behalf! God wants us to stand in the gap!

### Pray for India:

- For the persecuted church.
- For provision to meet the needs of the church.
- For bold indigenous missionaries to evangelize the lost.
- For foreign missionaries working in India.
- For the government of India to uphold the constitution of the country and allow freedom of religion. No anti-conversion laws to pass.

## Christians in India

*Christianity has ancient roots in South India. According to tradition, the Apostle Thomas first brought the Gospel to the Malabar Coast and won converts to the Lord in seven coastal communities in Kerala and Tamil Nadu before his martyrdom in Mylapore (Chennai) in 72 AD.*

*By the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD "Thomas Christians" were well-established in southern India, while Eastern Orthodox and Catholic missionaries spread the Gospel along the trade routes on the Western shores of India. The Anglican Church arrived later with the advent of British colonial rule. However, the British came only to reap the wealth of their Empire, and did not want to upset the traditional social fabric of India, rooted in Hinduism. The Colonial government feared that if Christianity was introduced to India on a large scale, it would cause a violent reaction from the upper caste Hindus that benefited from the system. So the British government discouraged the activities of missionaries during their rule.*

*After Independence, the church in India remained static and the number of Christians remained below 3% for decades. Today the official numbers are still less than 3%, but the church in India is experiencing a resurgence as independent, evangelical and full gospel churches are actively spreading the Gospel in small villages and communities across India. In spite of increasing opposition from militant Hindus bent on keeping India a Hindu nation, the Church in India is growing – and unofficial surveys done by Christian organizations in India have indicated the number of Christians in India may be as high as 10% and growing rapidly as indigenous missionaries, fan out throughout the small towns and villages making converts and planting churches. Recently, opposition from militant Hindu nationalist parties has been increasing. Persecution of religious minorities which has been scattered and sporadic is now on the rise and is spreading. The present ruling parties of India are considering nation-wide anti-conversion laws that will send to prison anyone who converts a Hindu to Christianity.*

*"Go ye' is as much a part of Christ's Gospel as 'Come unto Me.' You are not even a Christian until you have honestly faced your responsibility in regard to the carrying of the Gospel to the ends of the earth." – J. Stuart Holden*



### PRAY FOR PASTORS AND ELDERS

**I Timothy 5:17** *“Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in word and doctrine.”*

**Jeremiah 3:15** *“I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you knowledge and understanding”.*

#### **Prayer Directive:**

In the Old Testament, God’s people were led by Moses and the elders, Samuel and the elders, and many others. In the New Testament, the church was led by James and the elders, Paul and the elders, Timothy and the elders and Peter and the elders. God has joined your pastor with these men (elders) at this strategic time in the church!

#### **Pray:**

**For your pastor, elders, and spiritual leaders in your Church and in churches around the world:**

- To shepherd the people as wise watchmen and prayer warriors.
- To be compassionate counselors and able to faithfully teach sound doctrine.
- Their hearts to be one in Vision and Purpose.
- For the families of these leaders – against any strategy of the Enemy that comes to them.
- That God’s Spirit would anoint your Pastor in ***great measure*** in proclaiming the Truth of God’s Word without fear or favor and to lead this church into ***all*** that God has willed.

#### **Pray for China:**

- For those Christians who are in Chinese prisons.
- For an easing of restrictions on house churches.
- For unity among the believers in China.
- For the continued growth of the church in China
- For more pastors and ministry leaders to be trained.

*“The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity, but its sending capacity.” – Mike Stachura*

## Christians in China

*There are more Christians in prison in China than any other country. Although the Chinese government sees the suppression of independent house churches as a political issue and not an issue of religious freedom, the reality is that the government seeks to suppress the church and prevent the spread of Christianity by only allowing registered churches to legally operate. At the same time, the government only allows Bibles to be printed in limited numbers in State-controlled printing presses. So there is a lack of Bibles available to Chinese believers.*

*In spite of the oppression, the church in China continues to grow. There are of course no official records of the numbers of Christians, but independent Christian organizations estimate that there are as many 100,000,000 Chinese Christians. The faith and commitment of Chinese Christians is high and believers are now found in every stratum of Chinese society. The unity and strength of the Church in China is partly the result of persecution, but also showed itself in recent natural disasters; Christian relief workers came together to deliver aid to many who lived in the affected areas.*

*Chinese Christians also possess a strong vision for missions. Many are hard at work reaching the unreached minorities within China. At the same time, Chinese missionaries are reaching beyond their borders into some of the hard to reach un-evangelized nations around them.*

*Another positive sign is the recent surge in growth of Christian media in China as a means to spread the gospel. The older forms of broadcast media have been given a boost with the coming of the Internet, which is making new inroads for sharing the gospel and providing teaching of the Word of God to many who just a few years ago could not be reached. Christian publishing, although tightly controlled by the government is on the rise in China and increasing numbers of book titles are being made available in increasing quantities.*

*"No one has the right to hear the gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once." - Oswald J. Smith*



**HEAR HIM CALLING US TODAY TO...WORSHIP**

Every Sunday we gather at our churches to Worship. Before each service your church is cleaned and dusted, trash is emptied, floors cleaned and swept, and things are put in order. Give thanks for the dear **Servants of the Lord** who come to prepare your church weekly. Also ask the Holy Spirit to anoint with the “oil of worship” door frames, podiums, & musical instruments. Then ask God to sanctify all these things for His Glory in that place. We all need to take time to prepare *ourselves*. Ask God to ‘sanctify your temple’, remove ‘dusty’ places in your heart, get rid of ‘trash’ – a stench in His Presence, cleanse our sin, and put priorities of righteousness in order. Then walk into your church to experience the Oil of God’s Spirit flowing freely.

But **Satan always fights what he fears, and he fears glorious praise rising before God.** All of us must ask God to arise and reveal His Presence as a flood of God’s Glory.

**Pray:**

- For those who lead worship in music. Did you know Satan wants to thwart all these efforts? Pray for them to be refreshed and to sense the favor of God.
- For the singers and musicians as their voices and music rise as a *sweet smelling offering* before God. Pray they will be reminded of God’s goodness in their lives as they worship.
- That your spiritual temple would be ‘prepared’ and *all hearts ‘tuned’ to sing His Praise!* Pray that God would remove any preoccupations with anything other than Him.
- That nothing will distract the church or grieve the Holy Spirit as worship leaders prepare to offer Sunday praise at churches around the world.

**Pray for the *Horn of Africa* Nations: Djibouti, Eritria, Ethiopia, and Somalia.**

- A Muslim nation, Djibouti has a large U.S. military base located there. Pray for all U.S. military personnel serving in the Middle East.
- Religious persecution is on the rise in Eritrea. Pray for the believers there to remain strong and stand in the face of persecution.
- Ethiopia was one of the first Christian nations (from 4<sup>th</sup> Century). Pray for Christians who are facing increased pressure from Muslims.
- Islamists have gained complete control of Somalia and have imposed sharia law. Pray for the Christians that are facing death for their faith.

## Christians in the "Horn of Africa"

*The Horn of Africa is composed of four distinct nations: Djibouti, Eritria, Ethiopia, and Somalia. The Christians in each of these nations face different challenges. Ethiopia is the only Christian majority nation, but Christians there are facing increased hostility and pressure from the encroachment of surrounding Muslims.*

*Djibouti is the most relaxed of the Muslim-majority nations in the Horn, but evangelism is strongly discouraged by the government. The presence of a large U.S. military base there allows foreigners more freedom of religion than the native population.*

*Eritria is roughly split between Muslims and Christians, but all religions feel the interference from the Marxist government, which is controlled by one man at the top. Religious freedom remains a major issue in Eritria. In 2002 the government banned all religious groups from meeting and openly practicing their faith without official recognition, which it granted to only four groups. As a result many leaders and lay members are in prison or under house arrest. In spite of the persecution, Evangelicals are on the rise in Eritria. However, with so many of their leaders in prison or in exile, there is a great need for new leaders to come forward.*

*Somalia is by far the most dangerous place for Christians in the Horn of Africa. The Islamist government inflicts what amounts to religious tyranny over the minority of Christians who remain there. Christians are under heavy persecution and face death for the slightest infraction of sharia law. Christians are often murdered by Muslim extremists who come there to exploit the political instability of the country.*

*"As long as there are millions destitute of the Word of God and knowledge of Jesus Christ, it will be impossible for me to devote time and energy to those who have both." -J. L. Ewen*



**Exodus 18:21** (*God spoke to Moses*) “You shall select from the people able men, such as fear God, loving truth, and hating covetousness.”

**I Chronicles 12:22** “Day by day men came to David until there was a great army, an army of God.”

**Prayer Directive:**

**Pastoral Staff, Deacons, Department Ministers, Administrators, Teachers, Ushers, all Leaders**

For those who bear a shepherd’s heart; leading in discipleship; those who have the oversight of church facilities, balancing finances, caring for the day-to-day operations; all who work with the organization and meticulous details of the church. Pray for those prayer warriors who are our ‘armor bearers’.

**Pray:**

- For spiritual breakthrough in each Pastor’s area of responsibility. Pray for fresh anointing!
- The Deacons to be refreshed as they faithfully do what God has placed in their care.
- That these men and women who daily plan, administer schedules and fight spiritual warfare on behalf of so many, will be renewed in vision and hope.
- That the Power of God’s Holy Spirit will anoint each of those men and women who labor in the kingdom, often behind the scenes, to experience God’s *abundant blessings* and reward their faithfulness.

**Pray for the Philippines**

- For the continued growth of evangelical denominations.
- For the church to be unified as the Body of Christ.
- For Christians in the Philippines to renounce all forms of animism and witchcraft and worship God in spirit and truth.
- For more leaders to come forward to disciple and teach believers the Word of God.
- For a move of the Holy Spirit to sweep away the nominalism and spiritual complacency of many second and third generation Christians.

## Christians in the Philippines

*The 7,250 islands that make up the Republic of the Philippines stretch across 300,000 sq. km of ocean. More than 92% of the population is Christian (76% of those are Roman Catholic). However, the Philippines is plagued with deep social and economic problems that keep most Filipinos living in hopeless poverty and despair (30% live below the poverty line). There is a massive gap between the rich and poor which is perpetuated by a corrupt government, corporate protectionism, and a lack of foreign investment. All of this leads to social and political unrest and high crime rates. A number of things are needed before the Christians in the Philippines can reach their full potential and receive the blessings God intends for them:*

- *A government filled with Christians who will actively pursue Justice and righteousness as public servants*
- *An end to the systemic corruption and graft that paralyzes the economy and government services*
- *Large numbers of Christians (especially those of Roman Catholic backgrounds) need to turn away from long-held traditions steeped in superstition and witchcraft*
- *A new spiritual vitality in the Protestant churches that is rooted and grounded in a true biblical faith.*
- *Pastoral Staff (including deacons, ministry leaders, administrators, teachers, etc.) who are dedicated to help their members rise out of spiritual and economic poverty.*

*Because of Christianity's long history and the freedom of religion that believers enjoy, the Philippines has a great potential to become a spiritual and economic blessing – not only to its own people, but also to the surrounding nations.*

*"The Gospel is not an old, old story, freshly told. It is a fire in the Spirit, fed by the flame of Immortal Love; and woe unto us, if through our negligence to stir up the Gift of God which is within us, that fire burns low." – Dr. R. Moffat Gautrey*



**Worship**

**Psalm 101: 1-7** *“I will sing of loving kindness and justice.*

*To Thee, O Lord, I will sing praises.*

*I will give heed to the blameless way. ...*

*I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart.*

*I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; ...*

*It shall not fasten its grip on me. A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will know no evil. ..*

**(God says)** *...My eyes shall be upon the faithful, that they may dwell with Me: He who walks in a blameless way is the one who will minister to Me....”*

**Prayer Directive:**

God commands that we keep one day in seven as a day of rest. God has asked us to keep His Sabbath Day Holy, entering into a Sabbath Rest. Keeping it ‘holy’ doesn’t mean staying in church all day – although you could do that. Rest doesn’t necessarily mean to sleep all afternoon, even though you might need to take a nap. So ask for wisdom to ‘continue worship’ every Sabbath day, long after the dismissal blessing. Enjoy His Presence & Love all day.

**Pray:**

- To keep this day Holy and pleasing to God.
- To have a grateful heart today.
- To confess if you’ve misunderstood what He has desired of you in worship Ask for His help to bring greater honor to Him.
- Pray that nothing unholy will ‘fasten its grip’ on your heart or mind today – only His strong ‘grip’.

**Pray for North and South Korea:**

- For the horrible oppression of the people and the persecution of Christians in North Korea to come to an end.
- For peace and security for South Korea, and end of hostility from the North
- For the faith and moral foundations of the church in South Korea to remain strong in the face of increasing prosperity for the nation
- For the unity of the church in South Korea
- For a heart of true worship to break out in churches across the South.

**Psalm 149:4a** *“The Lord takes pleasure in His people.”*

**Read Psalm 19**

## Christians in North and South Korea

*The stories for Christians in North and South Korea are as different as night is from day. Repression from North Korea's eccentric dictators has all but wiped out Christians in the North. The few Christians that survived the murderous regimes of the North are either in prisons or are hiding deep underground. There is zero tolerance for missionaries and the Bible is a banned book. North Korea's mismanaged economy and isolationism has left the nation in ruins; the people are suffering from chronic food shortages and malnutrition which the centralized government is unable to cope with.*

*After the devastation of the Korean War (1950-53) South Korea slowly emerged as a modern industrialized nation and today is one of the richest countries in the world (15<sup>th</sup> largest GDP) and is a member of the G-20 nations.*

*The South's Christians experience total religious freedom and represent approximately 1/3 of the population. About 1/3 of the South's population are Buddhist, Ethno-religionist, Chinese, Bhai', and Muslim. The remaining South Koreans practice no formal religion, but many follow the teachings of Confucius. Most Christians in S. Korea are strong believers and the Korean church has developed a good reputation for sending out missionaries around the world. At the same time, Christian leaders in Korea have made a number of significant contributions to Korean society in politics and industry. The church in Korea is sustained by powerful, sacrificial and passionate prayer. Most Protestant churches begin and end each day with prayer meetings – some of which go on all through the night. Six of the ten largest churches in the world are found in South Korea. And some of the largest theological institutes in the world are also found there. Although Korea's Christians number only around 15 million, the Korean Church today sends out more missionaries than any other country except the U.S. In terms of missionaries per congregation, Korea sends one missionary for every 4.2 congregations, which places it 11th in the world. (The U.S. does not rank in the top 10.)*

*"We talk of the Second Coming; half the world has never heard of the first." – Oswald J. Smith*



## Worship

**Romans 12:1** “My friends, because of God’s mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to His service and pleasing Him. This is the **true worship** that you should offer”

**OR**, ‘Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and **walking-around-life** and place it before God as an offering of worship and adoration’

### **Prayer Directive:**

When my husband and I first fell in love, even though we were in our late 20’s, you would’ve thought we were teenagers! (Just ask his Mom!) We thought of one another non-stop. When we were not together we were on the phone to each other. His secretary later told me his employees were so happy when we finally got married. They could finally get some work done!

When you are in love, you are constantly aware of being **in** love with this person. It ‘saturates’ everything you do or think. We must fall in love (**I mean head-over-heels in love**) with Christ, having at the core of our being a **passionate love for Him and for life because of Him**.

God is ‘jealous’(Ex. 20:3-6) for that relationship with us. He never takes 2<sup>nd</sup> place.... at least, not for very long.

### **Pray:**

- To be reminded of what God has done in your life since He made you His own.
- For forgiveness for allowing anything or anyone to crowd Him out of your daily **walking-around-life**!
- Your life will be flooded with awareness that the God of the Universe knows every detail of you and still loves you with an everlasting Love!
- Praise Him **aloud** out of that **‘reminded heart’**.

### **Pray for Nepal and Bhutan:**

- In 2008 a new opening for foreign Non-profits (NGOs) to operate in Nepal. Pray for the doors to remain open.
- Pray for the church in Nepal to continue to grow.
- Buddhism is Bhutan’s state religion and other religions are not tolerated, and churches are not allowed to be built. Pray for there to be an opening for the Gospel to be preached in Bhutan.

## Christians in Nepal and Bhutan

*Nepal and Bhutan are neighboring states high up in the Himalayan Mountains and separated by only a thin strip of Indian Territory.*

*Until recently, Nepal was a hereditary monarchy, but in 2008 became a constitutional republic. A strong Maoist faction is battling with other parties for control of the government which has led to much political instability in the land. In spite of much opposition and hostility, the church in Nepal has grown from only 29 believers in 1952 to almost one million today. Nepal is enjoying a window of opportunity for the gospel to be advanced and for souls to be saved. Although persecution against them still exists, Christians in Nepal are hoping and praying for their leaders to continue to exercise more grace, peace, and tolerance for religious activity in Nepal.*

*The state religion of Bhutan is a form of Tantric Buddhism that is believed to be a path to enlightenment or “god consciousness”. There is little or no tolerance for other religious beliefs, making Bhutan one of the least evangelized nations in the world. Christians are not allowed build churches or openly practice their faith.*

*The so-called Border Ministries are about the only way Christians are able to overcome the opposition to reaching the people of Bhutan. Bhutanese and Indian Christians are actively involved in evangelism and literature distribution along Bhutan’s border and many Bhutanese have come to Christ through these ministries. A few fortunate Bhutanese students are fortunate to study abroad and have come into contact with Christians in this way. Scripture translations, audio recordings, and shortwave radio are able to penetrate the borders of the country, and are making an impact. But still much needs to be done for the unreached people of Bhutan to have the opportunity to hear the “Good news” of salvation in Jesus Christ.*

*"The greatest missionary is the Bible in the mother tongue. It needs no furlough and is never considered a foreigner." – William C. Townsend*



Worship

**Psalms 27:3** “*The steps of godly men and women are directed by the Lord. He delights in every detail of their lives.*” **Psalms 147:11** “*The Lord is pleased with those who worship Him and trust His Love.*”

**Prayer Directive:**

At almost every church, intercessors gather for a special time of Prayer during the week. The prayer requests represent many of the burdens of the church, and they faithfully pray for each one.

Whenever the Lord calls us to fast and pray, we know Satan will tempt and taunt us. While fasting and praying, you may possibly experience things you don't fully understand. Be of good courage. He has promised to be in each household where He is welcomed. Welcome Him today.

Trusting in God means that everything – not just the good things – but everything works together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose! Even the things that Satan has planned for evil, does not limit God!

God is never ‘wringing His Hands’ as if taken off guard by the enemy. Take heart and rejoice that you are His! He is well able to take care of you!

**Pray:**

- We would all stop giving ‘orders’ to God and thus interfering with His work within us.
- That we would say ‘*yes, Lord*’ to whenever, however, and whatever God asks of us.
- For all the intercessors and prayer warriors that bear many needs before God on behalf of the church.

**Pray for Israel:**

- Pray that interest in the Gospel among Jews around the world will increase
- Pray that Christians in Israel will be united – especially for unity between Messianic Jewish Christians and Arab Christians
- Pray for the outreach to the many communities within Israel: The ultra-Orthodox Haredi Jews, Jews from the former Soviet Union and Poland, Ethiopian Jews, Palestinian Arabs, and the Druze religious community.

*“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you.”* Psalm 122:6

## Christians in Israel

*Although there is constant pressure from the ultra-Orthodox Jews to limit freedom of religion in Israel and impose anti-conversion laws, all religions are free to minister within their own communities. Just recently, Messianic Jews who believe in Jesus have been given the freedom to register houses of prayer and religious bodies – allowing them to openly worship Jesus as their Messiah and Savior. Messianic Jews in Israel are small in numbers, but they are growing. Estimates of the numbers of Jews who believe in Jesus are as high as 15,000. But with increased visibility, comes increased persecution and hostility. Many Jews still hold today's Christians responsible for the sins of the past against Jews, and many Jews still hold fast to the doctrine that anyone who accepts Jesus Christ as their Savior can no longer lay claim to being a Jew and therefore must surrender their rights as a citizen of Israel. Except for Jewish believers, Jews resent Christians using the Hebrew Scriptures as a "Christian document." Much work still needs to be done to convince Jews that the Gospel is the fulfillment of their Jewish heritage.*

*Israeli-Arab Christians consider Israel a "safe haven" for them in the Muslim world – in 1949 Israel had 34,000 citizens of that community. Today the number is 168,000. In February 2014, a bill that officially recognizes Arab Christians as a separate national identity passed in the Knesset. The law which is a major step in a series of steps needed to fully integrate Christians into Israeli society, enables Arab Christians to identify solely as Christian and separate from the larger Arab community. The bill also allows an Israeli Christian Arab representative to the panel of the Advisory Committee for Equal Opportunity.*

*"Many of us are missing something in life because we are after the second best, I put before you what I have found to be the best – one who is worthy of all our devotion – Jesus Christ. He is the Saviour for the young and the old. Lord, here I am" – Eric Liddell, Olympic gold medalist and missionary to China*



Worship

**Romans 6:13** *“Give yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life, and surrender your whole being to Him to be used for righteous purposes.”*

*The heart of worship is Surrender and Trusting in His sufficiency.*

**Prayer Directive:**

The Holy Spirit calls us to full surrender to God in a greater way; personally and corporately. In church, adults, young people and children will hear God’s Word and be instructed to surrender their lives for righteous purposes.

