

Bold >>>> Mission

40 DAY PRAYER JOURNAL

*“To get nations back on their feet,
we must first get down on our knees.”*

Billy Graham

INTRODUCTION

40 DAY PRAYER JOURNAL

The following 40 days have the potential to be life-altering. Far too often, we forget the power of prayer. Starting this journey with us for the next 40 days means we desire for the Bold Mission to have its strong foundation on prayer, not man's strength.

Our desire as a church is to have ourselves molded into the image of our King for the mission He set in front of us. As a church, we begin praying for ourselves as individuals. Then, as the days of prayer go by, we will move our prayers outward—from self, church, city, nation, and finally to the world.

If prayer is scary for you, do not worry. Max Lucado once said, “Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.” We may need help with the exact wording of what to pray. It may be awkward. But the power of the next 40 days is not in us; the power is in the One we pray to.

The people of Oakwood have put together these prayers. They prayed over what to write to help guide you. Over the next 40 days, join the writers and the Oakwood family in prayer.

CONTENTS

PRAYERS FOR MY HEART

DAY 1 *Grieving Heart*

DAY 2 *Clean Heart*

DAY 3 *Undivided Heart*

DAY 4 *Compassionate Heart*

DAY 5 *Willing Heart*

DAY 6 *Generous Heart*

DAY 7 *Courageous Heart*

DAY 8 *Enduring Heart*

PRAYERS FOR OAKWOOD

DAY 9 *Unity*

DAY 10 *Prayerfulness*

DAY 11 *Teaching & Equipping*

DAY 12 *Service*

DAY 13 *Generosity*

DAY 14 *Revival*

DAY 15 *Salvations*

DAY 16 *Witness*

PRAYERS FOR NEW BRAUNFELS

DAY 17 *The Leaders*

DAY 18 *The Welfare*

DAY 19 *The Poor*

DAY 20 *The Churches*

DAY 21 *Outreach Opportunities*

DAY 22 *Evil Strongholds*

DAY 23 *Hunger & Thirst*

DAY 24 *Salvations in Our City*

PRAYERS FOR THE UNITED STATES

DAY 25 *Church Plants*

DAY 26 *The Next Generation*

DAY 27 *Education*

DAY 28 *The Family*

DAY 29 *Mental Health*

DAY 30 *Prisons*

DAY 31 *Political Leaders*

DAY 32 *Peace*

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

DAY 33 *War*

DAY 34 *Human Trafficking*

DAY 35 *Persecuted Christians*

DAY 36 *Serve the Nations*

DAY 37 *Called to Ministry*

DAY 38 *The Gospel to the Nations*

DAY 39 *Responsiveness to the Gospel*

DAY 40 *Christ's Return*

Day 1 | Grieving Heart

by Pastor Steve Peace

GUIDED PRAYER

Father God,

I come to You in the name of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit. My heart grieves over my sins. Comfort me in my grief as I confess and repent of my sins. I can't name them all, but surely You know them all. Please forgive and restore me to full fellowship and the right relationship with You for Your honor and glory.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Psalm 32:1-6a | Psalm 51:1-3,9 | 2 Corinthians 7:10

“The foundation of Christianity is repentance. Repentance is a gift of God. If you cease to understand the value of repentance, you allow yourself to remain in sin. Examine yourself to see if you have forgotten how to be truly repentant.”

Oswald Chambers

REFLECTION

***Day 2* | Clean Heart**

by Katie Powers

GUIDED PRAYER

Lord,

My heart so easily becomes distracted with the busyness of life, and with worries and fear. My heart becomes stained by my sin. I humbly come before you to ask for Your cleansing touch. Remove anything within me that hinders my connection with You. Purify my intentions, motives, and thoughts. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Remove my bitterness.

Wash away my resentment.

Rid me of my selfishness.

Let your grace flow over me and cleanse my heart. Help me to be more like You and less like me.