Children and youth Bible studies meet for worship and discipleship. The teachers and leaders are worshipping God in the truest sense when leading those that God has put in their care toward righteousness. They offer themselves faithfully to God in this ministry.

**Pray:**

- That your church would be known as a church that obeys God’s directive. Even as Peter said, ‘Master, we’ve fished all night and haven’t seen any results, but because you say so, I will let down the nets again.’ It would be good to rehearse in prayer  
*‘because you say so’...*
- That teachers and workers would be anointed!
- Pray for those teaching and directing all of the children’s and youth ministries at your church. Ask God’s Spirit to direct you how to pray for each of them. Adult believers, especially if they are parents, know how ruthless the attacks and temptations are with these two groups.

**Pray for Turkey:**

- Pray for the Christians who are threatened by the overwhelming Muslim majority.
- For political stability and freedom of religion to be preserved by Turkey’s government.
- For continued growth of the church in Turkey.
- For leadership development and training for new leaders in the church.

*"Any church that is not seriously involved in helping fulfill the Great Commission has forfeited its biblical right to exist." – Oswald J. Smith*

## Christians in Turkey

*Turkey is strategically located on the dividing line between Europe and Asia. Turkey's population is an ethnically diverse group of Turkic, Iranian-Median, Arab, and Eurasian peoples, but they are 96% Muslims. Once the proud bastion of Christianity, with the collapse of the Byzantine Empire, came the invasion of the followers of Mohammed. The region was swallowed up by the Muslims and for several centuries ruled the largest territory in West Asia, known as the Ottoman Empire.*

*Modern Turkey began to emerge out of the ruins of WWI. Turkey fought on the losing side and was stripped of much of its territory by the victorious British and French. Today, Turkey is a part of NATO and is slowly earning respect and trust as leaning more towards the West than towards Mecca. But Turkey is a nation torn between forces of secular nationalism and Islamism. Christians need to pray that Turkey's leaders will act justly and wisely for the welfare of all of its citizens and not cave into the pressures of radical Muslims who want to turn the country into a Muslim state.*

*Less than 1% of Turkey's population is now Christian. The nation's long, bitter, and bloody wars with "Christian Europe" resulted with the purging of practically all Christians from the region. The early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw the massacre and harsh suppression of Christian Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek ethnic groups – only a small remnant survives today. Attitudes towards Christians in Turkey make it almost impossible to evangelize non-Christians in Turkey. Only a miraculous rekindling of faith with the power of the Holy Spirit behind it can bring about a resurgence of the church in this land.*

*"Radical obedience to Christ is not easy... It's not comfort, not health, not wealth, and not prosperity in this world. Radical obedience to Christ risks losing all these things. But in the end, such risk finds its reward in Christ. And he is more than enough for us." — David Platt, Radical*



## Day 10

### Psalm 30: 1-5... **A Place of Healing**

*'You have lifted me up, O Lord my God,  
I cried to You for help and You healed me.  
O Lord, You have brought up my soul from Sheol;  
You kept me alive, that I would not go down to the Pit.  
...For His anger is but for a moment  
His favor is for a lifetime;  
Weeping may last for the night,  
**BUT A SHOUT OF JOY COMES IN THE MORNING!'***

Our pastor asked one Sunday who had ever been healed. Many hands were raised. He then asked who had been healed of a terminal illness. A sigh of 'deep reverence' was heard as hands went up. Maybe it was just a deep sigh from my own spirit that echoed loudly in my heart. I thanked God for those times that He stood between me and death! Can you imagine the times we don't even know about?!

But do you know the greatest time God brought us *all* from the Pit of Death – from the ultimate 'terminal disease'? It was from death to Life through Salvation in Christ Jesus? That *is* the greatest miracle from the Great Physician any of us could ever hope for!

### **Prayer Directive:**

Because He *is* who He says He is – nothing, absolutely nothing is too hard for Him. For those of you who say 'I don't think I've ever experienced a miracle'; becoming His child is the beginning of your miraculous journey with Him.

***Through fasting and prayer now, you are allowing God to transform you so you can 'see' the miracles that can happen every day all around you.***

### **Pray:**

- To not give up. Finish what you've started. He will respond to your need! The answers you long for are on the way.

### **Pray for Portugal, Spain, Gibraltar:**

- Pray for unity and for a renewal of lost passion among the Christians in these countries.
- Pray for a strengthening of lost morals and values as these areas move towards greater secularization.
- Pray for better dialog between Catholic and Protestant believers that will lead to more Catholics to come to Jesus in faith and grace.

## Christians in Gibraltar, Portugal, and Spain

*Gibraltar's tiny population depended for a long time on the presence of the British military that help this strategic piece of land overlooking the straits between Spain and North Africa. Although still administered by the British, the Territory has obtained a degree of autonomy. Because of tourism, Gibraltar is positioned well for outreach to the large numbers of tourists who come there every year from Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.*

*90% of Portuguese are Roman Catholic and it has only been in more recent times that religious freedom had allowed Protestants to openly meet, pray, and evangelize those who do not know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. However, the opening of religious freedom brought with it a number of Christian cult groups (Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses being the most prominent) and New Age occult practitioners. Portugal's Protestant evangelicals need strength, encouragement and Biblically sound teachings to keep them moving down the right track.*

*The 50 million people who live in Spain are mostly (75%) Roman Catholic; while Protestants make up only 1% of the population. Until the 1970s Roman Catholicism was the State religion and all others were discriminated against. Spain is now experiencing the longest period of religious freedom in its history, and a surge in Evangelical growth has followed because of it. Although still very small in numbers, Evangelicals are moving forward in the face of tremendous resistance from secular forces on the one side and the Roman Catholic Church on the other – neither of whom want so see an increase in the numbers and influence of Evangelicals in the nation.*

*"Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to McDonald's makes you a hamburger." – Keith Green*



**Matthew 5: 44-46** *“I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, in order that you may be sons of your Father. For if you love only those who love you, what reward have you?”*

Some holidays originated for non-religious purposes, but I know something about St. Patrick’s Day that brings honor to God that I want to share with you. *‘The Confession’* of St. Patrick testifies of a man molded through fires of persecution and then asked to return to that place with the fire of God.

As a young man in the British Isles, Patrick was stolen and sold as a slave in Ireland. He became a shepherd and found God. He lived there until he heard a Voice telling him to leave. He ran away that night. After several years, he heard the Voice tell him to return to Ireland and this time the Voice identified Himself, *‘He that has laid down His life for thee, it is He that speaks...’* He set out for a city called Tara that was filled with Kings and Druids who were attending a pagan feast coinciding with Easter that year. Ireland was gripped by paganism, and the confrontation that followed is as amazing as Elijah’s victory over the prophets of Baal. Patrick stood and called out to the Kings, ***May God arise and His enemies be scattered!***

Darkness fell on the camp. Confused guards attacked one another. The ground shook and the next day, on Easter, a broken King knelt in prayer. This confrontation marked the beginning of Patrick’s thirty-year mission to Ireland. By the time of his death, Patrick had baptized tens of thousands and established hundreds of churches. Danger and prison were his constant companions. In prison, he wrote in his *Confession: Those who never had knowledge of God but worshipped idols ... have now become ... sons of God.* He died in Ireland. ***The land that had once enslaved him had now been set free through him for God.***

**Pray** that we would not fear those things that enslaved us, but desire to free others from that same slavery.

**Pray for Iran:**

- Pray for the few Christians who are surviving the Islamic revolution after more than 30 of extreme oppression under the Islamic regime.
- Pray for those who are disillusioned with the Islamic State – that they will turn to Jesus Christ for answers.
- Pray for new leaders for Iran who will govern with equality and justice for everyone.

## Christians in Iran

*Immediately after the fall of the Shah of Iran in 1979, a theocratic Islamic Republic was declared by Islamic leaders. The Ayatollah Khamanei emerged as Iran's strongman and imposed Islamic Law upon the people. The opposition was crushed and most Christians fled the country, were killed, or were forced underground.*

*Hostility towards the non-Islamic world – and in particular the U.S. – has grown over the years. Suspicion in the West over Iran's drive to obtain nuclear power, the restrictions on trade and sharing technical information with the Islamic state, plus the Western nations' support of Israel's right to exist have further isolated Iran's leaders.*

*Internally, it is only Iran's oil exports that are keeping their economy afloat. Inefficiency, corruption, government interference are stagnating the promised growth and prosperity Iran's Islamic leaders have been promising for 30 years, but so far have been unable to deliver. The younger generation of Iranians are especially dissatisfied with their rulers, and took to the streets to protest the corrupt political system that does not allow any change in the ruling class. All of this makes Iranian youth more open to the gospel: "The long and respectable history of Christianity in Persia, the Church's noble suffering under persecution and the natural bridges between Shi'ism and Christianity make for an unprecedented opportunity for church growth." – Operation World*

*It is hard to say exactly how many Christians there are in Iran today. Reports are coming in that there is a growing underground church movement thriving in Iran, but of course, for reasons of security no one can openly give any details as to where or how many house churches exist. But Christians in the West should be praying for their brothers and sisters in Iran who are under the constant threat of death or imprisonment for their beliefs.*

*"We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God." – John Stott*



### *"This is Not the Day to Give-up or Give-in."*

**Habakkuk 2:3** *"These things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Be patient."*

**James 1:4** *"Don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed."*

### **Prayer Directive:**

One of life's frustrations is that God's timetable is very rarely like ours. You might even feel impatient that the answer(s) you long for and the personal growth you expected have not come --or maybe just impatient with the sacrifice. Oftentimes, when we're fasting, God begins working on us 'big time'. It seems every element of our personality or character that we don't like (well, no one likes) begins to come to the surface. God is revealing the 'dross' that rises to the surface during the refining process.

But **delay is not denial**. It would be helpful to keep a journal. Write down the things God is speaking to you. Use the backs of these pages if you like. You'll go back and read those things and rejoice and be amazed at what you learned.

### **Pray:**

- To let God know you and recommit to Him today.
- That God would speak to you as you write down your thoughts or even write a prayer to Him.
- That He will show you His vision and destiny for your life and help you understand how it all fits into a plan – your past, present and your future.
- Pray for the Church to fulfill its Destiny.

### **Pray for Christians in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam**

- Pray for the door to remain open for Christians to minister in Cambodia.
- Pray for the persecuted church in Laos – that restrictions will be lifted and more people will have the opportunity to hear the Gospel.
- Pray for Vietnam's unregistered (underground) church movement – that the heavy persecution of Christians will end and religious liberty will be granted.

*"The Lord did not tell us to build beautiful churches, but to evangelize the world" – Oswald J. Smith*

## Christians in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam

*The fact that Buddhism has been Cambodia's national religion since the 15<sup>th</sup> century helps to explain why 84% of the population remains Buddhist even after the horrible reign of terror by the former Khmer Rouge government slaughtered 90% of the of the Buddhist leaders along with most Christians. Since the end of the Communist reign there have been periods of more tolerance for Christians in Cambodia, and since 1990 Christians have been allowed to worship openly, but there are still restrictions on mission activity.*

*Laos' Communist government does not allow free political or religious expression in the country. There have been periods of harsh repression of Christians by the government, but recently, there has been a slight easing of persecution. Still, the church in Cambodia is closely watched. Although the church in Laos is growing, most of the country remains un-evangelized.*

*The long and devastating war between North and South (with the U.S. supporting the defeated South) left the Communist government in firm control of the country. The authoritarian regime does not tolerate any dissent or religious freedom. Only registered churches are allowed to operate in Vietnam, but the government denies almost all attempts to register any church. Christians in Vietnam routinely suffer official harassment, discrimination, and sometimes overt persecution.*

*"Does it not stir up our hearts, to go forth and help them, does it not make us long to leave our luxury, our exceeding abundant light, and go to them that sit in darkness?" - Amy Carmichael*



***Devoted***

**Colossians 3:2** “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”

When I was a child, I loved ‘basking’ in my Dad’s love for me. I’d ask him how much he loved me. I’d say, “Do you love me more than trees, more than our puppy, more than the little girl next door?” ...etc. His answers were always ‘yes’. One day I heard him tearfully singing one of his favorite songs ‘When We All Get To Heaven’ with deep longing for heaven and for Jesus. I asked him why he wanted to leave me? Did he love Jesus more than me? Wisely he answered, “Of course, I love Jesus more than anything, because He gave me my most treasured gift - you. When we get to heaven together, we’ll never have to do anything except what we love the most – love Jesus and the ones He gave us.” Those priorities still make sense.

**Prayer Directive:**

We know Satan is creating distractions - from the good to the bad and from the spiritual to the worldly. God never asks us to give others the ‘leftovers’ of our love. He teaches us that *to truly love God is the secret to joyful and full relationships with others.*

**Pray:**

- God will help you with the tyranny of distractions in your life and give wisdom for those things that are ‘necessary’.
- To set your affections/priorities on things that are eternal.
- For our Young Adults to connect with one another in the Love of Christ.
- For direction, wisdom and righteousness for all those at your Church who are involved with children’s and youth ministries.

**Pray for Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan:**

- Pray for Hong Kong to continue to be a source for missionaries to the mainland of China
- Pray for an increase in the growth and unity of Christians in Macau
- Pray for an increase in the growth and unity of Christians in Taiwan
- Recently, there has been a decline in missionary activity in Taiwan; pray for a renewed vision for missions to Taiwan.

*Our greatest victories are won on our knees and with empty stomachs. -  
Julio C. Ruibal*

## Christians in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan

*Hong Kong and Macao are Special Administrative Regions of China. Formerly colonies of the British and Portuguese, respectively, they are now under Chinese administration. For now at least, both Regions enjoy much greater freedom than the other provinces of China.*

*Christians in Hong Kong have made an impact in China and the Far East that is far greater than their small numbers. Hong Kong has become a starting point for many missionaries traveling deep into China. It is also a center for funding mission outreaches; and for discipling, media, and printed materials to the Chinese-speaking peoples.*

*Macau has sunk from being a Catholic colony, to a modern-day “City of Sin” plagued by gambling, prostitution, drugs and alcohol. There is a tiny community of Protestants living and ministering in the Region.*

*Taiwan is an island Republic formed by the remnants of Chinese fleeing the Communist take-over of the mainland in 1949. A secular state with freedom of religion, Taiwan has yet to be impacted by the Gospel. Most of the inhabitants of the island are a blend of Buddhism, Daoism, and Taiwanese folk religion; only 6% are Christians. In order for Christianity to advance in Taiwan, it must overcome a vast array of spiritual forces that keep the people in bondage to fear and superstitions. Embracing the Gospel means a total break from one’s past and family traditions – and that presents a real challenge for missionaries to Taiwan. Taiwanese Christians need to develop a great sense of unity and a sense of commitment to reach the unreached minority groups that are native to the island.*

*"Missionary zeal does not grow out of intellectual beliefs, nor out of theological arguments, but out of love" – Roland Allen*



*“One foot in the world -& one in the church...  
It is a Matter of the Heart”*

**Proverbs 4:25-27** *“Let your eyes look straight ahead, and fix your gaze directly before you. Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm. Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.”*

**Luke 10:27a** *“Love God with all your heart ....”*

What the Lord was saying in Luke 10:27, is that we should not have a divided heart. We are to love God with all our heart. Generally in Scripture, the heart refers to the seat of our affections, with strong emotion and intense devotion.

**Prayer Directive:**

Prayerfully encourage one another, especially the ‘young spiritually’, to love God with singleness of heart. It is not first a matter of the head, but a matter of the heart. Not an external worship ritual, but a cry of adoration. This kind of radical devotion defies reason and logic. When we as the church become passionate about our life in Christ, then *everything* we need will be added to our lives – personally and corporately as a church.

**Pray & Praise:**

- For power of His Spirit to lay down everything and anything that takes your affection from Him.
- Praise Him for loving you with a love that will never be impassionate, circumstantial or impersonal! He is your true Friend!
- That the Holy Spirit would brood over each of our church family today and ‘create within us a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us’. Just as every year brings a new Spring, let a passionate new beginning spring forth in your life!!
- That every leader that disciples others will not have divided hearts, divided visions (di-visions) and will teach only the Truth of God’s Word.

**Pray for Cyprus:**

- Pray for a peaceful, political resolution of the conflict that has left the island divided.
- For the small Christian community of evangelicals to grow and become more involved in outreach on the island.

## Christians on Cyprus

*For more than three thousand years the island of Cyprus has been subjected to numerous invasions. Cyprus was granted independence from Britain in 1960 but interference in their internal affairs from Greece and Turkey ended with another invasion in 1974 – this time from Turkey. Since then the island has been partitioned between Turkey (Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus) and the independent Republic of Cyprus that composes most of the island.*

*There are stark contrasts between the TRNC and the ROC:*

- *The TRNC is 99% Muslim, while the ROC is 94% Christian.*
- *The economy of the TRNC is heavily dependent upon Turkish subsidies and trade due to isolation from EU states that refuse to recognize Turkish control of the north. The ROC's economy quickly recovered after the seizure of the north by Turkey. Trade and tourism helps to keep the economy moving, and one-sixth of the world's merchant ships are registered in Cyprus.*
- *The ROC protects religious freedoms and is a major base for Christian organizations ministering to the Middle East. Although the TRNC is a secular republic, longstanding ethnic and cultural prejudices against Christians does not allow openness to the Gospel.*

*Two large British military bases are located in the ROC which adds to the large presence of foreign tourists that visit the island. There is also a large population of foreign workers from Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East; many of these workers are Christians, but many who are not Christians are open to hear the Gospel if someone will come and share it with them.*

*"Believers who have the gospel keep mumbling it over and over to themselves. Meanwhile, millions who have never heard it once fall into the flames of eternal hell without ever hearing the salvation story." – K.P. Yohannan, founder of Gospel for Asia Bible Society*



***"It is a matter of the Soul"***

**Luke 10:27** *'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul....'*

Remember the Old Testament story of Jacob wrestling with God? His wrestling-match was also with himself. 'Jacob' meant 'manipulator'. He felt he had to '*make* things happen'-- not trusting God's timing. If we're not sure God can be trusted in all areas of our life, we often manipulate circumstances in fear of missing something important. Through this unbelief, Jacob had allowed himself and his family to drift in their conviction that Jehovah was the One True God and was trustworthy. So, his family's belief system was weak. He was weak.

Jacob wrestled with manipulation. God gave him a new identity. So he told his household, "Get *rid* of the foreign gods you have with you, *purify* yourselves and *change* your clothes." Gen 35:2

Like Jacob and his family, there are many in our churches who have a nominal acceptance of Christian beliefs. Few are living it out and too many feel that personal holiness is relegated to the few sanctimonious people. The *souls of our families* (their convictions & commitment) are weakened.

***'If we don't stand for something, we will fall for anything.'***

**Pray:**

- For heads of homes to cry to God for the '**soul**' of their family to be purified and strengthened.
- Each person would come to grips with their own 'belief system' as more than a tradition or a declaration of faith posted in a book.
- That we would be 'No longer as children tossed about and carried away with every wind of doctrine or belief'. (Eph. 4:14)

**Pray for Greece:**

- For Greece's economic troubles to ease and stability to return to the people.
- Pray for more religious freedom and openness for the Gospel to be preached.
- Pray for an atmosphere of trust and unity between Greek Orthodox and Protestant leaders.

## Christians in Greece

*The Greek Orthodox Church has been protected by the state since the early years of Christianity. As the gateway to Europe from the Middle East, Greece has often been on the front lines of holding back invasions of Muslim forces bent on spreading their religion by force. 400 years of Turkish rule ended in 1827, but since then Greece has experienced a lot of political instability and ethnic tensions. Hostility against Turkey reached a boiling point over the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974. Since that time hostilities have subsided, but Greece's internal problems have increased over their economic woes.*

*Greece was the first European region to be evangelized (Acts 16:10) and became an early stronghold for Christianity. The split between East and West left Greece in the hands of the Greek Orthodox Church. Over the centuries Greek Orthodoxy became deeply ingrained into the cultural fabric of the nation and is an important part of their cultural heritage. This has led to a poor spiritual condition of the Church: less than 3% of the people regularly attend Church and few truly know what the Gospel of salvation is truly about.*

*There is a great need for the re-evangelization of Greece. There is a growing recognition within the Orthodox leadership that something needs to be done, but they see the work of Evangelicals as a threat to the power and position of the Greek Orthodox Church. Christians need to be praying for increased trust and unity between all believers in Greece. At the same time, there needs to be calls from both Greek Orthodox and Protestant leaders for a spiritual revival among the Greek Orthodox congregations. Protestants need to be encouraged, educated, and equipped to go and evangelize the lost in Greece.*

*"If the Church is 'in Christ,' she is involved in mission. Her whole existence then has a missionary character. Her conduct as well as her words will convince the unbelievers and put their ignorance and stupidity to silence." - David Bosch*



***“It Is a Matter of Your Strength”***

**Luke 10:27** *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength...”*

**Prayer Directive:**

Our love for God is also to be characterized by *activity*. We are to love Him heartily—in all our convictions and with all our ***strength in action***. There is a big difference in meaningless activity and Spirit-led labor of love reaping blessings and fulfillment that honors God.