Now as your Church embarks on these 40 days of prayer, we come before you with humble hearts, seeking the purity and cleansing that only You provide.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Psalm 139:23-24

REFLECTION

As you are asking God to search your heart, what is He revealing to you?

What are some ways you can be intentional to keep your heart clean? (circle all you want to focus on)

- Prayer
- Scripture
- Christian Community
- Fasting
- Slowing Down
- Other _____

Day 3 | Undivided Heart

by Blake Jones

GUIDED PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

You are holy. You are good.

You are Creator, Savior, King, and Lord.

You and You alone are worthy of my whole heart.

Jesus, You taught us in Matthew that we are to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind.

Lord, forgive me when I allow other things to take Your place.

Forgive me when my allegiance to You becomes divided by the fleeting desires of this world.

Help me to have a heart that is undivided, a heart that is fully committed to Your will.

May I start each day with a renewed devotion to You, Lord Jesus.

In Your holy name,

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Psalm 86:11

REFLECTION

God, would you reveal to me the things in my heart that prevent full devotion to You? List them below.

Now, begin to walk with renewed devotion to our Savior.

Day 4 | **Compassionate Heart**

by Pastor Jody Burkhalter

GUIDED PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,

As I pray, let me start by thanking You first for Your unfailing love and for Your compassionate heart towards me. Because of Your great favor, salvation has been given to me. In Your incredible love and kindness, You sent Christ to redeem me from all my sin and shame. Your heart towards me is so compassionate!

So now, Lord, I pray that You help me in all my ways to be compassionate to others. Open my eyes to the needs of those around me, then equip me, by Your Spirit, to help them. I pray that You use me compassionately so that You, God, get all the glory. I pray that I treat others with God-given love and compassion to such a degree that it cannot be ignored. Help me to live with a compassionate heart.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Luke 10:30-37, Luke 6:35-36

REFLECTION

In the Luke 10 passage, in what way was the man compassionate?

What did it cost him?

Why didn't the others help? What was their excuse?

What is our attitude towards disruptions to our agenda?

Remember a time when compassion was shown to you.

Thank God for his compassion to you and begin looking for those that need compassion given to them, maybe even an enemy.

Day 5 | **Willing Heart**

by Lindsay Setliff

GUIDED PRAYER

Oh, Jesus, we come before You with humble and willing hearts.

Give us discernment to know Your will for us and the courage to take whatever steps necessary to follow it fully.

We are eager to obey You.

As servants looking to our master, please give us tender hearts to receive our assignments. We are ready to do Your will, to join You where You're at work.

Our lives are Yours.

Give us diligence and grit to work hard at whatever task You place before us. With engaged and willing hearts, may we represent You well and win the favor of God and man.

We surrender to You.

Let us receive from You, the well of living water that never runs dry, so that we will pour out generously, never growing weary in doing good.

Give us strength to endure.

We are entirely Yours.

Move in our hearts to will and desire to build Your Kingdom and be Your hands and feet to a weary world.

Spirit, You lead. We will follow.

Please move in our hearts today.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Galatians 6:9, Psalm 54:6, Psalm 123:2, Colossians 3:23

REFLECTION

God is always at work around us; we must only join Him in His work. Are you willing and watching for the work He is calling you to join Him in today? Ask Him to open your heart to discern where He is working and to give you a willingness to fully obey.

***Day 6* | Generous Heart**

by Kyle Setliff

GUIDED PRAYER

Jesus,

Our actions reflect the state of our hearts (Matthew 12:33-37).

You tell us how much You love a cheerful giver, but often our generosity is limited by our scarcity mentality and ultimately, a lack of trust in You (James 4:8).

Father, all that we have belongs to You (Deuteronomy 10:14).

You have commanded us to be wise stewards of all You have given us (1 Peter 4:10), so may we hold loosely of all (Matthew 18:18) and freely give in any way you direct.

Father, we ask that You allow us to have the reputation of the Macedonians (2 Corinthians 8). That in times of affliction, we will experience Your joy as we demonstrate extreme generosity toward others. And, through our generosity, may we experience the grace that only You can offer.

Father, our desire is to become more righteous every day (1 Timothy 6:10-11). You are the most generous and cheerful giver the universe has ever known.

We ask that You equip, lead, and convict us, so that our actions will reflect a heart of generosity that exemplifies You.

Father, please give me a generous heart!

SCRIPTURE TO READ

James 4:8, 1 Peter 4:10, 1 Timothy 6:10-11

REFLECTION

Day 7 | **Courageous Heart**

by Pastor Rusty Rice

GUIDED PRAYER

Jesus,

You have commanded us to be strong and courageous. We confess our lack of obedience to this command and how often we are prone to the exact opposite. Lord, we ask that You replace fear with courage. Trade our anxiety for peace and calmness. May we never forget that this courage and peace does not come from ourselves, but we have boldness and peace because You are with us. Your Spirit lives inside of us. Out of Your grace and goodness, You have not given us a spirit of fear and timidity but love and a sound mind. Help us to respond to this command like Joshua and Caleb, trusting in You for Your provisions and deliverance.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Joshua 1:9

REFLECTION

Ask God that you would live according to His Spirit that lives in you. What act of courage is God asking you to take?

Day 8 | Enduring Heart

by Analyn Stokes

GUIDED PRAYER

Dear Lord God,

You are the righteous Judge and Holy Creator God. You know us intimately, our every thought and everything in our hearts.

Sometimes, life can throw us a curve ball, and we don't know how to handle it. But You, Lord, have the answer for everything. You have told us that Your Word endures forever. I hold that in my heart as I face the difficulties of this world and the circumstances in my life.

My heart becomes heavy when I fall away from You. But You, Lord, can make my heart strong for You again. And my heart can find You in any circumstance.

For these next 40 days, help me to focus on You and Your strength to endure all things. You tell us in Your Word that we should celebrate in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint because the love of God has poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Please, God, fill my heart to overflowing so that I can be all that You desire and serve You in a pleasing way.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

James 5:11

REFLECTION

Show me, Lord, how to see Your work in my life so I can better serve You with an enduring heart.

Day 9 | Unity

by Steve Carnes

GUIDED PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

You have blessed my family and my Church richly. You have positioned our Church, Your Church, to spread the gospel throughout our community and world. We pray, Lord, that You will enlighten our hearts and minds to seek only Your will. Lord, we pray for humility of spirit that we will not put self over the body of Your Church. Lord, guard our thoughts, words, and actions so that we may portray the love of Christ to all we meet. We pray that You will unite our hearts, and through the unity of thought and action, we could be used more effectively for Your Kingdom.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Colossians 3:12-17

REFLECTION

Ask yourself, are my words and actions building up the Church or am I hindering the message of Christ because I am putting myself first?

Examine yourself and your impact on the unity of the message of Christ and His Church.

Day 10 | Prayerfulness

by Mary Ford

GUIDED PRAYER

Father God,

We come before You through prayer, seeking Your wisdom and guidance in being a church of prayer that joins together in constant prayer. Help us be devoted in prayer like the apostle Paul wrote in Colossians 4.

1. Lord, let us be watchful. (Colossians 4:2)

A church of prayer devotes itself to constant prayer and staying alert. The adversary is always on the prowl and we must resist. Jesus said in Matthew 26:41 “Watch and pray lest you enter into temptation.”

2. Lord, let us be thankful.

A church of prayer devotes itself to prayer, staying alert in it with Thanksgiving. Don't ask for more until you thank God for what you already have. Have an attitude of gratitude.

3. Lord, let us be purposeful. (Colossians 4:3-5)

A church of prayer prays for open doors to share Christ, asking God to do what He desires and only as He can do. God opens doors no man can open, and He shuts doors no man can shut. Paul didn't pray to be freed from prison, but he prayed for God to use his imprisonment to minister to others.