True love does not need to be told what to do - it does it instinctively. It's not all about what we ***do***, but it ***is*** important. Action must follow up our words. Often, our actions speak louder than our words, don't they?

When He taught the greatest commandment, He did not say: "Love the Lord your God with *some* of your heart, *some* of your soul, or *some* of your strength." He didn't even say: "Love the Lord your God with *most* of your heart, *most* of your soul, or with *most* of your strength." Our God is a God of extravagant Love for us! We have heard His Holy Spirit speak, telling of His *great love* for us. God reveals this in His Word and Christ ***showed us*** in laying down His Life for us.

**Pray:**

- That God would show us how to practically love God with all of our strength.
- That we would be people that don't merely say we love God, but we respond in deeds of extravagant love for God, one another, and the world around us.
- That we would learn to do ***all*** that we ***do*** for the glory and honor of God.

**Pray for Tajikistan and Turkmenistan:**

- Pray for the few Christians in these Muslim countries who are under constant harassment and threats from extremists
- Pray for missionaries to go into these countries to preach the gospel

*"You want Beautiful Feet, skip the pedicure? Share the Gospel!" - Living Waters*

## Christians in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan

*Tajikistan and Turkmenistan were both former Republics of the Soviet Union. After independence, many Christians fled Tajikistan as the result of the civil war that broke out there. Russian Orthodox Christians are allowed to remain in Turkmenistan, but in both countries Christians are severely discriminated against. Both Tajikistan and Turkmenistan are well over 90% Muslim, which makes them dangerous for Christians to openly share their faith with others.*

*Only a handful of faithful Christians exist in these countries. Most of the Christians who remain are cultural/nominal Christians who have little or no desire to share the Gospel with their neighbors. Many of the Muslims in these countries are still influenced by folk superstitions and ancient Zoroastrian beliefs. The hope and freedom from fear that Jesus Christ brings would be welcomed news for them if only someone would be able to go to them and preach the "good news" to them.*

*Turkmenistan has seen a small window of opportunity open to them as just recently there has been a slight easing of restrictions and two protestant churches have been allowed to register and operate there. Today there are a few Catholics, Lutherans, and Evangelical Christians in Turkmenistan. The Evangelical Christian Baptist Church of Turkmenistan, Seventh-day Adventist Church of Turkmenistan, Full Gospel Christian Church of Turkmenistan (Pentecostals), Light of the East Church (Dashoguz Pentecostal Church), Greater Grace Church of Turkmenistan, International Church of Christ, and the New Apostolic Church of Turkmenistan are all registered Christian denominations.*

*There are at around five registered organizations of Baptists in Tajikistan. Although it is illegal to distribute any Christian literature, some foreign missionary activity has taken place: there is at least one congregation of Korean Protestants. But the government has banned all forms of foreign aid to Christians in Tajikistan.*

*"The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time" – Carl F. H. Henry*



***“It is a Matter of the Mind”***

**Luke 10:27** “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your **mind**;...”

We are to love God with all our *mind*. Loving God with our mind is different from loving God with our heart or soul. The word “mind” is used in Scripture as in “understanding” (Col.2: 18), “thinking” (ICor. 4:6), and “regarding” (Romans 2:18). The mind is the seat of behavior – good and evil. Action begins in the mind. It is no wonder that Satan deceives people to think they can see or experience lewd images or entertainment and not be affected. Then wonder why their mind is so ‘clouded’ and unable to think clearly. Good actions and virtues flow from a renewed and transformed mind. (Romans 1:8-32 describes how sensual thoughts often turn into sinful actions)

II Cor. 4:4 says “*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ.*” Christians are vulnerable to Satan’s devices in our minds. We must capture our thoughts. When our minds are ‘messed up’- blinded, *depressed* or *self-accusing*, we cannot think clearly as God intended”. But God has given us a spirit of power, of love and a sound mind” to clear our understanding and give to us the mind of Christ.

***A renewed mind is one of Joy, Peace & Stability!***

**Pray:**

- This is one of the most important prayers we can pray for one another, because it represents one of the most dangerous open doors for us to have ‘*one foot in the world and one in the church*’. Pray God will bring deliverance, healing & purity. Pray against the Deceiver who ravages our minds. Give him no place.
- That those who stand at a crossroads, will always choose the Way of Truth – 24/7

**Pray for Japan**

- Pray for the Japanese to become more open to the preaching of the gospel.
- Pray for the Church in Japan to have boldness and creativity in how they present the gospel to those steeped in traditions based upon Buddhism and Shintoism.

## Christians in Japan

*Japan has been called by some, “a superpower without a moral compass.” And yet, Japan has one of the lowest crime rates of the industrialized nations. However, a low crime rate does not address the spiritual emptiness and loss of direction reflected by the number of social problems that arose from the economic recession that began in Japan in the 1990s. Unemployment has remained high as companies and financial institutions that were once thought to be financially solid cut back on their workforces or closed altogether. The prolonged recession is one of the chief causes of an increase in homelessness in Japan. Tokyo and other major metropolises have thousands of homeless people. Mostly middle-aged and older men, they were brought to homelessness and poverty by alcoholism or mental illness. Sometimes men who lose their jobs or suffer the failure of a business feel too ashamed to face their families in Japan’s tradition-bound society. These people often exile themselves to one of the many communities of newly homeless people.*

*The combination of economic recession and the high desirability of consumer goods among the younger generation make crime a growing problem. Absent a strong moral compass, a growing number of Japanese school girls are turning to prostitution seeking money for the latest clothing fashions, expensive concert tickets, and other desired, high priced items. Organized crime by mobsters known as yakuza continues to be a strong force in Japan, controlling prostitution, pornography, and gambling.*

*At the close of WWII, Gen. Douglas MacArthur was put in charge of rebuilding Japan. When asked what was needed most, he replied, “Send missionaries and Bibles.” Japan was facing a spiritual crisis after the war, but the church did not respond in large number. Only a few responded and started building the church. But the work languished and today, Christians are less than 2% of the population. Besides the obvious spiritual opposition, the message of the Bible is completely alien to Japanese culture, and Christianity is seen as an unwelcome Western influence that will corrupt a pure Japanese way of life. The Japanese want Western technology, raw materials, access to their markets, and to a certain extent, American pop culture, but not Christianity.*



**Unity/Fellowship/Community**

**James 3:18** “You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.” (Message Bible)

**John 13:35** “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**Prayer Directive:** (excerpts from Rick Warren)

Whenever a child is born, he or she automatically becomes a part of the universal family of human beings. That child also needs to become a member of a specific family to receive nurture and care...

When our children were born, they also became a part of a universal family of human beings. They had to become members of a specific family to receive nurture and care. So, from Korea and Russia, our Sovereign God sent two adoptive children to us – parents God had prepared and who were waiting with open hearts, open arms, and unconditional, absolute joy in the new family He had promised!!

The also describes our church family. Our church family is made up of all cultures, races, and nationalities that have come to a church family to receive nurture and care. A place where open hearts, open arms and unconditional, absolute joy are the new family God is making!

**Pray:**

- For great unity in our diversity.
- God’s wisdom to know how to better merge as one family and speak a clearer ‘language of love’ to one another and all God sends.
- Expecting God to fulfill all His Purposes in making our church to look so like Heaven!

**Pray for Bangladesh:**

- There are very few Christians in Bangladesh, pray for believers to grow in faith and boldness to share the gospel.
- Onerous poverty plagues the nation, pray for a lifting of the spiritual blindness that keeps the people in bondage in body and soul.

## Christians in Bangladesh

*The great missionary and founder of the Worldwide Evangelism Crusade (WEC), C.T. Studd once said, "Some wish to live within the sound of a chapel bell; I wish to run a rescue mission within a yard of hell." And Bangladesh certainly qualifies as one of those places in the world where the people live and die within a yard of hell. One of the poorest nations in the world, Bangladesh is 90% Muslim, 9% Hindu, and less than 1% Christian.*

*The nation suffers from overpopulation, poor infrastructures, and frequent natural disasters from annual flooding and cyclones. The masses live under the heavy burden of deep poverty (more than half the population lives on less than \$1 per day). Disease, hunger, the devastation brought on by nature claims the lives of many of Bangladesh's most vulnerable citizens.*

*The government of Bangladesh is rated one of the most corrupt in the world. Political unrest and longstanding rivalries between factions keep the nation on uncertain path for the future. Border tensions with Hindu majority India adds to the instability; while extremist Islamic elements inside the nation are a constant threat to make moves to take over the government should it collapse. Although their Constitution secures freedom of religion, pressure from Islamists and a corrupt and inadequate justice system leaves almost no safeguards for Bangladesh's religious minorities.*

*Needless to say, India's small Christian community faces many challenges; among them are:*

- *A lack of trained leaders*
- *Disunity and lack of cooperation between churches*
- *Tools for evangelism are scarce*
- *Churches and ministries over-dependent upon foreign finances*
- *Illiteracy, poverty, and the social problems they bring overwhelm churches that are trying to address some of these issues*

*"Go, send, or disobey." - John Piper*



**Unity/Fellowship/Community**

**Ephesians 4:3** “You are joined together with peace through the Spirit, so make every effort to continue together in this way.”

**Colossians 3:4** “Most of all, let love guide your life, for then the whole church will stay together in perfect harmony.”

**Prayer Directive:**

We are blessed by unity in the church. We have all seen when disunity comes in like a flood to disrupt and disturb people’s lives to bring disharmony, division and ultimately conflict. Then God’s people pray, and God comes like a healing ointment causing unity to flourish again. ***Unity is the soul of our fellowship.***

We all have quirks, but community has little to do with compatibility. As part of God’s family, it is our responsibility to preserve unity and protect fellowship. Our differing personalities, backgrounds, and races are a reflection of heaven. He brought ‘different people’ together because we are to learn how to truly love one another. **Let’s pray today for unity of Spirit in a greater way in our churches.**

When I was a teenager, my parents would **often** (really often) invite people to our home from church who were different in some ways from our family. I learned quickly that even the ‘older people’ could speak effectively into my life unlike I had ‘arrogantly’ assumed. In the 70’s, I saw my parents sit with ‘hippies’ (street people for you who were born in the 90’s) genuinely asking questions to *learn from them*. When anyone stops learning they cannot teach effectively.

**Pray:**

- That no one will feel disconnected.
- That each person will open their hearts and lives, *especially* to those who are new or different from them in our church.
- That the Love of God will greatly abound.

**Pray for Thailand:**

- For the church to continue to grow and increase in Thailand
- For more indigenous leaders to be taught and trained.
- For the peace and stability of the nation.
- Pray for wise and godly government leaders to guide the nation.

## Christians in Thailand

*Only 2% of Thai people are Christians; while the vast majority (85%) is Buddhist. Freedom of religion is guaranteed in the constitution, and except for the requirement for all new religious groups to come under one of the government-recognized religious organizations to operate legally, religious freedom is being upheld. Political instability is fueled by deep divisions in the government and the constant threat of violent insurgents to destabilize areas of the country – especially in the south where most Muslims live.*

*Thailand means “land of the free”; it took that name because it successfully maintained its freedom while their neighbors were being taken over by European colonial powers. But spiritually speaking, Thailand is in deep bondage to spiritual forces of darkness that keep the people in fear and superstition to Buddhism, cultural tradition, and occultism that few Thais have been able to come out of. Thais believe that the guardian spirit, Phra Sayam Devadhiraj, is the protector of their land and its image can be seen everywhere.*

*In spite of the efforts of missionaries, very few Thais have chosen to become followers of Jesus Christ. Growth in the church is slow at best. At the same time, the spiritual growth of most believers has been stunted by syncretism, backsliding, prayerlessness, and lack of serious Bible study. The Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand joins more than 120 mission organizations, 55 church associations and seven Christian institutions; pray for those involved with the Fellowship and for those involved with mission work in Thailand to be united in faith, and effective in evangelizing the unreached people groups in Thailand. Pray for all Thai Christians to obtain a spiritual breakthrough so that, in the Lord Jesus, the Thai may be free indeed.*

*"If a commission by an earthly king is considered a honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?" – David Livingstone*



*"I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses strength into me, that is, I am sufficient in Christ's sufficiency."* **The Apostle Paul**

**Prayer Directive:**

Twenty days ago, you began a special time of fasting and prayer. Today marks the halfway point. Whether you began this fast alone or with others, you began a spiritual journey that has a destination: to be 'joined at the heart' in ***One Holy Passion*** with the Lord and with other believers.

At this halfway mark, you might have grown weary if you haven't seen some sort of 'change'. How many times have our kids asked on a trip, '*Are we there yet?*' Fasting and prayer is not a formula to just receive results, or acts of obedience intended to instill self-discipline. But, for Christians, the focus of fasting and prayer is to be ***transformed*** by being in God's presence.

If you have not been keeping a spiritual journal, it would be a good idea to begin one in these upcoming days. Look back and ask yourself some of the things God has revealed to you about yourself. You might want to remember a specific Scripture God used to speak to you. It's surprising how quickly we forget some of the most important things God is doing in our lives, so don't be robbed of those treasures and lessons. Be encouraged, because God is responding to His people. Hearts are being blessed and strengthened. Minds are being renewed, and relationships are restored.

***See His Hand move on your behalf every day,  
and especially when you gather with others for Worship!***

**Pray:**

- For others who may be fasting and praying with you during this time. Pray for others who need strength for their own spiritual journey.

**Pray for Afghanistan:**

- Almost 100% Muslim, pray for new openings for the Gospel to come to this deeply troubled, violent, and closed nation.

*"All roads lead to the judgment seat of Christ." - Keith Green*

## Christians in Afghanistan

*Ever since the monarchy was overthrown in 1973, Afghanistan has experienced almost constant strife, civil war, and invasion. The almost constant warfare has left the country's infrastructure devastated. The countryside is filled with an estimated 1 million unexploded land mines and other undetonated ordinance. Although the U.S. helped the Afghans rebuild their government and hold free and fair elections, much of the country is still controlled by petty local warlords – many of whom make large sums of money from illegal trade in opium. The U.S. military is still actively involved in destroying the last remnants of the Taliban that once controlled the entire nation. U.S. troops still guard the borders of Afghanistan from incursions by the Taliban hiding out in Pakistan.*

*There are practically zero Christians in Afghanistan today. The few that were there before 1970 were killed or driven out – first by the Communist regime, and then by the brutal reign of the Taliban that took over the country after the fall of the Communists. Since the U.S. military drove out the Taliban, and a new Constitutional Republic was formed (albeit Islamic), there is at least, freedom for non-Muslims to practice their religion, but the propagation of Christianity is strictly forbidden. However, in spite of the grave dangers to any Muslim who dares to convert to Christianity, the numbers of Christians are slowly beginning to rise. From only a handful, Christians have grown to several thousand in the past few years. Still there is a long, long way to go for the Christians in Afghanistan – and the road ahead for them is filled with dangers. Afghanistan remains one of the most unreached nations in the world today.*

*There are no known missionaries in Afghanistan, but Christian radio, satellite TV, audio recordings, websites, and literature are making their way to the Afghans. Pray for better and more effective means to reach the nation to be developed and put into the hands of Afghan Christians.*

*"God is pursuing with omnipotent passion a worldwide purpose of gathering joyful worshipers for Himself from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. He has an inexhaustible enthusiasm for the supremacy of His name among the nations. Therefore, let us bring our affections into line with His, and, for the sake of His name, let us renounce the quest for worldly comforts and join His global purpose." – John Piper*



**Exhortation**

In times of fasting and prayer, much of the ‘stuff’ that is not real pretty comes to the surface. That ‘stuff’ is part of why we are fasting. Troubles actually seem to intensify.

In prayer tonight, I sensed a strong urging in my spirit to write this word of exhortation. Some of you might be wrestling with these issues. Our initial emotional response is to say, *‘I don’t need this intensity of seeking God. Why not just bypass this and let things work out as they always have’*, which is exactly what the enemy is waiting to hear.

Satan has known through the centuries how God responds when ***his redeemed children*** fast and pray. We forget Satan was there when Moses, Elijah, Paul, and Christ Himself fasted and prayed. He knows what it looks like when God sends breakthrough! Our enemy knows we are mere creatures who want to feel good, be happy, and comforted. God made us to for fulfillment and life abundant in and through our Father God. The illusion is to give in to ‘King Stomach’ or whatever else brings fulfillment rather than waiting on the Lord to reveal Living Waters and Bread of Life that will forever change us.

The thought of God receiving such awesome Glory when burdens are lifted, bound-souls are set free, bodies healed, darkness dispelled from minds, and lost souls set free – brings shock waves throughout the kingdom of darkness!! Our enemy knows that when people (even just two or three) agree in prayer that the Holy Power of God is what they seek, then not just a generation but our world can be turned-upside-down for God... again.

Could it be that God is preparing His People for the Latter Rain of His Spirit? Could He be equipping us to stand in more difficult times than we’ve ever experienced. I don’t know. But I ***do know*** when God calls His People to pray, It is because He is ***‘on the move’*** and wants us to ‘join Him’ in what He intends. **So, let’s pray!**

**Pray for:**

- The Persecuted Church in the 1040 Window.

## Christians in the 1040 Window

*In the past ten years, Christians in the 10/40 Window have experienced a dramatic rise in persecution; some mission organizations report the increase to be as high as a 400%. Even in those countries where freedom of religion is promised, fierce persecution in the form of abductions, tortures, and martyrdom are commonplace. Government agents, unofficial religious police, and terrorist groups often target the small, helpless Christian minorities in these countries.*

*Islamic states, where Sharia law is enforced, are especially harsh to Christians, and converts to Christianity often face the death penalty. Most of these countries prohibit evangelism of any kind. Christian missionaries who share their faith are arrested and deported. "Americans who have not experienced persecution do not fully understand what it means to have their lives threatened, homes destroyed, rights violated and loved ones imprisoned, all because of embracing faith in Jesus Christ," said K. P. Yohannan, Gospel For Asia founder and president, "In the 14 countries we serve, persecution of this sort has become a normal way of life, especially for those directly involved in mission work."*

*Christians in the 10/40 Window need our prayers to strengthen them and encourage them to stand firm in the Lord and the power of His might (Ephesians 6:10). There are many Christians in China and other 1040 nations being held captive in prisons and forced labor camps who need to be freed. And those who are not being held need our prayers for God to keep them safe and deliver them from all harm.*

*Our prayers should remind us that the battle for the 1040 Window is first and foremost a spiritual battle that will be won or lost on our knees. Therefore we need many watchmen and women who will persevere as prayer warriors to beseech God on behalf of the millions of persecuted Christians who are suffering in these mostly unreached regions.*

*"Never pity missionaries; envy them. They are where the real action is - where life and death, sin and grace, Heaven and Hell converge." - Robert C. Shannon*



## Day 22

**"Don't think it is strange there are fiery trials."**

**Malachi 3:3** "He will sit as a Refiner and purifier of silver."

### **Prayer Directive:**

When we think about the fact that God sits as a Refiner of us as silver is refined, that conjures up images of things we want to avoid. It's not the kind of thing we all jump up and down saying 'Take me, take me! Put me in the fire!'

A woman was 'counting the cost' of the prayer to purify her as God would refine silver. So, she decided to search for a real silversmith, not telling him she was an inquiring Christian, because she wanted truthful details. As she watched him hold a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up, he explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest so as to burn away all the impurities. She thought about God holding her in such a hot spot. She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of this fire the whole time the silver was being refined. He said yes, and not only he does he sit there holding the silver, but had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left ***a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.***

The woman was silent for a moment and then asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver can come out of the fire and is fully refined?" He answered, "Oh, that's easy—when I see my image in it."

If you are feeling the heat of the fire today, remember God will never take His eye off you. He is watching for that moment He sees His image in you.