4. Lord, let us be graceful.

A church of prayer uses speech that is always gracious, civil, and speaks the truth in love. Our speech is to minister to others.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

James 5:16, Acts 1:14, Acts 2:42

REFLECTION

How can you improve your prayer life?

How is God preparing your heart for The Bold Mission?

Day 11 | Teaching & Equipping

by Pastor Dale Bynum

GUIDED PRAYER

Father,

We give thanks to You for all those at Oakwood who have responded to Your call to instruct others in the Bible, Your Word. Bless their lives and honor their commitment to teach Your Truth. Please raise up others in our midst who will teach Your Word. Create in all of us a passionate hunger and deep love for Your Word. For it is the bread of life to us, and just as food feeds and nourishes our bodies, so may Your Word feed and satisfy our souls. May the Holy Spirit bring Your Word to life in us, teaching us, guiding us, convicting us, and growing us to be like Jesus. May those acquired beliefs, convictions, and teachings of men that are not according to Your Word be replaced with what is Your truth from Your Word. May we hide Your Word in our hearts and, as enabled by the Holy Spirit, recall it to memory in times of need. We praise and worship You, Holy Spirit, for the gift of the Word that You gave and for living in us to teach it to us. May our love for it grow deeper and cause us to study it constantly. May we be transformed by it and live more holy and godly lives as we love You and obey what You have commanded.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

2 Timothy 3:16-17

REFLECTION

Lord, should I be teaching the Bible to others?

Lord, help me make the studying of Scripture a top priority.

Lord, make me willing to obey all that Your Word teaches.

And now, Lord, make me act on what You have prompted me to do.

Day 12 | Service

by J.R. Newman

GUIDED PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

I know You came to this earth to serve and not to be served!

Put in me a heart to serve others! Help me to serve my church, pastor, and staff, not from a heart of selfishness or strife but in an attitude of humility!

Show me that serving others in Your love is more important than serving myself.

You alone are the model for true humility. May my thoughts, attitude, and actions reflect You, Lord Jesus, as I always trust Your guidance.

In the Loving Name of Jesus, I pray.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Philippians 2:3-7

REFLECTION

Ask God to give you a servant's heart.

Now, God does call you to put your trust in Him and take a risk for His Kingdom!

Day 13 | Generosity

by Charles Armstrong

GUIDED PRAYER

Father God,

I come before You with a grateful heart for all You have generously given me. Father, I ask that You give me a spirit of thanksgiving today to remember that everything comes from You. And everything is intended for Your glory.

I ask that You enrich in me a spirit of generosity, selfless acts of kindness, and compassion that will flow out of me. Lord, I pray that You will open my eyes and heart to see others the way You do and to reveal to me those in need.

Lord, I pray this for your church body. Light a flame amongst the believers to give to those in need-- in the same way You so graciously have given to us. Let the church's benevolence be a bright light that points to Your glory, spurring others towards a path of selflessness and love. I ask, Lord, that You give our church leadership wisdom and discernment as they navigate how best to use the resources you entrusted us with.

Let the offerings I give be used in ways that proclaim Your name and reach all nations.

It is in Your Holy Name, I pray.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Romans 11:36, Matthew 6:21, Proverbs 11:25,
2 Corinthians 9:6-7,11 and Hebrews 13:16

REFLECTION

Day 14 | Revival

by Pastor Ray Still

GUIDED PRAYER

Father,

Today our prayer is for revival, for a reigniting of the hearts and minds of Your children. How desperately we need to awaken from our slumber and, with great energy and passion, pursue the Bold Mission of reaching the world with the gospel. As the old hymn goes, “Revive us again, fill each heart with thy love; May each soul be rekindled with fire from above.”

- Revive our passion and love for all people of the world.
- Revive our love for the life-giving gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Revive our hope for the Church of the living God.
- Revive our desire to live holy lives as Your chosen instrument.

We know of the great revivals of the church in ages past and we pray that You, Father, would do again what You have done in the past. Father, we pray that the greatest days of Your Church will not be those in the past but those days which lie ahead.