**Pray:** That any Christian in the Refiner's process, will sense the nearness of God by His image clearly seen and their deliverance will be revealed ***suddenly!***

### **Pray for Pakistan:**

- Pray for the persecuted church in Pakistan.
- Pray for the government of Pakistan to push back and destroy the terrorists who have made the northern and western provinces their strongholds.
- Pray for more and effective means to reach the people of Pakistan with the gospel.

"Prayer is the mighty engine that is to move the missionary work." - A.B. Simpson

## Christians in Pakistan

*Pakistan is in the center of the unreached nations in the 1040 Window. Of its 185 million people, 96% are Muslims. The people of Pakistan have suffered from constant political and social upheavals. The peaceful partition of Pakistan from India quickly deteriorated and was marred by Hindu vs. Muslim riots which caused many to be killed, maimed and displaced. Pakistan has gone to war four times over border disputes over the region of Jammu-Kashmir. Pakistan became a haven for the training of the Taliban in their war against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. After the Russians withdrew, the Taliban took over Afghanistan, but continued their strong presence inside Pakistan. After the U.S. military invaded Afghanistan and attacked the Taliban strongholds in retaliation for the 9/11 terrorist attack, the Taliban was forced back into Pakistan where they remained relatively undisturbed until recently. In 2014 the Pakistani army stepped up their efforts to root out the Taliban and other extremist groups that posed an increasing threat to Pakistan's stability.*

*Christians have been caught in the crossfire of all of the competing and warring factions within Pakistan. The small Christian community suffers from official government discrimination; they are not protected from attack by fundamentalist Muslims who routinely destroy lives and property of Christians under the slightest pretext.*

*Pakistan's notorious "blasphemy law" imposes the death penalty on anyone who they claim "defames" Mohammed in any way. Life in prison awaits anyone that the extremists accuse of defiling the Quran. Extremists often use this law as a pretext to seize Christians' property, close churches, and incite mob violence against the unprotected minority of Christians. Christians in Pakistan live under a constant shadow of intimidation and fear; they are often the victims of violent crimes: murder, rape, assault, destruction of property, etc. but do not dare complain to officials because many of them are friends and relatives of the perpetrators. The Christians in Pakistan need the support encouragement and prayers of their brothers and sisters in Christ.*

*"Sympathy is no substitute for action." - David Livingstone, missionary to Africa*



*"Praying For Our Younger Children."*

Luke 11:1 "Lord, teach us to pray."

**Prayer Directive:**

In parenting young children, there are many things that can (and do) try your patience. We've all made mistakes from lack of patience and wisdom, but we can't fail to ask God to *teach us how to pray for your children*.

**Pray:** *For all children – not just your own*

- Praise Him for these children, because gifts from God are not to be taken lightly.
- Dedicate them over and over to God.
- Stand on promises in God's Word for them. Stand on what God has spoken to your heart. Practically, that means, that you repeat them in prayer and when Satan brings doubts.
- Pray and sing songs of praise *often* with your kids. And Let them hear you tell others about how proud you are of them because they love Christ.
- When they see your mistakes, pray with them about it and ask 'If they will forgive you?' Praise God with them that He forgave you and you are so thankful that they forgave you. (What a lesson for them!)
- Ask God to reveal to you things in *His heart* about them. Then pray 'in His Will' with those specific things and 'personality/bents' of that child.
- Pray, 'waiting prayers' – futures, friends, spouses, vocation, etc. Pray fervently about friends. You might not know what that means now, but you will.
- Note to expectant parents. It is believed that the unborn can hear. So pray and sing praises. My parents prayed daily 9 months for my brother and me for specifics. *All those requests* were granted.

A great man once said, "*I'm convinced that an entire nation could change by fervently praying for the unborn and the newly born children.*" God's Word proves that to be true.

"The average pastor views his church as a local church with a missions program; while he ought to realize that if he is in fact pastoring a church, it is to be a global church with a missions purpose." – Unknown

## Children in the 10/40 Window



*The most of the children who live in the 69 nations of the 10/40 Window are found across northern Africa, the Middle East and Central and South Asia. 90% of the world's poorest of the poor children struggle to survive in this Window. Most of them will grow up and die without ever having had the chance to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ - not even once!*

- *Two-thirds of the world's children live in the 10/40 Window. Most do not have adequate health care, education, food, access to clean drinking water, etc.*
- *95% are not evangelized.*
- *87% are living on an average of less than \$1 per day per family.*
- *In many of these nations witnessing the Christian Gospel to these children is illegal and will result in imprisonment or death.*
- *45 of the 50 worst countries in the world for persecution of Christians are in the 10/40 Window.*
- *Child prostitution and child slavery run rampant in many of these nations.*
- *Horrific abuse of women and children remains unchecked, including an epidemic of pedophilia.*
- *A majority of the world's terrorist organizations are based in the 10/40 Window, and children as young as 18 months old are trained to be Jihad soldiers.*

*Though the needs are both and desperate and urgent, only 5¢ out of every \$100 spent on missions globally is directed toward the 10/40 Window. That's 0.0005% of all missions money designated to bring the Gospel to the great majority of the world's population of children!*

*"Let my heart be broken with the things that break God's heart" - Bob Pierce, World Vision founder*



*"Praying for Our Young men and women."*

One of our church members at Midtown, was a 28 year old woman who was diagnosed with a terminal illness. Tammy had 3 boys and a 'wayward' husband. We had many conversations and prayers during the 4 months before she died. She prayed for her husband to 'come to his senses'. He did, so they renewed their marriage vows.

Her prayers for her sons (ages 4, 10 and 14) were *fervent and full of longing, especially for her oldest, Antoine*. She often showed me her journal with prayers she prayed for him. Tammy did not like the term teenager, but prayed for him as a young man taking on responsibilities for himself. She felt that kids were given 'permission' to be rebellious in our society because of their age. She treated him with *great* love and respect and, in turn, expected those things from him. She would **Pray** these and more. *Parents, I recommend them to you for your sons & daughters.*

*Galatians 4:19*...that Christ be formed in her son.

*Isaiah 54:13*...that he is taught by the Lord so his peace would be great.

*Prov. 11:21* ...that he would be delivered from the evil one.

*Hebrews 5:14, I Peter 3:21*...that he would learn to discern good from evil and have a good conscience toward God.

*Hebrews 8:10*...that God's law would be in his mind and on his heart constantly.

*I Cor. 5:11; Prov. 13:20*...that he would choose companions who are wise -- not fools, sexually immoral, drunkards, idolaters, slanderers, or swindlers.

*Eph. 5:3.31-33* ...that he would remain sexually pure and keep himself only for his wife. (She asked God to surround him with men who were pure for righteous examples)

**Eph. 6:1-3**...that he would honor his dad. She knew she wouldn't be alive, so she asked God to give good in-laws that he would honor, and prayed *much* for a Godly wife.

Antoine now lives in Birmingham, Alabama, with a Godly wife, next door to his Pastor-father-in-law, with one daughter named Tammy. *God is faithful!*

**Pray for Myanmar (Burma):**

- For the continued growth of the church in the face of persecution
- For an increase in unity and harmony among Christians
- For an increase in Bible teaching and training of indigenous leaders to reach the unreached in Myanmar.

## Christians in Myanmar

*The nation of Burma, officially the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, is bordered by Bangladesh, India, China, Laos and Thailand. One third of Burma's total perimeter of 1,930 kilometers (1,200 miles) forms an uninterrupted coastline along the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea. Burma is the world's 25th most populous country; it is the world's 40th largest country and the second largest in Southeast Asia. The military regime in Burma is one of the most repressive and abusive regimes in the world today. Members of the United Nations and major international human rights organizations have issued repeated and consistent reports of widespread and systematic human rights violations in Burma – including abuses against women and children. The United Nations General Assembly and International human rights organizations have repeatedly documented and condemned widespread human rights violations in Burma.*

*Internal, unresolved conflicts between several of Myanmar's ethnic groups have led to several ongoing civil wars, pitting one group against another. Child soldiers play a major part not only in the Burmese rebel movements, but also in the Burmese Army. It has been reported by independent sources that "Children are being sold as conscripts into the Burmese military for as little as \$40 and a bag of rice or a can of petrol." Forced labor, human trafficking, and child labor are common in Myanmar. The military is also notorious for frequent practice of sexual violence against women and children.*

*Less than 10% of Myanmar's population is Christian (80% are Buddhist). Government claims of religious freedom are overshadowed by the reality of persecution of religious minorities. Churches are severely restricted; the importation and distribution of Christian literature is hampered by government interference; while the government looks away whenever Christians are coerced by an intolerant majority to convert to Buddhism.*

*Pray for the unity and cooperation amongst Christians in Myanmar that are often caught up in the ethnic and culture clashes within the country. Pray for Christian leaders to be voices of reason and peacemakers in their nation: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." Matthew 5:9*



***“Praying for Our Prodigals”***

**II Timothy 2:25, 26** *“God...grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of truth...that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.”*

A pastor and his wife invited us to their home several years ago, and the pastor shared amazing stories of ministry in Chicago. His wife became deeply saddened with each story. As she and I had coffee in another room, I asked her what had brought such sadness to her face earlier. I’ll never forget the pain that erupted in her words, *‘I can’t rejoice – I lost my daughter in Chicago.’* She was a prodigal and had not been seen in over 5 years.

Christian parents have no greater sense of loss than knowing their child has walked away from blessing and Truth. Whenever they pray for the lost, it’s the face of that son or daughter they visualize. Just as the Father in the story of the Prodigal Son must have said daily, *“Is this the day that I’ll stand at my gate and see my child coming back from the land of the enemy?”*

**Prayer Directive:**

As you pray for the children within the ‘borders’ of your family and church, you cannot disregard or forget those parents who bear heavy hearts for their wayward children. We are a ‘family’ so these prodigals become our wayward children. Is this not the fast of the Lord, and the reason we fast and pray? Read Isaiah 58:6

**Pray:**

Lord, we pray that you would uphold these parents who pray for their lost children, and give them (and us) wisdom, love and discernment to help these sons and daughters. We anticipate the day when, through prayer and faith, the prodigals will turn their hearts toward You. Bring them out of darkness to light - - from the power of Satan back to you, Father. *“This is what the Lord says: They will return from the land of the enemy...there is hope for your future, declares the Lord. Your children will return to their own land.”* Jeremiah 31:16, 17

**Pray for Malta:**

- For the Christians in Malta to be “imitators of God as dear children” (Ephesians 5:1).

## Christians in Malta

*Malta is a small island south of Sicily in the Mediterranean Sea. The people of Malta were very early converts of Paul when he was shipwrecked and stranded on the island for three months on his way to Rome (Acts 28:1-11).*

*Malta, considered one of the most religious nations in Europe, has long been predominately Roman Catholic (80% today), and the Christians on the island remain devout to their religion.*

*After obtaining their independence from Britain in 1964, Protestant witness was allowed on Malta for the first time. The Maltese Protestants are few, but have slowly and steadily grown; small congregations and house churches are meeting on the island. In more recent years Jehovah's Witnesses started recruiting on Malta and have established seven congregations so far.*

*Baptist and Pentecostals are leading the efforts to reach out to the Maltese and to the many tourists that visit the island. Although official opposition to the preaching of the Gospel no longer exists on Malta, the tremendous social pressure to maintain their identity with the Roman church is a stronghold (not to mention the spiritual strongholds behind them that prevent people from breaking free of religious traditions and truly seeing the reality of Jesus Christ – 2 Corinthians 3:14 & 4:4).*

*Pray for the Christians who live on Malta*

- *to be strong and remain firm in faith*
- *to rise up in the power of the Holy Spirit to preach without reservation the glorious Gospel of Salvation by the blood of Jesus alone... for them to be effective in countering the false preaching of salvation by any other means.*

*"If God would grant us the vision, the word sacrifice would disappear from our lips and thoughts; we would hate the things that seem now so dear to us; our lives would suddenly be too short, we would despise time-robbing distractions and charge the enemy with all our energies in the name of Christ." – Nate Saint (Two weeks before he was martyred)*



## Day 26

### **"Praying For Our Young Adult Men and Women."**

*"...train the younger women to live quietly, to love their husbands and their children... In the same way, urge the young men to behave carefully, taking life seriously." Titus 2:5, 6*

On more than one occasion, Paul shared his burden for the young adults in the church. He understood that these young adult men and women would be the future leaders in the church. Therefore, he urged the leaders of the church to make teaching and training of the younger believers a priority. ***Make this ministry a priority during this fast.***

### **Prayer Directive:**

One of the most important aspects of Jesus' earthly ministry was the time He invested in training His twelve disciples. "He spoke to thousands, but the teaching that had the most lasting impact was the private instruction that Jesus gave the Twelve," said Larry Richards. Jesus sent an unmistakable message to all who followed Him, that making and training new disciples would be an essential aspect of the Christian life.

***"Go, and make disciples..." was one of Jesus' last and most important commands.***

### **Pray:**

- Ask God to give unity of vision, purpose, wisdom and boldness to those who minister to young adult men and women in your church.
- To move young adult men and women in your church from doing what is 'expected' to hearing God's Voice leading them into action.
- They will find new passion and zeal for God.
- God will cause a hunger to study and learn to be able to give a wise answer for their faith.
- Ask God to send young men and women ***hungry for God***, therefore, ***igniting a flame for God's Mission.***

### **Pray for Iraq:**

- Pray for an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people that is the result of war, civil and religious strife, bad government, and religious extremism.

*"It's not that God has a mission for his Church in the world, but that God has a Church for his mission in the world" - Chris Wright*

## Christians in Iraq

*Christians in Iraq have suffered centuries of intense persecution and discrimination from their Muslim neighbors. Often caught in the crossfire between warring factions of Muslims, the small, powerless minority (less than 2%) of Christians are victimized by all sides. 2014 saw the rapid rise of a new extremist Islamic State also known as ISIS or ISIL. Carved out of a large piece of Iraq and northern Syria, ISIS fighters launched a military offensive, quickly capturing large swaths of Iraq, using mass murder, public beheadings and the enslavement of women and girls to subjugate captured territories. Seeking the realization of their dream to be the start of a new Muslim Caliphate, large parts of northern Iraq were brutally cleansed of Christians, Yazidis and other religious minorities that were forced to flee or die at the hands of their captors.*

*Terrified Christians, seeing the Iraqi Army forces fleeing the ISIS fighters, knew they had little or no time to pack or gather the necessities of life, and fled with only the clothes on their backs. The ISIS occupiers went to work immediately destroying churches, religious shrines, and selling off church artifacts to fund their campaign of terror. The few Christians who dared to remain behind became targets for bloodthirsty ISIS fighters. It was later learned that a number of churches were being turned into torture chambers to brutalize Christians who refused to convert to Islam.*

*Most of Iraq's Christians who lived in the northern third of the country have been killed or fled to neighboring Kurdistan where they live as impoverished refugees. The Christians who remain in the areas controlled by the government of Iraq live in fear; they have little or no protection from the government. Christians in Iraq need our prayers and all the help they can get from Christians who live in safe areas outside of the 1040 Window.*

*"How shall I feel at the judgment, if multitudes of missed opportunities pass before me in full review, and all my excuses prove to be disguises of my cowardice and pride" - Dr. W. E. Sangster*



***“God Calls Many Nations to be His Church”***

**Isaiah 43:5-7** *“Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back!’ Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth – everyone **who is called by My Name**, Whom I created for My Glory, who I formed and made.”*

The book of Genesis tells us that from the creation of Adam & Eve to the Tower of Babel mankind was one race, speaking one language. Genesis 11 records the reason for the division of mankind into diverse nations, speaking different languages. Out of these nations, Genesis 12 tells us, God chose Abram to make a nation for Himself and for His own redemptive purposes. The Old Testament develops along the lines of there being two major ethnic divisions: the chosen nation of Israel and the Gentile nations.

**Prayer Directive:**

The New Testament introduces the third major ethnic division, which is the Church. Beginning in Acts 2, God is at work in the nations forming this third ethnic division into ONE BODY of believers from every tribe, tongue and nation. National identities are determined by birth; but in the church, national divisions cease to exist since all enter in by the same spiritual birth to form one “holy nation” (1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 3:6; 1 Pet. 2:9). Leadership can organize, plan and be wise stewards, but must move the church beyond being an institution, and mobilize believers as a Movement of His Spirit in order for God’s plan for the nations to be fulfilled.

**Pray:**

- For the unity of the body. That God will help His children to become one in Him. That God will help the members of your church to lay aside any ethnic, class, or cast distinctions and become truly one body in Christ Jesus.
- For the Church to be mobilized to reach the nations.

**Pray for Lebanon:**

- Lebanon’s economic vitality and openness has been deeply damaged by years of war and civil strife. Pray for the peaceful reconstruction of the country and a return to religious and ethnic tolerance.

## Christians in Lebanon

*Christian majority Lebanon was at one time the commercial hub of the Middle East and enjoyed peace and the fruits of being a prosperous people. Then changing Christian-Muslim demographics and the influx of 300,000 Palestinian refugees began to tear apart the social fabric of the nation. By 1975 Lebanon became the focal point of the Palestinian crisis; and radicalized Palestinian Muslims wanted to forcefully take control of the only remaining Christian country in the Middle East and turn it into a base to launch attacks into Israel. Fifteen years of civil war; invasions of the south by Israeli security forces seeking to root out terrorist bases; and then sixteen years of occupation by Syria left most of Beirut in ruins and the economy in shatters. Foreign investment in Lebanon ceased during the long civil war, and most of Lebanon's best and brightest fled the country. Today's Muslim majority Lebanon is a pale shadow of the once beautiful, peaceful, and prosperous nation it was 45 years ago.*

*The Christian population of Lebanon has dropped from 53% to around 30% today, and the immigration of Christians from Lebanon presents a challenge to the church there. Christians do enjoy more freedom of religion than in any other Muslim-majority nation, but that may not last. Believers from other countries closed to Christianity try to make their way to Lebanon where they can receive Bible teaching and training. Pray for this religious freedom to be protected by Lebanon's leaders.*

*The church in Lebanon remains divided between Orthodox and Roman Catholics. The Protestant church has yet to find much acceptance, and the few Protestant denominations that exist are often plagued by fragmentation and division. Pray for the spirit of love and unity to be restored in the Lebanese churches. There is also a need for trained leadership in the church; Christians in Lebanon need good spiritual leaders who will work not only to reach the unreached, but will also disciple new believers to move the church forward and restore all that was lost.*

*"God cannot lead you on the basis of facts that you do not know." - David Bryant*



*"A Time for Spiritual Renewal for Families"*

**Proverbs 23:24,25** *"The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise child will delight in him. Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her who bore you rejoice."*

**Eph. 4:32** *"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."*

The family unit is God's design for us. Mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, etc. all form the bedrock of every community. Ungodly parents often set poor examples for their children, but we also know the sad truth that Christian parents do not always set the best example for their children either. Home is where the strongest, toughest, sweetest love is shown. Whether it is a mansion or a tent – it is the place where everyone should feel within those walls there is an anchor that holds them steady and secure.

**Prayer Directive:**

Our greatest joys and deepest sorrows come from family relationships. That's where we are emotionally involved, spend more time, and know more about each other – good and bad. These relationships are so important.

Satan does all he can to bring division and unhappiness in families. He knows that if things aren't right at home, then they will not be right anywhere else. When the pressures of life seem to drain all the energy from the parents coupled with the stress the kids are dealing with, (which they can't usually verbalize) you might have a situation that is explosive. So, what was intended to be an enjoyable 'family time' turns in to a shouting match and no one really knows what went wrong.

**Pray:**

- That the 'balancing act' that parents deal with will not bring undue stress raising children, that the homes represented at your church will be filled with joy and peace in Christ.

**Pray for Algeria, Libya, and Tunisia:**

- Pray for the tiny Christian communities that are facing daily persecution and discrimination in these overwhelmingly Muslim north African states.