May we say as the people did in Luke 5:26: Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, “We have seen remarkable things.”

In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

REFLECTION

How can you be a spark of revival at Oakwood?

Day 15 | Salvations

by Pastor Brandon Best

GUIDED PRAYER

Father,

We thank You for Jesus Christ.

Thank You for sending Your Son to die on the cross for the sins of the world.

We ask that You move in the hearts of those who are lost.

Bring them to the knowledge of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Stir in their hearts and draw them by your Holy Spirit.

Open their hearts' eyes so they might see the need for Jesus.

We know that apart from Jesus, we can do nothing.

We ask that you knock on the door of the hearts of those who enter Oakwood Church.

We pray that the lost might confess with their mouths and believe in their hearts that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

John 17:3

REFLECTION

Ask Jesus to give you his heart for many to have eternal life.

Day 16 | Witness

by Della Stevens

GUIDED PRAYER

Father God,

You are a great and mighty God! Thank You for establishing the body of believers at Oakwood. May the church of Oakwood be a bright and shining light to the community of New Braunfels that dispels the darkness in this city. May everywhere we go and interact with other people in our community be an opportunity to shine Your Light and point others to Jesus. No matter where we are—at work, school, the store, a restaurant, the gym—give us boldness as Your children to be the light of the world to those dying in darkness.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Matthew 5:14-16, 1 Peter 2:12

REFLECTION

Ask the Lord to reveal to you any behavior you have that is dishonorable. Confess this behavior to the Lord and to a trusted friend or person of accountability. Pray that this behavior would be transformed into an “honorable behavior” so that God will be glorified and you will become a bright light for the glory of God.

Day 17 | The Leaders

by Kyle Dicke

GUIDED PRAYER

Lord,

You are the sovereign ruler of all. And as that ruler, I pray for Your blessings over the leadership of our fine city, the City of New Braunfels. I pray You lay Your hands on the men and women chosen to lead this city so they may make the best decisions and recommendations for the citizens. I ask You to guide their thoughts, words, actions, and lives as they accept the complex tasks ahead. I pray also for their families, who will love and support these leaders daily. LORD, You have blessed us and chosen for us to live in such a wonderful and unique place, and we thank You for Your love, kindness, grace, mercy, and forgiveness. I ask again that the leaders of our community hold Your thoughts as their thoughts and that they guide and direct this city in a way that is pleasing to You. I pray this prayer to You in the wonderful name of Your Son, Our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

1 Timothy 2:1-4, Romans 13:1-2
Colossians 1:16-17, Hebrews 13:17

REFLECTION

In what ways can I, individually, support the leaders of our community?

How can I serve as a supporting citizen by volunteering, serving on a board or committee, or simply including our local leaders in my daily prayer routine?

What are the areas of need within the City of New Braunfels and how can I step in, stand in that gap, and share the joy of the Lord with those in need?

Day 18 | The Welfare

by Roxi Vanstory

GUIDED PRAYER

Dear Lord,

Thank You for the beautiful community we are blessed to live in.

We praise You and see Your hand in the mighty resources surrounding us.

The rivers and lakes are a glimpse of Your glory and power.

May the rain refresh our dry lands and prosper our city.

We are blessed and grateful to live in a caring community.

We are blessed and grateful for a robust education system.

I pray for those in positions of influence and responsibility for our well-being.

Give our city and school leaders strength, wisdom, courage, and, above all, a mind like Christ's.

I pray for Your hand of safety on all activities and events that we love and enjoy.

Remind us that we serve the God who is the Light on the hill in this incredible community.

All things are possible through Christ!

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Matthew 5:14-16

REFLECTION

Lord, strengthen my faith and desire to be the Light for my family and friends.

God, what action do I need to take so I might glorify You?

Day 19 | The Poor

by LaMoyne Davis

GUIDED PRAYER

Father,

We are grateful for Your abundant blessings. We humbly request that You enlighten our senses and hearts to perceive those around us who are less privileged.