*"A God-centered theology has to be a missionary theology" – John Piper*

## Christians in Algeria, Libya, and Tunisia

*The secular government of Algeria has not been accommodating to Islamist groups and will strike against any militants who try to disrupt the absolute power of the President and ruling elites. Although Christians are less than 1% of the population, they face intense persecution and discrimination from the government. In spite of intensifying persecution aimed at completely wiping out the helpless Christians, the church in Algeria has seen some growth from bold witness and evangelism. Pray that the Christians in Algeria will stand up to these pressures with faith and perseverance.*

*Since the fall of strongman Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, Libya has been in a state of political turmoil. Teetering on the brink of being a “failed state” the government is barely holding on with the support of the military against more extremist factions that are fighting for control of Libya. Libyan Christians (less than 3%) are severely restricted and evangelism is absolutely forbidden. Few Christians in Libya are from the ethnic Berber people; most are Roman Catholic or Orthodox with only a sprinkling of Protestants that have come about by clandestine missionary outreach to Libyans. Pray the church in Libya to continue to grow and for missionaries to be protected.*

*Tunisia has resisted the rise of extremist groups of militant Muslims. But numbering 99% of Tunisia’s population, Muslims put heavy restrictions on the church as well (they cannot own land nor have a bank account); and Christians are forbidden from sharing their faith with Muslims. Christians in Tunisia are predominantly nominal, expatriate and Catholic. But through Christian broadcasts, some new believers are being made. Pray for the few Christian converts in Tunisia because they are at extreme risk of becoming victims of physical harassment and violence. Pray that God will not only keep a hedge of protection around them, but that these new believers would be encouraged to grow in their faith despite persecution.*

*"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed" – Hudson Taylor*



## Day 29

*“The Lord Helps Us Build Strong Families”*

**Psalm 27** *“Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman keeps awoken in vain.”*

### **Prayer Directive:**

Our church and our nation are as strong as our families. The Scriptures teach us that we can build a strong family – go to all the seminars and read the latest self-help books (and, those things are good), but we can do all this for nothing, unless the Lord is the sure foundation. We can sit up all night and worry about what our kids are doing or, if they’re younger, worrying how they can possibly make it in this world we live in.

But, God reminded me of something awesome, yet simple, this afternoon. God knew that I would be sitting in Kennesaw right now, doing what I’m doing, with the husband I have (thank you, Lord), and with the son and daughter that I have (how could I ever praise You enough?!). He planned it all, saw it all, orchestrated it all, and He’s done it this way for our good and that good purpose will last through out eternity. So, if He’s in control, we can trust Him with all that happens. I didn’t say we can ultimately trust in any person, sons, or daughters to make all the right choices all the time. But, God is trustworthy and He is Good, (***ALL THE TIME!***)

### **Pray:**

- That every parent will be able to stand in the faith that no matter what circumstances they see **TODAY** in their children’s lives or in their marriage that God is still in control and can be trusted.
- That each family will not be robbed today of the peace in their household.
- That their children will see the faith of their parents and secure in Him, knowing that God is watching over them.

### **Pray for Egypt:**

- The recent political instability in Egypt has put the Christian community in Egypt in jeopardy; pray for the protection of Christians in Egypt.
- Pray for a return to freedom and democracy for Egypt.
- Pray for Egypt to be a voice of moderation and peace in the Middle East.

*“World missions was on God’s mind from the beginning.” – Dave Davidson*

## Christians in Egypt

*For over 1,000 years Egypt was a Christian majority nation. For several centuries, Egypt was an important center for Christianity, providing some of its greatest theologians. The monastic movement that guided many of the most devout Christians for several centuries originated from the Coptic Church in Egypt.*

*Although reduced in size by centuries of persecution from Muslim rulers, the Coptic Church in Egypt remains the largest body of Christians in the Middle East and is a strategic area from which to evangelize the Middle East and across North Africa. Persecution of Christians in Egypt has increased in intensity with the recent rise in militant Islam. After the fall of longtime President Mubarak and the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Coptic Church came under attack. In 2012, the military forcefully removed the unpopular Muslim rulers and now rule Egypt. Violence against the Church has subsided, but has not completely stopped. Pray for an increase in dialog and tolerance between Muslims and Christians.*

*A very small number of Protestants have come out of the ranks of the Coptic Christians, and are slowly growing in numbers, but they lack the resources and leadership training for going out and making many more disciples. Christian radio and TV broadcasts are reaching larger numbers of Egyptians, along with the Internet, but more needs to be on the ground.*

*Pray for more dynamic leaders to rise up and be trained from all denominations in Egypt. Pray for Christians in Egypt to stand firm in the faith and not to waver in their convictions in this time. Pray also for the Egyptian church to receive a vision for outreach and growth.*

*"I have but one passion: It is He, it is He alone. The world is the field and the field is the world; and henceforth that country shall be my home where I can be most used in winning souls for Christ." – Count Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf*



## Day 30

### “Our God of Second Chances”

**Hebrews 4:15,16** *“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin. Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*

A 17-year-old unmarried, pregnant girl sat in my office a few years ago spouting words of rage. She came to the Crises Pregnancy Center instead of Midtown Women’s Center by ‘mistake’, but agreed to talk before she made any decisions about an abortion. Her parents were to pick her up *after the ‘abortion’*, so when they came in, they were *not* happy.

### **Prayer Directive:**

Little by little, Satan plants lies in the minds of our children – cruel comments, failures in school, even from authority figures outside the home. In all these cases, although it’s painful, this can have only minimal impact when parents show unconditional love of Christ. But if a parent allows their own hurt, pain, or failures to affect their parenting, the results can be devastating. God tells us there is grace and mercy for our past hurts and failures. . . . Back to the girl and her parents. Their expressions told it all – the father dropped his head like a scolded child, and the mother raged insults saying, “I always said she couldn’t help it. Her grandmother’s sorry, I’m sorry, and she’s sorry trash.” My response began with, *‘Ma’am, I’m so glad to hear you say you are sorry and you apologize, because that’s the only way the damage you’ve done to yourself and your daughter can begin to be healed’* The daughter eventually prayed. She went to an unwed mother’s home, and continued to let God heal her damaged understanding of who she is.

**Pray:** That God would Grace us with Mercy and enable us to respond in God’s Grace and Mercy to our children.

Our God is a God of **‘Second Chances!!’**

**Pray for Gambia, Guinea, and Guinea –Bissau**

**“Families Don’t Make Covenants, Fathers Do”**

**Numbers 14:24** *“If it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell, **But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**”*

**Prayer Directive:**

Joshua said these words to God’s People after they entered the Promised Land, but, obviously, he had ***lived these words*** out in a covenant relationship with his family for many years. I believe with all my heart, that something spiritually significant takes place when my husband declares with passion ‘As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.’

I remember as a child, sensing the security that my Dad was a man of integrity, and I could trust him in every situation to prayerfully do what was best for us. I didn’t fully understand all that, but I do remember feeling absolutely safe.

Parents, there is another 100% certain way to give amazing security to your children...Let them see how much you love one another! My kids have run from the room many times yelling ‘Gross’ when they would see their Dad and I run to each other’s arms. They know without a doubt that their parents are prayerfully, totally, absolutely committed to God to our marriage and to them. I want them to remember feeling absolutely safe in that knowledge. It’s ***very important*** that every household –single parent families, grandparents raising grandchildren, two parents – every household know that their commitment to have a family dedicated to God’s Glory is honored and given Greater Strength, I’m sure, because it is needed Greatly.

**Pray:** That every father, mother, grandmother or Guardian will receive Grace, Wisdom, and Provision.

Pray that God will lead every person to seek ways to bless families within our 'church family'.

**Pray for Benin, Togo, and Burkina Faso:**

Do you have a hunger for God?

If we don't feel strong desires for the manifestation of the glory of God, it is not because we have drunk deeply and are satisfied. It is because we have nibbled so long at the table of the world. Our soul is stuffed with small things, and there is no room for the great. If we are full of what the world offers, then perhaps a fast might express, or even increase, our soul's appetite for God. Between the dangers of self-denial and self-indulgence is the path of pleasant pain called fasting.

John Piper

Jesus has many lovers of His kingdom of heaven, but he has few bearers of His Cross. Many desire His consolation, but few desire His tribulation. He finds many comrades in eating and drinking, but He finds few hands who will be with Him in His abstinence and fasting...But those who love Jesus purely for Himself, and not for their own profit or convenience, bless Him as heartily in temptation and tribulation and in all other adversities as they do in time of consolation. And if He never sent them consolation, they would still bless and praise Him.

Thomas a Kempis

## Day 32

### *"Think Like A Servant"*

**Numbers 14:24** "My servant Caleb thinks differently and follows me completely." (God)

Pastor Rick Warren referred to the Scripture above in his best selling book, *“The Purpose Driven Life.”* In the chapter entitled, “Thinking Like a Servant”, I was struck by what God said of Caleb. (Read Numbers 14 to understand the context.) God was about to destroy the Israelites because of their complaining and unwillingness to follow Moses to the Promised Land. Right in the middle of this stinging declaration, He speaks something amazing to Caleb. “... *all those men who have seen My Glory and My signs; which I performed in the wilderness...and have not heeded my Voice. Surely they shall not see the land which I swore to give... nor shall any who provoked Me see it. But with the exception of my servant, Caleb, because he has a different spirit from the others and has followed Me fully*” (22, 23) God was looking at the millions of ‘displeasers’ and saw the God-pleaser.

### **Prayer Directive:**

When we look around us and think that the things we are doing are not noticed of God, **remember Caleb!** When we hear the Voice of God and can’t understand why no one else is moving in ‘His directed leading, **remember Caleb!** We, too, can be that man or woman that God sees ‘above the crowd’ not because of anything other than we have a ‘different attitude or spirit’ about being faithful to God.

God looks for those who would follow Him faithfully in obedience no matter what the millions around them are doing. ***That is passion!***

### **Pray:**

- That we would serve the Him with gladness and with singleness of purpose.
- To be people who are alert to the needs around us; in the Body of Christ and to the world.
- That God would richly bless those among our church family that are ***true servants*** to so many!

### **Pray for Jordan and Syria:**

## **Day 33**

### ***“We Know the End of the Story!”***

John 12:1-2, 9-11 “Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. They made Him a supper, and Martha was serving, and Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him. A great number of Jews learned that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus’ sake only, but that they might see Lazarus, whom He

*raised from the dead. The chief priests took counsel that they might put Lazarus to death also.”*

For 32 days you have sought God, personally and for others, and have asked God to have His Will in your life and in the lives of others. We celebrate Easter Sunday once each year, but every day we may rejoice as resurrected ones! Since we know the ‘end of the story’ – we understand that Lazarus was resurrected. Christ was the “Resurrection and the Life” long before He was raised from the grave! The awesome Truth is, ***we are already raised*** in newness and abundance of Life. Death has lost its fearsomeness. We are beyond its clutches. The Power of His Resurrection is at work in every one who is born again! Christ spoke to Lazarus’ spirit to rejoin his already decaying body. He called his name, “Lazarus, come forth”. When we read this account in John, my heart races, because I know that same Power that caused Lazarus, bound with grave clothes to stand tall in the mouth of a cave – alive and well, has also spoken to many lives in the church to be resurrected...lost souls brought to Life... prisoners set free from bondage...addicts delivered...dreams, once buried as Lazarus had been, to now have holy breath rushing through them again! ***These days of prayer have been amazing!*** You see Lazarus’ name added to the hit list by enemies who want to kill Christ. Why? The resurrection! The hatred of hell is fixed on those who now live because they (we) are living proof of His Resurrection. ***Satan still fights what he fears.***

**Praise:** I can’t imagine that Lazarus showed up in the temple on their Sabbath with a timid testimony! If we are raised from death with Christ, we shout ***“Hosanna, Hosanna to the King!”***  
**Pray for Morocco and Western Sahara:**

## Day 34

### ***“HOSANNA! HOSANNA! TO OUR KING!”***

**John 12:12-15, 17** *“On the next day the great multitude who had come to the feast, when they heard Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him and began to cry out, “Hosanna, Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord, even the King of Israel.” 17 The group that had been with Jesus when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, kept telling it to others that day.”*

One of my favorite writers and speakers, Dr. Mark Rutland, writes of Lazarus after his resurrection. *“Imagine the scene at Bethany’s synagogue on the Saturday after Lazarus’ resurrection. It was packed. They wanted to hear his report, to know what death is like... Shall we entertain the thought that Lazarus shuffled reluctantly to his feet after much coaxing, mumbled some half-baked testimony of God’s goodness and embarrassed, slumped back into his seat?”*

*I think not! I weary of the weary. I grow wearier yearly at timid saints with tepid testimonies, the half-raised who show little sign that the Lord is risen in them. I am confident that Lazarus’ testimony was unrestrained. The listeners were not the bored and bound counting seconds until they can flee for food and fellowship. The problem with people like Lazarus and Jesus is when they play church; they can’t be counted on to play nice.*

When Christ came into Jerusalem riding on the colt with people shouting praises, many were merely caught up in the moment of excitement, but there were those present who had experienced Resurrection. It was the “Lazarus group.”

**Pray:** Lord, let it be again. Send us a few like Lazarus – fresh from the tomb. Having awakened them, send them to awaken us. Remind us of the tomb when you called our name.

**Pray for Chad, Niger, and Nigeria**

## Day 35

### *“He is the Sovereign God”*

**Zechariah 9:9** *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

This prophecy was given by a prophet hundreds of years before it was fulfilled. It’s amazing how the King of Kings rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. This colt had never been ridden, yet it was obedient to bear the weight of the King. A colt was also the royal animal of Jewish monarchs. Every detail according to the Plan of God! But one day, as described in Revelation 19, He will not be riding a donkey, but rather seated in power upon a majestic white horse.

Even though Christ had often spoken of this time, they failed to understand the meaning of this Triumphant Entry. As is true of us, Christ speaks to us through His Word about the things we can expect if we follow Him, but we often don't 'connect the dots'. Too many of us miss the significant spiritual moments in our life, because we are often desensitized by the cares and distractions of this world.

Don't miss what God is saying to you and your church. God is asking us all to be sensitive to what God is asking of His church. During this time, let's not forget our commitment to pray and fast. Let's not be like the crowd that cried praises to His Name and then later forget. What a joy to know He is our Lord and Master!

**Pray:** For opportunities to tell someone who is lost about the Sacrifice of Christ's Death and His Resurrection. This *is the most important* absolute of our Faith. Without the Resurrection, His birth and death would be wonderful stories about a great prophet. ***But, He lives. Every Word is Truth!***

**Pray for Saudi Arabia:**

## Day 36

### "Call to Intercession for our Nation"

#### *"Triumph and Tears"*

**Luke 19:41-44** *"Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."*

Christ wept because He longed to 'gather his People to Himself like a mother hen would gather her little ones'. The saddest statement is, ***'but you would not.'*** Their Messiah was actually walking among them, ***but they would not.***

He wept because He knew of the great punishment that was coming. He knew that in 70 AD, the Roman armies would destroy the beautiful city and knock their holy Temple down and the Jewish people would be scattered throughout the Roman Empire, ***but they would not.***

Christ cried over a lost generation of people. They missed their peace. Their Prince of Peace would be nailed to a Cross. They missed their day that had been prophesied by Daniel centuries before, **but they would not**. Jesus wept over the blindness of those, who having seen, did not see.

**Pray:**

- **For the Peace of Israel.** There is another ‘day’ coming when many Jews will turn to the Messiah.
- That we would weep over the things, He wept over.
- Let us intercede today for our Nation and for our leaders, policemen and women and those in the military.
- For the people we know who are Lost.

**Pray for Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, U.A.E. and Yemen:**

**Day 37**

**“Born to Die”**

**Isaiah 53: 3-7...** *”He was despised and forsaken of men,*

*A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore.*

*And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities: The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open is mouth; **Like a lamb that is led to slaughter.**”*

He was the Sacrificial Lamb. Before he was even two, an assassination plot by Herod was put into motion. By the time He could read, He learned the Old Testament prophecies of His death. Before Mary’s pregnancy hardly was announced, she knew He would be a Passover lamb slaughtered as a sacrifice for sin. She knew that a ‘sword would pierce her heart’. But she pondered these things in her heart.

Christ began preparing His disciples for the bitter reality of His suffering and death. (Mat. 17:22-23 & Mat. 16:21-21) Two days before the storm of His crucifixion, Jesus was in Jerusalem. The city was busier than any other time of

the year with preparations. He had spoken to His disciples about the Passover and again preparing them for the crucifixion.

Mat. 26:1-2 “It came about that when Jesus had finished these words, He said to His disciples, “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man is to be delivered up for crucifixion.”

**Pray:**

- As you come near the close of the 40 Days of Fasting and Prayer, it is time to consecrate yourself and prepare for what God wants to do in your life.

**Pray for Sudan:**

**Day 38**

***“Passover Meal was over...Past Midnight”***

**John 17:1 and 18:1** *“These things Jesus spoke, and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come: glorify Thy Son, that the Son may glorify Thee.”*

*“When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden, into which He Himself entered, and His disciples.”*

The Last Supper was over. Judas had left the table to betray the Lord. It was late, possibly past midnight when Christ and the disciples made their way to the Garden of Gethsemane. The Kidron ravine was on the way to the Garden. A channel led from Jerusalem’s temple altar to this ravine, collecting the blood of more than 256,000 slaughtered lambs sacrificed during the Passover. ***Since the ravine ran red with the blood of these lambs, certainly when Christ crossed it, his heart must have been heavy with the thought that His Blood would be mingled with this blood very soon.***

When you read the 26 verse prayer in John 17:1-26, there are three things on the Lord’s heart that night - His Disciples, the Church and Himself. Christ asked for the unity of His Disciples, *“...I am no more in the world, and I come to Thee. Father, keep them in Thy Name, the Name which Thou hast given Me, that they may be One, even as We are one.”* At the end of His prayer, He asks that His church not be scattered, *“But now I come to Thee:*

*and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My Joy made full in themselves.”*

**PRAY:**

- Looking at His disciples, they were very diverse so unity was no small request. Let’s pray that we also have this kind of unity in our diversity that Christ asked for... not only diversity in our nationalities, but in the ways we are all different from one another.

**Pray for Mauritania, Mali, and Senegal:**

**Day 39**

*“Shepherd Taken...Sheep Scattered”*

**Matthew 26:31** *“Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, ‘I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered.”*

Peter verbalized his undying loyalty. The others fervently echoed Peter’s resolve. But the Words of Christ would stand. The mob arrived. Judas sealed the betrayal and was paid the price of a slave – 30 pieces of silver. The Shepherd was taken captive and the sheep were scattered. The humanness of Christ was never more obvious at that point in the movie “The Passion”. Face stained with tears and dirt, hair matted with sweat, muscles contorted in pain, betrayed by a friend, deserted by all those who had been His closest companions for 3 years, lonely, and enduring a miscarriage of justice that was beyond understanding.

There were six trials that sleepless night. The first three were by the Jewish authorities, and the final three were conducted by the Roman authorities. There were false witnesses, slandering, beatings, a crown of thorns with robe and scepter of mock royalty, more scourging, more mocking. By 9:00 a.m. His hands and feet were nailed to a rough cut cross on Golgatha by a handful of Roman soldiers who happened to be on duty. Noon to three, darkness *fell over the earth*.

Through Adam sin entered God’s Garden, but Christ is the Second Adam “Rom. 5:17 *“For if, by the trespass of one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of*

*grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.*”

**PRAY:** God would burn in our hearts that ‘It is finished’ and with these words, fetters burst, prison walls crumbled, gates which had been closed for thousands of years were thrown open. God is our deliverer!

**Pray for Indonesia**

## Day 40

### *“He Is Risen”*

**Romans 6:4** *“We were therefore buried with him through baptism in to death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life...In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”*

We know the story. Sunday morning, Mary and ‘the women’ came early to the tomb, and saw the stone taken away. The displaced stone revealed an empty tomb! He had risen on the third day just as He had said! The first sighting of the Risen Lord was Sunday morning (John 20:11-17); the second, that evening, the third, eight days later. The people who saw Him were Mary Magdalene, the disciples, and Thomas. He later appeared to men and women, groups and individuals, in a house and on a road. I Cor. 15:6”*The Lord was seen by over five hundred brethren at once.*”

A couple was on the road to Emmaus. Some have thought it was a married couple, but whoever they were, we know they witnessed the life and miracles of Christ, had just left Jerusalem, and their hopes were shattered. They watched the Messiah die a horrific death on a cross. Their conversations are filled with statements of **‘I had thought’** and **‘I had hoped’**. Their hopes and dreams are swallowed up in doubt.

But a **Stranger** joined them on their journey and asked ‘what things had happened’ in Jerusalem that had brought such despair. They opened their hearts, and at their invitation, he shared a meal with them in their home. A meal becomes a *remembrance meal* of their Lord’s torn body and shed blood. While He is speaking, Jesus is revealed in his Resurrected Body to this despairing couple! Their Lord was risen!

**Pray:** That every Sunday morning when your church meets, all will see the Resurrection Power of Jesus Christ that was first revealed on Easter morning.

*Praise the Lord!*

*This concludes your forty days of fasting and prayer!*

**Pray for Missionaries in the 1040 Window:**

Western Sahara is a disputed territory on the northwest coast of Africa bordered by Morocco, Mauritania, and Algeria. After Spain withdrew from its former colony of Spanish Sahara in 1976, Morocco annexed the northern two-thirds of Western Sahara and claimed the rest of the territory in 1979, following Mauritania's withdrawal. A guerrilla war with the Polisario Front contesting Morocco's sovereignty ended in a 1991 cease-fire and the establishment of a UN peacekeeping operation. As part of this effort, the UN sought to offer a choice to the peoples of the Western Sahara between independence (favored by the Polisario Front) or integration into Morocco. A proposed referendum never took place due to lack of agreement on voter eligibility. The 2,700 km- (1,700 mi-) long defensive sand berm, built by the Moroccans from 1980 to 1987 and running the length of the territory, continues to separate the opposing forces with Morocco controlling the roughly 80 percent of the territory west of the berm. Local demonstrations criticizing the Moroccan authorities occur regularly, and there are periodic ethnic tensions between the native Sahrawi population and Moroccan immigrants. Morocco maintains a heavy security presence in the territory.

More Prayer and Intercession Quotes

*Some people pray just to pray and some people pray to know God.* Andrew Murray

*There is a mighty lot of difference between saying prayers and praying.* John G. Lake

*You may pray for an hour and still not pray. You may meet God for a moment and then be in touch with Him all day.* Fredrik Wisloff

*I have so much to do that I spend several hours in prayer before I am able to do it.* John Wesley

*Always respond to every impulse to pray. The impulse to pray may come when you are reading or when you are battling with a text. I would make an absolute law of this – always obey such an impulse.* Martyn Lloyd-Jones

*One can believe intellectually in the efficacy of prayer and never do any praying.* Catherine Marshall

*Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?* Corrie Ten Boom

*Of all the duties enjoined by Christianity none is more essential and yet more neglected than prayer.* François Fénelon

*The only way to Heaven is prayer; a prayer of the heart, which every one is capable of, and not of reasonings which are the fruits of study, or exercise of the imagination, which, in filling the mind with wandering objects, rarely settle it; instead of warming the heart with love to God, they leave it cold and languishing.* Jeanne Guyon

*We must alter our lives in order to alter our hearts, for it is impossible to live one way and pray another.* William Law

*Is the Son of God praying in me, or am I dictating to Him? Prayer is not simply getting things from God, which is a most initial form of prayer; prayer is getting into perfect communion with God. If the Son of God is formed in us by regeneration, He will press forward in front of our common sense and change our attitude to the things about which we pray.* Oswald Chambers

*Those who know God the best are the richest and most powerful in prayer. Little acquaintance with God, and strangeness and coldness to Him, make prayer a rare and feeble thing.* E. M. Bounds

*There is a general kind of praying which fails for lack of precision. It is as if a regiment of soldiers should all fire off their guns anywhere. Possibly somebody would be killed, but the majority of the enemy would be missed.* Charles Haddon Spurgeon

*When a Christian shuns fellowship with other Christians, the devil smiles. When he stops studying the Bible, the devil laughs. When he stops praying, the devil shouts for joy.* Corrie Ten Boom

*When I pray, coincidences happen, and when I don't pray, they don't.* William Temple

*Faith in a prayer-hearing God will make a prayer-loving Christian.* Andrew Murray

*Do you know what prayer is? It is not begging God for this and that. The first thing we have to do is to get you beggars to quit begging until a little faith moves in your souls.* John G. Lake

*Those who do not believe do not pray. This is a good functional definition of faith. Faith prays, unbelief does not.* John A. Hardon

*Pray, and let God worry.* Martin Luther  
*Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers, pray for powers equal to your task.* Phillips Brooks

*This is our Lord's will... that our prayer and our trust be, alike, large.* Julian of Norwich

*If you can't pray a door open, don't pry it open.* Lyell Rader

*God's answers are wiser than our prayers.* –Unknown

*There are more tears shed over answered prayers than over unanswered prayers.* Teresa of Avila

*We lean to our own understanding, or we bank on service and do away with prayer, and consequently by succeeding in the external we fail in the eternal, because in the eternal we succeed only by prevailing prayer.* Oswald Chambers

*The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men...Men of prayer."* E. M. Bounds

*Prayer in its highest form is agonizing soul sweat.* Leonard Ravenhill

*Let the fires go out in the boiler room of the church and the place will still look smart and clean, but it will be cold. The Prayer Room is the boiler room for its spiritual life.* Leonard Ravenhill

*How different the world would look, how different the state of our nation would be, if there were more sanctified priestly souls! These are souls who have the power to bless, for they intercede with sanctified hearts. They never begin their daily time of intercessory prayer without having first brought to the cross all that is unholy in their lives, so that their old self can be crucified there with Jesus, the sacrificial Lamb.* Basilea Schlink

*The Church has not yet touched the fringe of the possibilities of intercessory prayer. Her largest victories will be witnessed when individual Christians everywhere come to recognize their priesthood unto God and day by day give themselves unto prayer.* John R. Mott

*I must secure more time for private devotions. I have been living far too public for me. The shortening of devotions starves the soul, it grows lean and faint. I have been keeping too late hours.* William Wilberforce

*We hear it said that a man will suffer in his life if he does not pray; I question it. What will suffer is the life of the Son of God within him, which is nourished not by food but by prayer...Prayer is the way the life of God is nourished.* Oswald Chambers

*So when we sing, 'Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,' we are not thinking of the nearness of place, but of the nearness of relationship. It is for increasing degrees of awareness that we pray, for a more perfect consciousness of the divine Presence. We need never shout across the spaces*

*to an absent God. He is nearer than our own soul, closer than our most secret thoughts.* A.W. Tozer

*The lover of silence draws close to God. He talks to Him in secret and God enlightens him.* John Climacus

*Tell God all that is in your heart, as one unloads one's heart, its pleasures and its pains, to a dear friend. Tell God your troubles, that God may comfort you; tell God your joys, that God may sober them; tell God your longings, that God may purify them; tell God your dislikes, that God may help you conquer them; talk to God of your temptations, that God may shield you from them: show God the wounds of your heart, that God may heal them. If you thus pour out all your weaknesses, needs, troubles, there will be no lack of what to say. Talk out of the abundance of the heart, without consideration say just what you think. Blessed are they who attain to such familiar, unreserved intercourse with God.* Francois Fenelon

*Our ordinary views of prayer are not found in the New Testament. We look upon prayer as a means for getting something for ourselves; the Bible idea of prayer is that we may get to know God Himself.* Oswald Chambers

*Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons; but they are helpless against our prayers.* J. Sidlow Baxter

*Notice, we never pray for folks we gossip about, and we never gossip about the folk for whom we pray! For prayer is a great deterrent.* Leonard Ravenhill

*A servant of the Lord stands bodily before men, but mentally he is knocking at the gates of heaven with prayer.* John Climacus

*It is necessary to rouse the heart to pray, otherwise it will become quite dry. The attributes of prayer must be: love of God, sincerity, and simplicity.* John of Kronstadt

*Whether we think of or speak to God; whether we act or suffer for him; all is prayer when we have no other object than his love, and the desire of pleasing him.* John Wesley

*Accustom yourself gradually to carry Prayer into all your daily occupation – speak, act, work in peace, as if you were in prayer, as indeed you ought to be.* François Fénelon

*The true spirit of prayer is no other than God's own Spirit dwelling in the hearts of the saints. And as this spirit comes from God, so doth it naturally tend to God in holy breathings and pantings. It naturally leads to God, to converse with him by prayer.* Jonathan Edwards

*God does not stand afar off as I struggle to speak. He cares enough to listen with more than casual attention. He translates my scrubby words and hears what is truly inside. He hears my sighs and uncertain gropings as fine prose.* Timothy Jones

*Prayer is not a discourse. It is a form of life, the life with God. That is why it is not confined to the moment of verbal statement.* Jacques Ellul

*In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart.* John Bunyan

*When a man has found the Lord, he no longer has to use words when he is praying, for the Spirit Himself will intercede for him with groans that cannot be uttered.* John Climacus

*Prayer is not so much an act as it is an attitude—an attitude of dependency, dependency upon God.* Arthur W. Pink

*There is not in the world a kind of life more sweet and delightful than that of a continual conversation with God.* Brother Lawrence

*Prayer does not fit us for the greater work, prayer is the greater work.* Oswald Chambers

*I would rather train twenty men to pray, than a thousand to preach; A minister's highest mission ought to be to teach his people to pray.* H. MacGregor

## World Missions Quotes

'Somewhere along the way we have subtly and tragically taken the costly command of Christ to go, baptize, and teach all nations and mutated it into a comfortable call for Christians to come, be baptized, and listen in one location.' — **David Platt**

"The greatest missionary is the Bible in the mother tongue. It needs no furlough and is never considered a foreigner." – **William Cameron**

### **Townsend**

"The Lord did not tell us to build beautiful churches, but to evangelize the world" — **Oswald J. Smith**

"The great Pioneer Missionaries all had 'inverted homesickness' this passion to call that country their home which was most in need of the Gospel. In this passion all other passions died; before this vision all other visions faded; this call drowned all other voices. They were the pioneers of the Kingdom, the forelopers of God, eager to cross the border-marches and discover new lands or win new-empires" – **Samuel Zwemer**

"If there is no passionate love for Christ at the center of everything, we will only jingle and jangle our way across the world, merely making a noise as we go" – **William Wilberforce speaking of the Moravians missionaries**

"Does it not stir up our hearts, to go forth and help them, does it not make us long to leave our luxury, our exceeding abundant light, and go to them that sit in darkness?" — **Amy Carmichael**

Missions is not about "What can I spare?" The question is "What's it going to take?" Risk. Abandon. Sacrifice. Radical dependence on Christ. Everything. Are you passionately committed to God's glory among all peoples? —

### **AsiaLink Worker**

"Some wish to live within the sound of a chapel bell; I wish to run a rescue mission within a yard of hell." – **C.T. Studd**

"If the Great Commission is true, our plans are not too big; they are too small." – **Pat Morley**

"If missions languish, it is because the whole life of godliness is feeble. The

command to go everywhere and preach to everybody is not obeyed until the will is lost by self-surrender in the will of God. Living, praying, giving and going will always be found together." – **Arthur T. Pierson**

"'Go ye' is as much a part of Christ's Gospel as 'Come unto Me.' You are not even a Christian until you have honestly faced your responsibility in regard to the carrying of the Gospel to the ends of the earth." – **J. Stuart Holden**

"I believe that in each generation God has called enough men and women to evangelize all the yet unreached tribes of the earth. It is not God who does not call. It is man who will not respond!" – **Isobel Kuhn, missionary to China and Thailand**

"God is a God of missions. He wills missions. He commands missions. He demands missions. He made missions possible through His Son. He made missions actual in sending the Holy Spirit." – **George W. Peters**

"Here am I, send me; send me to the ends of the earth; send me to the rough, the savage lost of the wilderness; send me from all that is called comfort on earth; send me even to death itself, if it be but in your service, and to promote your kingdom" – **David Brainerd**

"The best remedy for a sick church is to put it on a missionary diet." – **Unknown**

"As long as there are millions destitute of the Word of God and knowledge of Jesus Christ, it will be impossible for me to devote time and energy to those who have both." – **J. L. Ewen**

"The command has been to 'go,' but we have stayed – in body, gifts, prayer and influence. He has asked us to be witnesses unto the uttermost parts of the earth ... but 99% of Christians have kept puttering around in the homeland." – **Robert Savage, Latin American Mission**

"People who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives ... and when the bubble has burst, they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted." – **Nate Saint, missionary martyr**

"We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God." – **John Stott**

"Believers who have the gospel keep mumbling it over and over to

themselves. Meanwhile, millions who have never heard it once fall into the flames of eternal hell without ever hearing the salvation story." – **K.P.**

**Yohannan, founder of Gospel for Asia Bible Society**

"Tell the students to give up their small ambitions and come eastward to preach the gospel of Christ." – **Francis Xavier, missionary to India, the Philippines, and Japan**

"The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity, but its sending capacity." – **Mike Stachura**

"Never pity missionaries; envy them. They are where the real action is – where life and death, sin and grace, Heaven and Hell converge." – **Robert C. Shannon**

"People who don't believe in missions have not read the New Testament. Right from the beginning Jesus said the field is the world. The early church took Him at His word and went East, West, North and South." – **J. Howard Edington**

"It is possible for the most obscure person in a church, with a heart right toward God, to exercise as much power for the evangelization of the world, as it is for those who stand in the most prominent positions." – **John R. Mott**

"Love is the root of missions; sacrifice is the fruit of missions" – **Roderick Davis**

"Missionary zeal does not grow out of intellectual beliefs, nor out of theological arguments, but out of love" – **Roland Allen**

"I have but one passion: It is He, it is He alone. The world is the field and the field is the world; and henceforth that country shall be my home where I can be most used in winning souls for Christ." – **Count Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf**

"If you take missions out of the Bible, you won't have anything left but the covers" – **Nina Gunter**

"If the Church is 'in Christ,' she is involved in mission. Her whole existence then has a missionary character. Her conduct as well as her words will convince the unbelievers and put their ignorance and stupidity to silence." – **David Bosch**

"The concern for world evangelization is not something tacked on to a man's personal Christianity, which he may take or leave as he chooses. It is rooted in the character of the God who has come to us in Christ Jesus. Thus, it can never be the province of a few enthusiasts, a sideline or a specialty of those who happen to have a bent that way. It is the distinctive mark of being a Christian." – **James S. Stewart**

"The average pastor views his church as a local church with a missions program; while he ought to realize that if he is in fact pastoring a church, it is to be a global church with a missions purpose." – **Unknown**

The printed page is a missionary that can go anywhere and do so at minimum cost. It enters closed lands and reaches all strata of society. It does not grow weary. It needs no furlough. It lives longer than any missionary. It never gets ill. It penetrates through the mind to the heart and conscience. It has and is producing results everywhere. It has often lain dormant yet retained its life and bloomed years later. -- **Samuel Zwemer**

"The Christian is not obedient unless he is doing all in his power to send the Gospel to the heathen world." – **A. B. Simpson**

"A God-centered theology has to be a missionary theology" — **John Piper**

"Missions is the overflow of our delight in God because missions is the overflow of God's delight in being God." – **John Piper**

"God is pursuing with omnipotent passion a worldwide purpose of gathering joyful worshipers for Himself from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. He has an inexhaustible enthusiasm for the supremacy of His name among the nations. Therefore, let us bring our affections into line with His, and, for the sake of His name, let us renounce the quest for worldly comforts and join His global purpose." – **John Piper**

"Go, send, or disobey." – **John Piper**

"The reason some folks don't believe in missions is that the brand of religion they have isn't worth propagating." – **unknown**

When **James Calvert** went out as a missionary to the cannibals of the Fiji Islands, the ship captain tried to turn him back, saying, "You will lose your life and the lives of those with you if you go among such savages." To that, Calvert replied, "We died before we came here."

"The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time" – **Carl F. H. Henry**

"World missions was on God's mind from the beginning." – **Dave Davidson**

"Let my heart be broken with the things that break God's heart" – **Bob Pierce, World Vision founder**

"If ten men are carrying a log – nine of them on the little end and one at the heavy end – and you want to help, which end will you lift on?" – **William Borden, as he reflected on the numbers of Christian workers in the U.S. as compared to those among unreached peoples**

"If God calls you to be a missionary, don't stoop to be a king" – **Jordan Grooms**

"We talk of the Second Coming; half the world has never heard of the first." – **Oswald J. Smith**

"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." – **C.T. Studd**

"God cannot lead you on the basis of facts that you do not know." – **David Bryant**

"No one has the right to hear the gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once." – **Oswald J. Smith**

"Any church that is not seriously involved in helping fulfill the Great Commission has forfeited its biblical right to exist." – **Oswald J. Smith**

"The mission of the church is missions" – **Oswald J. Smith**

"The nations are not gathered in automatically. If God has promised to bless "all the families of the earth," he has promised to do so "through Abraham's seed" (Genesis 12:3, 22:18). Now we are Abraham's seed by faith, and the earth's families will be blessed only if we go to them with the gospel. That is God's plain purpose." – **John R.W. Stott**

"If a commission by an earthly king is considered a honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?" – **David Livingstone**

"Sympathy is no substitute for action." – **David Livingstone, missionary to Africa**

"The Bible is not the basis of missions; missions is the basis of the Bible" –  
**Ralph Winter, U.S. Center for World Mission**

"If God would grant us the vision, the word sacrifice would disappear from our lips and thoughts; we would hate the things that seem now so dear to us; our lives would suddenly be too short, we would despise time-robbing distractions and charge the enemy with all our energies in the name of Christ." – **Nate Saint, two weeks before he was martyred**

"As we have a high old time this Christmas may we who know Christ hear the cry of the damned as they hurtle headlong into the Christless night without ever a chance. May we be moved with compassion as our Lord was. May we shed tears of repentance for these we have failed to bring out of darkness. Beyond the smiling scenes of Bethlehem may we see the crushing agony of Golgotha" – **Nate Saint, two weeks before he was martyred by the Aucas**

*"In the vast plain to the north I have sometimes seen, in the morning sun, the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary has ever been"* –  
**Robert Moffat**

And Jonah stalked to his shaded seat and waited for God to come around to his way of thinking. And God is still waiting for a host of Jonahs in their comfortable houses to come around to his way of loving. – "You Jonah" by  
**Thomas Carlisle**

"It's not that God has a mission for his Church in the world, but that God has a Church for his mission in the world" – **Chris Wright**

"Today Christians spend more money on dog food than missions" – **Leonard Ravenhill**

"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed" – **Hudson Taylor**

"A congregation that is not deeply and earnestly involved in the worldwide proclamation of the gospel does not understand the nature of salvation." – **Ted Engstrom, World Vision**

"To stay here and disobey God – I can't afford to take the consequence. I would rather go and obey God than to stay here and know that I disobeyed." –  
**Amanda Berry Smith**

"The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become." – **Henry Martyn, missionary to India and Persia**

O Christian! do not falter,  
The harvest field is white,  
And many souls are sinking

Into eternal night.

— **William E. Penn**

"I wasn't God's first choice for what I've done for China. I don't know who it was. It must have been a man—a well-educated man. I don't know what happened. Perhaps he died. Perhaps he wasn't willing. And God looked down... and saw Gladys Aylward. And God said, 'Well, she's willing.'" –

**Gladys Aylward**

"I am ready to burn out for God. I am ready to endure any hardship, if by any means I might save some. The longing of my heart is to make known my glorious Redeemer to those who have never heard." – **William Burns**

**Evangelism**

"Someone asked Will the heathen who have never heard the Gospel be saved? It is more a question with me whether we – who have the Gospel and fail to give it to those who have not – can be saved." – **Charles Spurgeon**

"You want Beautiful Feet, skip the pedicure? Share the Gospel!" — **Living Waters**

"Put legs to your prayers" — **Ray Comfort**

"How shall I feel at the Judgement, if multitudes of missed opportunities pass before me in full review, and all my excuses prove to be disguises of my cowardice and price" – **Dr. W. E. Sangster**

"Our God of Grace often gives us a second chance, but there is no second chance to harvest a ripe crop." – **Kurt von Schleicher**

"This generation of Christians is responsible for this generation of souls on the earth!" – **Keith Green**

"If you found a cure for cancer, wouldn't it be inconceivable to hide it from the rest of mankind? How much more inconceivable to keep silent the cure from the eternal wages of death." – **Dave Davidson**

"All roads lead to the judgment seat of Christ." – **Keith Green**

"We are debtors to every man to give him the gospel in the same measure in which we have received it" – **P.F. Bresee, founder of the Church of the Nazarene**

**Prayer**

"One of the great uses of Twitter and Facebook will be to prove at the Last Day that prayerlessness was not from lack of time." — **John Piper**

"The motive is this, 'Oh! that God could be glorified, that Jesus might see the reward of his sufferings! Oh! that sinners might be saved, so that God might have new tongues to praise him, new hearts to love him! Oh! that sin were put an end to, that the holiness, righteousness, mercy, and power of God might be

magnified!’ This is the way to pray; when thy prayers seek God’s glory, it is God’s glory to answer thy prayers.” **C. H. Spurgeon**

"The history of missions is the history of answered prayer." – **Samuel Zwemer**

“Prayer is primarily a wartime walkie–talkie for the mission of the church as it advances against the powers of darkness and unbelief. It is not surprising that prayer malfunctions when we try to make it a domestic intercom to call upstairs for more comforts in the den...Until you know that life is war, you cannot know what prayer is for: Prayer is for the accomplishment of a wartime mission.” – **John Piper**

“No erudition, no purity of diction, no width of mental outlook, no flowers of eloquence, no grace of person can atone for lack of fire. Prayer ascends by fire. Flame gives prayer access as well as wings, acceptance as well as energy. There is no incense without fire; no prayer without flame.” – **E. M. Bounds**

“Bear up the hands that hang down, by faith and prayer; support the tottering knees. Have you any days of fasting and prayer? Storm the throne of grace and persevere therein, and mercy will come down.” – **John Wesley**

“Whole days and weeks have I spent prostrate on the ground in silent or vocal prayer.” – **George Whitefield**

"Prayer is the mighty engine that is to move the missionary work." – **A.B. Simpson**