We earnestly seek that the recurring chains of poverty, addiction, and mental illness be shattered off the lives of our community members.

We pray for our community, churches, and non-profit organizations, asking for wisdom and discernment to serve as Your instruments in ministering to and providing for “the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine.” (Matthew 25:40)

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Matthew 25:37-40

REFLECTION

Ask God to guide you in fulfilling your role in serving those in need.

Action: While you recite this prayer, allocate some time to listen to God's guidance regarding His plan for your role.

Day 20 | The Churches

by Jim Dempsey

GUIDED PRAYER

Because He hears us, we humbly ask,

Father, guide Your flocks here in New Braunfels, both church leaders and members. Grow every congregation that acknowledges man's sin and Your great salvation through Christ. Guide the Bible-believing and Bible-preaching pastors and teachers at all the churches in our community. Help all churches obey You in reaching the lost. Help us serve You together in the unity of our common faith. Protect all the flocks from wolves who preach another gospel.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Psalm 65:2-3

Our God hears!

Verse two tells us that all people pray, even atheists. Or if they don't, they will when all will bow before Christ at the judgement. Verse three says that all true prayer starts with acknowledging our sin, and that our Almighty God forgives us when we ask.

These truths are the bedrock for all Christ-following churches in our area.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

John 17:22-23, Galatians 1:6-9

REFLECTION

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying most of the page. It is intended for a reflection on the day's theme.

Day 21 | Outreach Opportunities

by Jim Wesson

GUIDED PRAYER

O, Everlasting God, whose wonders and mercies know no end,
how great is Your goodness.

Move our hearts this day so that we may see others through Your eyes,
and stir our spirits to reach out to those in our community struggling.

Use us to bring hope to the hopeless and rest to those who are weary
and burdened,

To provide comfort and strength to those facing physical sickness in
need of restored health of body,

To bring peace and recovery to those suffering with emotional and
mental health needs.

May we be a friend to those who are friendless, a companion to those
who are lonely.

Give us compassionate hearts to care for children, to teach them to
follow the example of Jesus,

As Your servants, we ask for wisdom and insight to faithfully discern
every opportunity yet revealed to provide care for others,

And enable us to respond in tangible ways.

May we be willing, in love, to serve our neighbor who may be different
from us, who is facing circumstances we may not fully understand,
challenges we have never experienced.

Find us not to be critical, arrogant, or judgmental but to always lead
with grace, compassion, and kindness.

And may our city be drawn to You, our Redeemer, through our
reflection of Your lovingkindness.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Isaiah 58:6-14

REFLECTION

How is God calling me to serve?

How can I make a difference in the lives of people in my community?

How can I reflect God's compassion, grace and mercy to a hurting world?

Pray for the following ministries:

Mark 9, Awana, Oakwood Counseling Center,
Volunteers in Medicine, Kids Club, our community
hospitals, our schools

Day 22 | Evil Strongholds

by Rachel Woelfel

GUIDED PRAYER

Lord,

I look around me at this world, and I'm overwhelmed. This world feels broken, cold, and dark. Everything I see or read seems littered with hardships and tragedy. I see pictures of people crying out to You, even if they don't know who hears them. I feel crippled with fear for our children.

And yet, I know that you are there even in what feels like infinite darkness. You are there to comfort the grieving widower, the anxious mother, and the scared child. I am grateful that there is no problem so big that You can't easily overcome it, and there is no problem so small that You don't care deeply about it.

I remember, as a young child, being afraid of the dark. The light was a beacon of safety, hope, and warmth. God, we need that light now. Give us enough light to share with others overwhelmed in the darkness. Let our light from You shine so brightly that the evil and darkness around us disappear. Let me see the light in others so vividly that the dark is no longer my focus. Help me to be a child of light and not a slave to the darkness. "I prayed to the Lord, and He answered me. He freed me from all my fears. Those who look to Him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces." (Psalm 34:4-5 NLT)

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Ephesians 6:10-18, Luke 6:27-28

REFLECTION

Reflect on what darkness overwhelms you. How can you free yourself from focusing on that, and instead embrace being a follower of peace and light? What is a tangible way to encourage others to not focus on evil and fear, but to instead put their trust in God?