“Prayer is not a preparation for the battle; it is the battle!” – **Leonard Ravenhill**

“Almost everyone believes that prayer is important. But there is a difference between believing that prayer is important and believing it is essential. ‘Essential’ means there are things that will not happen without prayer.” – **Dee Duke**

“I have felt the impact of your prayer in these past weeks. I am certain now that nothing has had a more powerful influence on this life of mine than your prayers.” – **Jim Elliot**

“Be much alone with God, and take time to get thoroughly acquainted. Converse over everything with Him. Unburden yourself wholly –every thought, feeling, wish, plan, doubt– to Him...He wants not merely to be on good terms with you, but to be intimate.” – **Horatius Bonar**

“We all have to wait until the astonishing discoveries will one day be made, and find out whose faithful prayer in hospitals, prisons, jungles, wheelchairs,

crowded city apartments, cabins in the woods, farms, factories, or concentration camps has been a part of a specific victory in snatching someone from a circle of death, or in breaking chains so that there seems to be an ease for that one in stepping into new life. I feel sure that we'll be surprised beyond measure to discover who or how many will receive the rewards for their part in taking literally and with simple faith and trust the responsibility to intercede, to pray, to make requests day in and day out." – **Edith Schaeffer**  
"...to pray in the Spirit, to speak words that reach and touch God, that affect and influence the powers of the unseen world – such praying, such speaking, depends entirely upon our hearing of God's voice." – **Andrew Murray**  
"Pray for great things, expect great things, work for great things, but above all pray." – **R.A. Torrey**

"We never know how God will answer our prayers, but we can expect that He will get us involved in His plan for the answer. If we are true intercessors, we must be ready to take part in God's work on behalf of the people for whom we pray." – **Corrie Ten Boom**

"We will only advance in our evangelistic work as fast and as far as we advance on our knees. Prayer opens the channel between a soul and God; prayerlessness closes it. Prayer releases the grip of Satan's power; prayerlessness increases it. That is why prayer is so exhausting and so vital. If we believed it, the prayer meeting would be as full as the church." – **Alan Redpath**

"It is true that Bible prayers in word and print are short, but the praying men of the Bible were with God through many a sweet and holy wrestling hour. They won by few words but long waiting." – **E. M. Bounds**

"I believe it will only be known on the Last Day how much has been accomplished in missionary work by the prayers of earnest believers at home...I do earnestly covet a volume of prayer for my...work – but oh! for a volume of faith too. Will you give this? – **James Fraser**

"The whole idea of the prayers of the saints is that God's holiness, God's purpose, God's ways may be brought about irrespective of who comes or goes." – **Oswald Chambers**

### **Faith**

"Unless there is the element of extreme risk in our exploits for God, there is no need for faith". -- **Hudson Taylor**

'I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food' — **Job**

"The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me." — **Martin Luther**

"A little while, we are in eternity; before we find ourselves there, let us do much for Christ." — **Ann Judson**

"People do not drift toward Holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated." — **D.A. Carson**

Radical obedience to Christ is not easy... It's not comfort, not health, not wealth, and not prosperity in this world. Radical obedience to Christ risks losing all these things. But in the end, such risk finds its reward in Christ. And he is more than enough for us." — **David Platt, Radical**

'Don't bother to give God instructions, just report for duty' -- **Corrie Ten Boom**

The chief end of man is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever — **Westminster Catechism**

"All my friends are but one, but He is all sufficient." — **William Carey**

"Two distinguishing marks of the early church were: 1) Poverty 2) Power." — **T.J. Bach**

"Little faith will get you to heaven. Great faith will bring heaven to you". — **David Legge**

"Let us daily strive to copy our Saviour's humility." — **J.C. Ryle**

"A baptism of holiness, a demonstration of godly living is the crying need of our day." — **Duncan Campbell**

"Come as the fire, and purge our hearts with sacrificial flame; let our whole soul an offering be to our Redeemer's Name". — **Andrew Reed**

"I am immortal until God's work for me to do is done. The Lord reigns." -- **Henry Martyn**

"Every Christian should be both conservative and radical; conservative in preserving the faith and radical in applying it." — **John Stott**

Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise...Blessed are those whose strength is in you...blessed is the one who trusts in you! —

**David**

“Give me the love that leads the way, The faith that nothing can dismay, The hope no disappointments tire, The passion that will burn like fire, Let me not sink to be a clod: Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God”. – **Amy Carmichael**  
'God, I pray Thee, light these idle sticks of my life and may I burn for Thee. Consume my life, my God, for it is Thine. I seek not a long life, but a full one, like you, Lord Jesus.' — **Jim Elliot**.

"Many of us are missing something in life because we are after the second best, I put before you what I have found to be the best – one who is worthy of all our devotion – Jesus Christ. He is the Saviour for the young and the old. Lord, here I am" – **Eric Liddell, Olympic gold medalist and missionary to China**

"It is Surrender" – **Eric Liddell on his death-bed**

"Oh, that I could spend every moment of my life to God's glory!" -- **David Brainerd**

"Going to church doesn't make you a christian any more than going to McDonald's makes you a hamburger." — **Keith Green**

"Desire that your life count for something great! Long for your life to have eternal significance. Want this! Don't coast through life without a passion." — **John Piper, Don't Waste Your Life**

"Nothing so clears the vision and lifts up the life, as a decision to move forward in what you know to be entirely the will of the Lord." -- **John Paton**

'No sound system. No band. No guitar. No entertainment. No cushioned chairs. No heating or air-con. Nothing but the people of God and the word of God. And strangely, that's enough. God's Word is enough for millions of believers who gather in house churches... Jungles... Rainforests, and middle-eastern cities. But is his Word enough for us?' -- **David Platt, Radical**

"The will of God – nothing less, nothing more, nothing else." – **F. E. Marsh**

“Beware of reasoning about God’s Word—obey it”. – **Oswald Chambers**

"Resolution One: I will live for God. Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will" -- **Jonathan Edwards**

“The Gospel is not an old, old story, freshly told. It is a fire in the Spirit, fed by the flame of Immortal Love; and woe unto us, if through our negligence to stir up the Gift of God which is within us, that fire burns low.” – **Dr. R. Moffat Gautrey**

"Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God" – **William Carey**

"To know the will of God, we need an open Bible and an open map." – **William Carey**

"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose" – **Jim Elliot, missionary martyr**

### **Compassion**

"You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving." – **Amy Carmichael, missionary to India**

Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked — **Ps 82:3,4**

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." - **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

"Jesus will judge us not only for what we did, but also for what we could have done and didn't." -- **George Otis**

"Suffering is forced upon our brothers and sisters. To those of us not experiencing the normality of persecution, Jesus is asking that we participate willingly in their suffering and chains... Through our prayers, we can be agents of God's divine healing, hope and help." – K.P. Yohannan

## **BIBLES FOR ALL MINISTRIES, INC.**

### **Ministry Overview**

#### ***Vision and Mission***

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***Vision: "The Word of God is a human right!"***

*Every human being has a God given right to have and to hear the Gospel of the Kingdom!*

**Mission:** “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 all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (*Matthew 28:19, 20*)

**Faith:** Bibles for All (BfA) Ministries agrees with our Lord Jesus Christ when He answered the first temptation of the devil by quoting the Word of God saying, “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God*” (*Matthew 4:4*).

Every word of God is important. However, the Word of God is often summarized by a doctrinal statement or creed that reflects the thoughts consistent with its teachings. We quote here the Apostle’s Creed, which is almost as ancient as the New Testament, and is widely accepted throughout the Body of Christ:

*“I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.”*

## ***Calling and History***

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Bibles for All Ministries, Inc., is dedicated to bringing the good news of Jesus to people who are in the underdeveloped and/or restricted areas of the world. We emphasize the importance of working with and for the people

who live in the areas least reached by the Gospel. BfA makes every effort to prevent duplication of work and ministry—hence our commitment to partnerships—especially with indigenous ministries. We believe that our efforts must be concentrated on the rural communities, where 80% of the people live in thousands of villages spread across the vast interior of South Asia. Our efforts are mostly concentrated on these unreached communities.

The vision for the ministry originated in 1982 by its late founder, Frank Kaleb Jansen:

*“As a child I grew up in a home often visited by missionaries from around the world. Our little church of less than 150 members had three missionaries as far away as you can get from Norway, and I thought as a young boy that I should also be a missionary. This idea planted within me began to bear fruit in the early 1980s. It was the Cold War. Strikes ran rampant and martial law ruled Poland. In the midst of this, Bibles for All was born as a result of a campaign we started to bring truckloads of food into that suffering communistic country. While delivering food, we had an urgent request for “spiritual food”—Bibles. As a part of the Bible to Poland event, I had traveled to Washington DC. The first night in the hotel I could not sleep. Spending some time in prayer, I almost audibly heard our Lord say, “I have more peoples than the Polish who have not heard My word. These peoples are unknown to the Church. They are like ‘blank spots’ on the world map of Christianity. This Gospel of the Kingdom must first be preached to all nations—then the end shall come.” That sleepless November night in Washington DC in 1982, Bibles for All was birthed—first as an idea expressed in the Word, that later became the vision and slogan for the ministry when BfA was constituted.”*

~ Frank

*Kaleb Jansen*

Bibles for All was incorporated as a nonprofit in Norway in 1982. For 13 years (until 1995), BfA distributed Bibles in Poland and in the former U.S.S.R. In 1987, BfA was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in the U.S., and received its 501c3 tax exempt designation in 1998. During this time the organization partnered with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) to help educate a new generation of youth going into missions. Then in 1994, Bob Binkley took over the U.S. branch of BfA. In 1996, Bob’s family and the ministry moved to the metro-Atlanta area and began partnering with the Himalaya Evangelical Mission which operates in the South Asian countries of India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. From 2002 until 2004, BfA partnered with Friends of Uganda to distribute Bibles and to find homes for children orphaned by war and disease. Also in 2002, BfA began partnering with a ministry in Pakistan to provide aid to the persecuted and neglected in that country and we continue to work with them to support pastors, a village school and other needs as they arise. In 2008, BfA began a partnership with Fred Osborn and the ministry he founded—Jesus Over India. Since that time, Fred has joined with BfA as Field Director in India and continues to work full-time teaching, preaching and discipling believers throughout India, under the BfA ministry umbrella.

### ***Current Ministry Programs***

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1. **Delivering the Word of God:** A key part of BfA’s ministry (as our name implies) is Bible distribution to those who do not have Bibles of their own in their own language. Bibles for All does this by:
  - a. Purchasing and distributing Bibles and portions of the Bible
  - b. Providing audio scriptures to those who are not able to read
  - c. Sending evangelists to share the good news of Jesus

In 2010, Bibles for All helped the Himalaya Evangelical Mission by purchasing and distributing 1,200 Bibles and sharing the Gospel Story with over 10,000 people in India; BfA’s team in Pakistan purchased and delivered 800 Bibles throughout that region; and BfA—through “Jesus Over India”—purchased and distributed 500 Bibles throughout India in addition to supplying a projector for an India film team to show a film on the life of Jesus to remote villages.

2. **Discipling & Teaching:** There is a great need for Bible teaching and equipping for India pastors, evangelists, and lay leaders alike. BfA provides quality Bible teachers and study materials to equip these groups of people to “rightly handle the Word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). One such study guide, “This Gospel of the Kingdom”—written by BfA’s India Field Director—was launched in the Tamil language translation and approximately 500 students have completed this certificate course in Tamil, Telugu, and Oriya languages. In 2009, we taught our first group of village pastors a six-month New Testament Survey course, also written by our India Field Director.
3. **Supporting the Persecuted Church:** Many Christians in the U.S. do not realize the dangers believers in South Asia face because of their faith. Christians all across India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and other countries in the region are often threatened and abused because of their faith. Bibles for All ministers to these believers by visiting them whenever it is possible, and doing the best we can to help with their needs.
4. **Evangelism:** Supporting and participating in the efforts of indigenous workers to share the gospel in India is an ongoing part of what we do. Although BfA’s Field Director is headquartered in the city of Hyderabad, he travels from one end of the country to the other with Indian pastors, evangelists and church planters.
5. **Distributing & Developing Bible Study Materials**—one of Bibles for All’s major projects in India is translating and making available “This Gospel of the Kingdom Study Guide” (written by BfA’s India Field Director) and other Bible study materials—in all sixteen major languages in India. Most of the quality Bible study materials in India are available in English only, which does not help the average Christian in India. In 2010, BfA distributed approximately 4,000 Bible commentaries and study materials in the languages of India.

### ***Results-to-Date***

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The following are some of Bibles for All Ministries' major milestones and accomplishments:

- **1982**—Vision for BfA birthed and incorporated as nonprofit in Norway
- **1982-1995**—BfA distributes Bibles in Poland and in the U.S.S.R.
- **1987**—BfA incorporates as a nonprofit organization in the U.S.
- **1995**—BfA begins partnering with Himalaya Evangelical Mission in South Asia
- **1998**—BfA receives its U.S. 501c3 tax exempt determination
- **2001**—Fred Osborn launches Jesus Over India Ministries after his first India mission trip
- **2002-2004**—BfA partners with Friends of Uganda to distribute Bibles and to find homes for children orphaned by war or disease.
- **2002**—BfA begins partnering with a ministry in Pakistan to provide aid to the persecuted and neglected in that country
- **2005**—Fred Osborn becomes a full-time missionary to India
- **2006**—Fred Osborn conducts meetings and conferences in India on prayer and leadership for pastors, evangelists and lay leaders in India
- **2007**—Pastors and church leaders in Tamil Nadu were given two days of teaching on Servant Leadership by a visiting pastor from the U.S. (hosted by Jesus Over India) —Fred Osborn authors/launches “This Gospel of the Kingdom” study in Tamil language
- **2008**—BfA partners with Fred Osborn and Jesus Over India
  - Jesus Over India launches “Seven Laws of Jesus the Teacher” seminar
- **2009**—Fred Osborn joins BfA as India Field Director
  - BfA launches “Full Armor of God” and “Principles of Biblical Leadership” seminars
- **2010**—BfA conducts nine (9) well-attended Bible seminars in the following areas of India: Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and across Karnataka; Five hundred (500) Bibles and 4,000 Bible study books and commentaries were distributed to village pastors during these conferences —Launched updated Web site with online PayPal donation functionality, along with ability to purchase Bibles and other materials online

## *Goals for 2011 and Beyond*

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1. **Delivering the Word of God:** BfA's goal is to distribute 5,000 Bibles or Bible portions to new Christians in South Asia through our partners in India, Nepal and Pakistan.
2. **Discipling & Teaching:** Teach "This Gospel of the Kingdom" study guide to pastors and lay leaders in Orissa, India, and distribute copies for them to teach others; Conduct more leadership conferences; Train 1,000 village pastors throughout India through Bible teaching and study guide materials; Launch an "Old Testament Survey" study for pastors in Andhra Pradesh, India, along with "The Legacy of Women in the Bible" study groups for women in the villages of Andhra Pradesh (Tamil translation).
3. **Supporting the Persecuted Church:** Visit the persecuted church in Orissa, and other persecuted areas of India, and provide Bibles and study materials to help the pastors with their personal walk along with Bibles for them to distribute to Christians in their State who do not have Bibles.
4. **Evangelism:** Raise up and support indigenous evangelists in India and to equip them to reach those in their region—the least reached—with the good news.
5. **Printing, Distributing, Translating, and Developing Bible Study Materials:** Exceed our record number of Christian education materials distributed in 2010 (4,000+) in the language of indigenous believers.

## **Current Ministry Needs**

- More Bibles and study materials are needed to meet the many requests that BfA receives.
- A volunteer is needed to help with fundraising in the U.S.
- We need to add several more field workers in India to conduct meetings and seminars.
- More funds for operating budget, including the cost of holding evangelistic meetings and conferences in South Asia.
- Placing and supporting nationals in the field to develop and run mission projects.

## **Funding Plan**

- Our primary source of funding has been from in-kind and individual donations.
- Our strategy for revenue development moving forward is focused on identifying, contacting and developing relationships with individual supporters (annual major donors, monthly donors, one-time special gift donors), institutional supporters (foundations, churches, corporations) and expanding fundraising projects and events.

## **Leadership**

### **Board of Directors**

- Bob Binkley—President
- Eric Craton—Vice President
- Bethany Feeman—Secretary/Treasurer
- Frederick Osborn—Board Member

### **Partners**

- Himalaya Evangelical Mission (Northern India)
- Bethel Vision and Mission (States of Orissa, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh India)

- Major Pakistani Mission Organization (*name withheld to protect the persecuted church there*)

### **Contact Information**

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## RELEASING GOD'S POWER THROUGH FASTING

*William R. "Bill" Bright (October 19, 1921 – July 19, 2003) was an American evangelist. The founder of **Campus Crusade for Christ**, he wrote "The Four Spiritual Laws" in 1952 and produced the "Jesus Film" in 1979. In 1994 Bill Bright did his first 40-day fast and issued a call for prayer and fasting for revival in America. More than 600 Christian leaders met for the first Fasting & Prayer meeting. Dr. Bright completed a 40 day fast each year through 2000. His Annual Fasting & Prayer meetings continued and beginning in 1998 incorporated satellite broadcasting to include thousands in America and around the world. In this article, Bill Bright offers spiritual insight and practical advice for Christians on prayer and fasting.*

A discussion on prayer would not be complete without including a subject that is an important companion to prayer in the Bible: fasting. Combining fasting with prayer can result in a spiritual atomic bomb that pulls down spiritual strongholds and releases the power of God in your life and the life of your church, its pastor, its leaders, and its members.

Down through the centuries, godly people who have done mighty things for the Lord have testified to the necessity of prayer with fasting. John Wesley, who shook the world for God during the Great Awakening, which gave rise to the Methodist Church toward the end of the eighteenth century, is representative of such great spiritual leaders.

John Wesley and his brother Charles with their friend George Whitefield and other fellow believers regularly fasted and prayed while students at Oxford University in 1732. These Christian "commoners" studied and worshiped in the midst of mocking young aristocrats who nicknamed them the "Holy Club." Having experienced the spiritual power of fasting and prayer, they carried this discipline into their historic ministries.

John Wesley so believed in this power that he urged early Methodists to fast and pray every Wednesday and Friday. He felt so strongly about fasting those two days a week that he refused to ordain anyone in Methodism who wouldn't agree to do it.

The roll call of other great Christian leaders who determined to make prayer with fasting a part of their lives reads like a hall of fame: Martin Luther, John

Calvin, John Knox, Jonathan Edwards, Matthew Henry, Charles Finney, Andrew Murray, D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, and many more.

Why were they so convinced of the need for fasting and prayer? And how does fasting cause the fire of God to fall upon the life of the individual and the Church?

## OUR NEED TO FAST

The writings of Scripture, the church father, and many Christian leaders of today offer several biblical insights into the spiritual need for fasting:

- IT IS A BIBLICAL WAY TO TRULY HUMBLE ONESELF IN THE SIGHT OF GOD (PS. 35:13; EZRA 8:21)
- IT BRINGS REVELATION BY THE HOLY SPIRIT OF A PERSON'S TRUE SPIRITUAL CONDITION, RESULTING IN BROKENNESS, REPENTANCE, AND CHANGE.
- IT IS A CRUCIAL MEANS FOR PERSONAL REVIVAL BECAUSE IT BRINGS THE INNER WORKINGS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT INTO PLAY IN A MOST UNUSUAL, POWERFUL WAY.
- IT HELPS US BETTER UNDERSTAND THE WORD OF GOD BY MAKING IT MORE MEANINGFUL, VITAL, AND PRACTICAL.
- IT TRANSFORMS PRAYER INTO A RICHER AND MORE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE.
- IT CAN RESULT IN DYNAMIC PERSONAL REVIVAL – BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT AND REGAINING A STRONG SENSE OF SPIRITUAL DETERMINATION.
- IT CAN RESTORE THE LOSS OF ONE'S FIRST LOVE FOR THE LORD.

Throughout the Old and New Testament eras and during the last two thousand years, fasting was a primary means of humbling oneself before God.

In Isaiah 58:5, the prophet describes fasting as a “day for a man to afflict his soul” (NKJV). In Psalm 69:10, David says he “chastened” his soul with fasting (NKJV). And in Psalm 35:13, he says he “humbled” his soul by abstaining from food.

Humility is an attitude of the heart. The Scripture says, “*A broken and contrite heart – these, O “God, You will not despise”*” (Ps. 51:17 NKJV). God will hear us and respond to our cry when we come before Him in humility and brokenness – acknowledging and repenting of our sins, and asking Him to cleanse us by the blood of Jesus and to fill us with His Holy Spirit.