What piece of the armor of God do you find that you struggle putting on the most? What specific things can be done to change that?

Pray for those in this world that are committing known evils, and specifically for those who have hurt you and the people you love. What can be done to show them love and encourage them to be more like Jesus?

Day 23 | Hunger & Thirst

by Rachel Lamb

GUIDED PRAYER

Father God,

What a privilege it is to call out to You and to be heard by You.

You are a God who is gracious and compassionate.

You are a God who works everything together for our good and Your glory.

We pray that Your glory would be revealed to the people of New Braunfels, Texas.

We pray that the people of this city would hunger and thirst for righteousness through You alone.

Remind us that righteousness cannot be achieved by our own efforts.

Remind us that we desperately need You to transform us.

Let us be filled with Your Holy Spirit.

Let us not crave the things of this world that do not satisfy our souls.

Let us find satisfaction in You and only You, Lord.

In Jesus' holy and precious name we pray,

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Matthew 5:6

REFLECTION

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.”

Day 24 | **Salvations in Our City**

by Austin Oden

GUIDED PRAYER

Lord,

We thank You for Your steadfast love and unending grace. May we extend that grace and steadfast love to our neighbors in New Braunfels so that they might see a picture of what Your Son did for us on the cross.

Let us humble ourselves before You so we may be bold in sharing the Gospel, not wishing any should perish but that all should reach repentance.

We also pray that the people of New Braunfels have ears to hear and respond to the Gospel when it is presented to them. Lord, we boldly pray for a city-wide response to the Gospel as it is preached to them, that unreached people might hear of Your mighty works, and to re-ignite the people who've already heard the Gospel.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Acts 10:30-43

REFLECTION

Ask God how to share the Gospel to those around you.

Pray for the Spirit to work through you to plant seeds and ignite a fire within those who need to hear!

Day 25 | Church Plants

by Pastor Jeff Covington

GUIDED PRAYER

Father,

I thank You for the privilege of partnering in Your work to build Your Church.

I pray for our partners in the gospel who are planting and have planted churches throughout North America.

I pray that they will walk closely with You. That they would stay in Your Word and would abide in You so that they will be able to minister out of the overflow of their relationship with You.

I pray for their marriage and their family. That planters will be sensitive to the needs of their families. That You would encourage their wives and provide their wives with other women who can listen to them and encourage them.

I ask that more planters would be called. Give them the courage and strength to accept Your calling.

I pray that you will give them wisdom and favor in their community. Help them to remain faithful to Your calling on their lives.

Use these churches to spread Your Good News and draw many people to Yourself through their ministry.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

1 Thessalonians 1:2

REFLECTION

Turn to the Appendix at the end of this book and pray over all of the Oakwood Church Plants.

Day 26 | The Next Generation

by Haven Pierce

GUIDED PRAYER

God,

You are a good Father who desires for Your children to know You.

I pray that the next generation will come to know and love You.

As the next generation battles the millions of voices they hear every day,

I pray that Your Word would come into their lives as a sword that cuts through lies.

I pray for them to hear Your Word and be able to identify the truth that it holds.

Father, would You help them fight against the enemy as he sneakily uses social media, movies, TV shows, and other sources to tell them they are alone and there is no God.

Father, would You open their ears to hear they are not alone and that You are real and good.

I pray for my heart that I would not look at the next generation in pity from afar.

And instead, I will ask myself, “How am I making disciples out of the next generation?”

Please bring them back to You, and may they love You with all their heart, soul, and strength.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Psalm 78:1-4, John 14:6

REFLECTION

Am I faithfully discipling the next generation?

If not, how can I begin?

What's my part to help the next generation become influencers of the Gospel?