## HOW DOES FASTING HELP?

Fasting is also a primary means of restoration. By humbling our souls, fasting releases the Holy Spirit to do His special work of revival in us. This changes our relationship with God forever, taking us into a deeper life in Christ and giving us a greater awareness of God’s reality and presence in our lives.

Fasting reduces the power of self so that the Holy Spirit can do a more intense work within us. It also helps in other ways:

- IT BRINGS A YIELDEDNESS, EVEN A HOLY BROKENNESS, RESULTING IN INNER CALM AND SELF-CONTROL.
- IT RENEWS SPIRITUAL VISION AND FAITH.
- IT INSPIRES DETERMINATION TO FOLLOW GOD’S REVEALED PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE.

The discipline of fasting made a powerful impact in the life of Andrew Murray, who wrote, “**Fasting helps to express, to deepen, and to confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice everything [even] ourselves to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God.**”

## FASTING BRINGS POWER

The early church recognized fasting as a means of obtaining spiritual power. In his book *God’s Chosen Fast*, Arthur Wallis writes, “Fasting is calculated to bring a note of urgency and [persistence] into our praying, and to give force to our pleas in the court of heaven.”

But over the years, Wallis continues, “as spirituality waned and worldliness flourished in the church, the power and gifts of the Spirit were withdrawn.” This same spiritual erosion can and does occur in the life of the believer today. But God’s Word declares fasting and prayer as a powerful means for causing the fire of god to fall again in a person’s life.

This fire produces the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22) – but especially the fruit of righteousness and spiritual power over the lusts of the flesh and the lies of the enemy of our souls.

In his book *Fasting*, author and teacher Derek Prince describes fasting as “a tremendous lesson in establishing who is the master and who is the servant. Remember, your body is a wonderful servant, but a terrible master.” And, according to Galatians 5:17, the flesh, or carnal nature, always strives to be in control.

As fasting and prayer bring surrender of body, soul, and spirit to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, they also generate a heightened sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit; they create a fresh, clean joy and a restored determination to serve God. In short, they bring personal revival. Our spiritual power does not lie in money, genius, plans, or dedicated work. Rather, power for spiritual conquest comes from the Holy Spirit as people seek God’s face in consecrated, diligent prayer with fasting.

### FASTING IN GOD’S WORD

As revealed by just a cursory look at any concordance, fasting is mentioned frequently in God’s Holy Word. Often it is associated with weeping and other acts of humility before God. In Joel 2:12-13 the Lord commanded:

*Return to me with all your heart,  
With fasting and weeping and mourning.  
Rend your heart and not your garments.  
Return to the LORD your God.*

In the Old Testament, fasting was the way individual and the people humbled themselves (Ps. 35:13, 69:10; Isa. 58:5). God’s people have always fasted to humble themselves, to receive cleansing of their sins by effective repentance, for spiritual renewal, and for special helps. Ezra called a fast to seek God’s protection for the Jews returning from Babylon to Jerusalem (Ezra 8:21).

Concerning Ezra, Edith Schaeffer writes in *The Life of Prayer*:

“This is serious fasting and prayer, bowing humbly before God with repentance and concern for His mercy,

took place in the context of practical need – for protection and guidance, for help in choices and for the supply of material things.”

In the New Testament, Luke records the account of a prophetess name Anna who in her eighties “never left the temple, but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying” (Luke 2:37).

Jesus set the example by fasting forty days after His baptism. For Jesus it was a matter of *when* believers would fast, not *if* they would do it. He spoke in these terms: “When you give to the needy... when you pray... when you fast (Matt. 6:2, 5, 16).

Prophets and teachers fasted at Antioch (Acts 13:1-2), and Paul – who wrote much of the New Testament – said he was “in fasting often” (2 Cor. 11:27 NKJV).

For believers, then, the question is not “*Should* I fast?” but “*Will* I fast?”

#### WHEN TO FAST

Some teach that you should fast only when led or prompted by the Holy Spirit to do so. But being led by the Spirit and hearing the Spirit involve a highly subjective, personal area of the Christian life. Believers do not always hear accurately, especially if God is asking them to do something they do not want to do.

The flesh will surely try to override inner promptings to abstain from food. God may be calling you to fast, but the flesh may be saying, “That’s just your imagination. How is fasting going to get you out of this situation?”

Once you learn the purpose and benefits of fasting, you are free to *proclaim* a fast whenever you sense the desire to draw close to God in a dynamic way or feel the need to seek special help from Him.

Those who consistently practice fasting know instinctively when to do so. They recognize certain spiritual conditions and life circumstances as the signal to “bear down” spiritually. I try to live according to Philippians 2:13: “*It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.*”

In his book *Fasting: A Biblical-Historical Study*, author R. D. Chatham tells of a pastor's wife who kept a diary of her fasts. She recorded how she and her husband were changing pastorates and felt overwhelmed by their new responsibilities and realized they needed God's help. Together they fasted for ten days. She said that if she had not fasted – and as a result received special strength from the Lord – she would have “gone under.”

Of course, the still, small voice of the Spirit, always consistent with the Word of God, will tell us what to do if we will only listen. There are times when the Holy Spirit will prompt you to fast. On another page in her diary, the pastor's wife reported, “Monday: I awoke feeling the need to go on a fast.” Such prompting of the Holy Spirit can come anytime, anyplace.

It is particularly important to receive a leading of the Lord before beginning an extended spiritual fast. If you undertake a long fast simply on your own, you may run into difficulties. But if the Lord leads you into a protracted fast, He will give you the strength to carry it out.

In 1994 God impressed me over a period of several months that He wanted me to fast for forty day. But I was not sure I could fast for that long. Even so, I began my fast with the prayer, “Lord, I will fast as long as You will enable me. I am looking to You to help me. I am claiming Your promise recorded in Isaiah 40:31, *‘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’*” (NKJV). God was faithful to His promise. That fast was the greatest forty days of my life spiritually up until that time.

I have since fasted with great blessing for forty days in 1995 and again in 1996. In 1997, as I write, I am beginning my fourth forty-day fast. My wife, Vonette, is joining me in this adventure to seek God's face.

### CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR

I strongly recommend that you consult your doctor before fasting. Unfortunately, however, many doctors have not been trained in this area, so their understanding is limited.

In writing about fasting, the subject of doctors is a chief concern. Author Lee Bueno, who conducts seminars on the physical and spiritual benefits of fasting, makes a strong statement about the attitude of doctors toward fasting in his book *Fast Your Way to Health*:

“All but one in a thousand doctors react negatively to the subject of fasting. They have never fasted, know little about the subject, and respond only to bizarre stories that they’ve heard. Lack of understanding creates unnecessary fear and results in unfounded, imaginary dangers and the use of scare tactics by doctors to [make you] avoid fasting.”

My experience has been similar to Bueno’s. Even so, I encourage you to consult with your physician before beginning an extended fast. And I strongly suggest that you arrange for a physical exam to make sure you are in good health. You may have a physical problem that makes fasting dangerous and unwise. But be forewarned: even if you are in good health, your doctor may try to discourage you from fasting. If this happens, you may be faced with a dilemma similar to mine.

Over the years, I have fasted many times – often from one to four weeks at a time – without consulting a physician. Since my first forty-day fast was beyond anything I had ever undertaken, I called several Christian and secular doctors for their advice. They either knew nothing about fasting or tried to discourage me altogether, and I realized that I was on my own. Would I obey the leading of the Holy Spirit or follow the counsel of unbelieving doctors? Most fasting authorities believe that if you know that you are healthy and you fast properly, you will benefit physically as well as spiritually. There are certain persons who should never fast without professional supervision:

- PERSONS WHO ARE PHYSICALLY EMACIATED.
- THOSE WHO SUFFER WEAKNESS OR ANEMIA.
- PERSONS WHO HAVE TUMORS, BLEEDING ULCERS, CANCER, OR BLOOD DISEASES OR WHO HAVE RECENTLY SUFFERED MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION.
- THOSE WHO SUFFER CHRONIC PROBLEMS WITH KIDNEYS, LIVER, LUNGS, HEART, OR OTHER IMPORTANT ORGANS OR WHO TAKE INSULIN FOR DIABETES.

- WOMEN WHO ARE PREGNANT OR NURSING.
- THOSE WHO ARE AFRAID OF FASTING BECAUSE THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND ITS BENEFITS OR WHAT TO EXPECT AND WHO MAY EVEN BELIEVE IT AMOUNTS TO STARVATION. Fasting is not starvation, but if persons have genuine doubts and negative emotions – which must be overcome – no persuasion should cause them to fast until they become knowledgeable about fasting.

There may be persons with other conditions who should not fast. The rule of thumb is this: If you have serious questions about your health, or if you are under a physician’s care, you should consult your doctor before you abstain from food or change your diet.

## HOW TO FAST

“In Scripture the normal means of fasting involves abstaining from all food, solid or liquid, but not from water,” says Richard Foster in his book *Celebration of Discipline*. “From a physical standpoint, this is usually what is involved in a fast.”

The *partial* fast is described in the book of Daniel. Although the water fast seemed to be the custom of the prophet, there was a three-week period in which he abstained only from delicacies: meat and wine (Dan. 10:3)

Richard Foster describes two other biblical fasts, the *absolute* and the *supernatural absolute*. These are total fasts, meaning no food – solid or liquid – and no water. Paul went on an absolute fast for three days following his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:9). Esther called for an absolute fast for three days when the Jews faced annihilation in the Persian Empire (Est. 4:16). Moses and Elijah engaged in what must be considered supernatural absolute fasts of forty days (Deut. 9:9; 1 Kings 19:8).

But because of dehydration, I do not recommend the absolute or supernatural absolute fasts. They can be dangerous to your health. I strongly advise you to drink plenty of liquids, including pure water (preferably distilled) and vegetable and fruit juices. Obviously, if God leads you to undertake an

absolute or supernatural absolute fast, you must obey. However, I strongly encourage you to be certain, without doubt, that God is leading you.

## HOW TO BEGIN AND CONDUCT YOUR FAST

How you begin and conduct your fast will largely determine your success. Permit me to suggest steps to take that will help make your time with the Lord more meaningful and spiritually rewarding, while at the same time enhancing your physical health.

### 1. Set an Objective

The first step is to set a specific objective. Why are you fasting? Is it for spiritual renewal, guidance, for healing, for the resolution of problems, for special grace to handle a difficult situation? Keeping your goal in focus will help you sustain your fast when physical desire and life's pressures tempt you to abandon it.

I personally believe the Holy Spirit has given all believers an urgent call to humble ourselves through fasting and prayer so that He may stir our souls, awaken our church, and heal our land according to 2 Chronicles 7:14. *I urge you to make personal, local, national, and world revival and the fulfillment of the Great Commission your primary purpose for fasting.*

### 2. Lay a Spiritual Foundation

The second step is to prepare yourself spiritually. The very foundation of fasting and prayer is repentance. Unconfessed sin will hinder your prayers. In Scripture, God always requires His people to repent of their sins before He will hear their prayers.

As you begin your fast, I encourage you to confess every sin that the Holy Spirit calls to your remembrance. Include obvious sins and those that are not so apparent, such as leaving your first love for the Lord, worldly-mindedness, self-centeredness, and spiritual indifference – being unwilling to share your faith in Christ with others, unwilling to help at church, unwilling to spend time in God's Word and prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything in your heart that is not pleasing to God and claim the promise of 1 John 1:9, "*If we*

*confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (NKJV).*

### 3. Make Physical Preparations

The third step is to prepare yourself physically. Do not rush into a fast. If you plan to go without food for several days, you will find it helpful to begin by eating smaller meals before you abstain altogether. This sends your mind to signal that you have entered the time of the fast, and it helps to “shrink” your stomach and appetite. Some health professionals suggest eating only raw foods for two days before starting a fast.

Preparing yourself physically makes the drastic change in your eating routine a little easier. Then you can turn your full attention to the Lord in prayer.

### 4. Ask God for Guidance

The fourth step is to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the kind of fast God wants you to undertake. Does He want you to go completely without food, consuming only water? Or only water and juices? Is He asking you to fast one meal a day, one day a week, or several days or weeks at a time? Is God leading you to undertake a forty-day fast? Inviting the Holy Spirit’s guidance in this matter will make your time with God more meaningful.

Token fasting, such as giving up chocolates or lemon pie or some other favorite food, may be commendable, but it does not allow the Holy Spirit to do the inner work necessary to bring about real changes in your spiritual life. Nor does it persuade God that you are serious about revival for America and the world and the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

As I pointed out earlier, the biblical fast usually calls for water. I have conducted many strictly water fasts for a day or several days at a time with special blessing. However, I strongly suggest adding vegetable and fruit juices to your intake, although some advise against orange or tomato juice because of acid content.

Once you know how to fast, sort fasts of one to three days require no more than water. Christians who fast regularly often go ten days or longer on water – even up to forty days – with beneficial effects, both spiritually and physically, under the daily supervision of one who is knowledgeable about

water fasting. You have food reserves stored in body fat than you realize, and most of us would be more than happy to give up the fat.

However, until you build up your “fasting muscles,” or if you are undertaking a long fast, you may want to add vegetable or fruit juices (preferably without sugar or sweeteners) to your intake.

## 5. Limit Activity

The fifth step is to limit your activity level. Exercise moderately. Rest as much as your schedule will permit. Short naps are very helpful. “Resting is not a sin,” Dr. Ruibal explains. “Fasting in the strictest sense is physiological rest. Your body rests from the processes involved in digest and the assimilation of food to concentrate on excretion.”

That is why during the fast you may experience side effects. “Some people experience headaches, stomach aches, nausea, foul tastes in their mouth, or a pasty tongue,” Dr. Ruibal says. “Their urine may become darker, and even their perspiration smell worse than usual. Vomiting may occur. This is not normal but should not be cause for alarm. In a prolonged fast, it is not unusual to experience a slight fever. Basically, the body is taking advantage of the fast to clean and heal itself.”

## 6. Consider Your Medications

The sixth step is to consider your medication. It is particularly important that you consult with your doctor before going on a fast if you are on any prescribed medication.

## 7. Plan Your Prayer Time

The seventh step is to set aside ample time to be alone with the Lord during our fast. The more you spend with Him in fellowship, worship, and adoration and the more you read and meditate on His Word during your fast, the greater your effectiveness will be in prayer and the more meaningful your fast will be.

Seek God in prayer and as you meditate on His Word each morning before you leave home or go about your daily routine. Return to prayer at lunch, and come before Him again in the evening for unhurried times of seeking His face.

Of course, you should practice His presence and continue to have fellowship with Him constantly as you pray without ceasing throughout the day.

There is no set formula for how to pray when you fast. You may wish to pray aloud or silently, asking the Lord to grant specific requests. I suggest you make a list and add to it daily as needs come to mind. Pray earnestly for you family, your pastor, your church, your community, and our nation. Pray for revival in our land and a great worldwide spiritual harvest. Pray for the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

You may wait before God in quiet meditation as you invite the Holy Spirit to minister to you and bring to mind those things He wants you to pray about.

You should go about your daily activities mindful that you are still fasting and seeking the Lord. Some of my deepest spiritual insights have come as I continued my ministry responsibilities while seeking His face and practicing His presence.

If you do not know what to pray for, or you feel “prayed out,” wait quietly before Him. Turn to the psalms or other favorite passages of Scripture and pray the Word of God back to Him. For example, pray each verse of Psalm 23 aloud, thanking Him for performing each of those promises in your life. Worship and praise the Lord. Tell God how much you love Him and want to serve Him. Invite His presence into your life in a fresh way.

You may wish to approach God with the Lord’s Prayer recorded in Matthew 6:9-13. Generally, this prayer covers everything we could possibly ask or say to God. AS an introduction to this prayer, Jesus reminded His disciples that “your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him (Matt. 6:8 NKJV).

Now that you have an idea of how to go about fasting, it is time to fix your gaze upon the One who sees you and knows you – the One who delights in you and is waiting for you to come before Him.

## HOW TO BREAK YOUR FAST

When your designated time of fasting is finished, you will begin to eat again. But how you break your fast is extremely important – both for your physical and spiritual well-being.

If you end your fast gradually, as you should, the beneficial physical and spiritual effects will linger for days. But if you rush into eating solid foods – and the prospect of food can tempt you to do that – you may experience diarrhea, sickness, fainting, and even death due to shock. This is especially true of an extended fast. Nutritionist Paul Bragg explains in *The Miracle of Fasting*:

When you have been on a... fast, your stomach and the thirty feet of intestinal tract have contracted, and when you are ready to break the fast, it should be done (with special care).

Suddenly reintroducing solid food to your stomach and digestive tract always creates defeating effects. You can lose much of your deep sense of peace and well-being in the space of a single meal. Even a three-day fast requires reasonable precautions. It is wise to start with a little soup – something thin and nourishing such as vegetable broth made from onion, celery, potatoes, and carrots – and fresh fruits such as watermelon and cantaloupe.

As your body accepts these foods, advance to a few tablespoons of solid foods such as raw fruits and vegetables or a raw salad and baked potato. (I do not recommend milk or milk products and meat because some individuals may suffer adverse reactions to these after a fast). Then, several hours later, try another small snack. The idea is to ease back into regular eating with several small snacks during the first few days. This requires discipline, but you will avoid the severe pain and other serious physical reactions that come from eating too much too soon.

I terminated my forty-day fast with a cup of soup, followed by small amounts of watermelon and other fruits every few hours for a couple of days until I was comfortable to resume my normal routine of eating. As you can imagine, that cup of soup and the first few bites of solid food were ecstasy. Never had ordinary food tasted so good.

## EXPECT RESULTS!

No two persons will experience the same effects of a fast because no two persons go into it in exactly the same condition or with the same needs. But if you sincerely humble yourself before the Lord in repentance, intercession, and worship and consistently meditate on His Word, you will experience a heightened awareness of His presence. Your confidence and faith in God will be strengthened. And you will feel, mentally, spiritually, and physically refreshed. My three forty-day fasts have without question proved to be the greatest prolonged spiritual blessing of my life.

Most people experience a measure of revival as a result of fasting. In addition, you will begin to see God's hand move in the situation that originally drove you to your knees and to fasting, including spiritual awakening and revival for your pastor, your church, and your church leaders.

I encourage you to join me in fasting and praying again and again and again until we truly experience God's best in our lives, our home, our churches, our beloved nation, and our world.

END

**Bill Bright** graduated from Fuller Theological Seminaries. While he was a student at Fuller he felt what he regarded as the call of God to help fulfill Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) and began by sharing his faith with students at UCLA. This gave birth to the Campus Crusade for Christ movement.

During the decades to follow, Bill Bright and his wife, Vonette, remained faithful to his calling, and the ministry expanded greatly. Today *Campus Crusade* has more than 27,000 full-time staff and over 225,000 trained volunteer staff in 190 countries.

In 1983, Bright chaired the National Committee for the *National Year of the Bible*. He was named the 1996 recipient of the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion and donated the 1.1 million prize money to causes promoting the spiritual benefits of fasting and prayer.

Bill Bright is the author of more than 100 books and booklets, and thousands of articles and pamphlets that have been translated and distributed in most major languages by the millions. The Rev. Billy Graham said upon hearing of Bright's death: "He has carried a burden on his heart as few men that I've ever known - a burden for the evangelization of the world. He is a man whose sincerity and integrity and devotion to our Lord have been an inspiration and a blessing to me ever since the early days of my ministry."

**Rosemary Lester** was born in a small town in Alabama and became a Christian when she was 8 years old. She has served the Lord faithfully for almost 50 years and has "never seen a place to turn back or to turn away from my Lord." She moved with her family to Atlanta, Georgia when she was 19 years old to begin an inner city mission. They ministered to the homeless, run-aways, drug addicts, gang members, and the other forgotten ones in the very turbulent 70's. She began a coffee house where street people would come and find Christ, be discipled, and trained for ministry. When she was 27 she met the man God had promised her since she was a young girl. She married Steven Paul Lester and they have joined hearts, souls, minds, and ministry for the past 28 years. They have two adopted children – Anna Leah (Korean) and Russ (Russian). Sister Rosemary helps her husband, Pastor Steven Lester, pastor the Gateway International Church of God in Kennesaw, Georgia. There they hope to remain in ministry until the Lord takes them to their eternal home. As a wife, mother, teacher, writer, and minister of the gospel, Rosemary's life is dedicated to bring glory and honor to our Savior, Jesus Christ in all she does.

**Frederick Osborn** has traveled the world teaching and preaching the Word of God. His first trip to South Asia was in 2001, and since 2005 he has been fully involved in ministry. Currently he is the India Field Director for *Bibles for All Ministries* and travels around the country as a lecturer, distributing Bibles and biblical resources to pastors, evangelists and ministry leaders. His books and study guides have been used by hundreds of students and have been translated into several languages. He lives in Hyderabad, India with his wife, Deena Benjamin Lakshmall.