***Day 27* | Education**

by Cari Leach

GUIDED PRAYER

Lord,

You are the source of all that is good. All wisdom and knowledge belong to You.

There is no question of what is Truth. You are true, and You are wise.

Forgive us, Father, for seeking our own way, trusting in our own understanding, and relying on our own strength.

Give us the ability to discern good versus evil, true versus untrue.

The world needs intelligent, wise Christ-followers. May we be filled with truth and love.

May our students, teachers, and professors seek Your Truth.

May they not forget the Creator as they learn and teach about the world You created.

Inspire them with your beauty and creativity. Holy Spirit, empower them to be bold for Your name.

May we be lifelong learners; no matter our age or stage, may we be relentless pursuers of You.

May we not despise instruction. Help us to love Your word, to esteem it beyond all else.

Open our ears. Educate us with Your word. Light a fire in us.

May we seek understanding more than we seek to be understood.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Proverbs 2:6, Psalm 119:66

REFLECTION

Pray for the students and teachers in your life to have wisdom.

In what areas of your life do you need the wisdom of God?
Ask Him for it.

Day 28 | The Family

by Pastor Robert Parrish

GUIDED PRAYER

Father,

You are the architect and the implementor of the family. One man and one woman in a life-long committed covenant relationship, raising the next generation of passionate Jesus followers. Your purpose and strength abound for single adults, single-parent families, and couples without kids. Yet, You have designed the traditional family to be essential for the welfare of children, churches, and the commonwealth. As such, the evil one is attacking this critical institution. Lord, we ask for increased marital oneness and couples staying married. We ask for a decrease in the need for children to enter foster care and an increase in families who will make a forever family for the children who do. Bring an increased desire for young people to enter a committed, Christ-centered marriage. And help families of faith intentionally raise their children to follow Jesus passionately across our nation. Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Ephesians 5:22-6:3

REFLECTION

PRAY

God, how can I be more like Jesus in my role as husband/wife?

God, help me to be intentional in passing on my faith to my children.

God, are you calling me to be a part of caring for the orphan?

God, I don't fit into the traditional family mold, help me to see and fulfill my role as a minister of reconciliation to our nation's children and churches.

Day 29 | **Mental Health**

by Eva Lott

GUIDED PRAYER

Father,

Allow me to enter this privileged time alongside You. Give me grace to hear Your Spirit, Lord, to receive Your direction, and to respond in obedience. Lead me today into Your holy presence. Ignite a holy desire to praise and serve You all the days of my life.

I am grateful that You both hear me and allow me to be heard. Grateful for Your mercy and the knowledge that You know me so intimately that You know what I need before I utter a word. Your love lays hold of me before I can lay hold of myself.

Forgive my sins. I pray as David did, asking that You create in me a clean heart. Renew a right spirit so I may approach Your throne with pure intentions that my requests may please You.

Lord, this world groans with loneliness in epidemic proportions. Depression, anxiety, suicide, mass shootings, and numerous other mental health issues have increased. In prayer, I ask that You make me aware of those who are struggling with mental health issues. Anchored by the confidence that You are the One who can meet their need in their deepest sense, I ask that You allow me to recognize their need. You are the only One who can sustain these needs with unceasing and unspeakable love. Bridge the threshold over which my own caring and Your love must pass so they might be reached.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Psalm 130:5-6

REFLECTION

Am I running from you Lord?

Teach me, Lord, how to reframe my restless spirit of loneliness into a fruitful solitude with You. Increase my faith. Give me courage to enter my loneliness and change it by gentle and persistent time with You.

Day 30 | Prisons

by Brent Jolly

GUIDED PRAYER

Father,

I pray for those in prison—those who are lonely, isolated, and in despair. I ask You to give them hope, peace, strength, and comfort.

I'm reminded that You expect me to remember those in prison as if I were there with them, to visit those in prison, and to provide for the needs of those left behind.

Most of all, You expect me to proclaim the Good News that Jesus is the hope, light, encouragement, and salvation for everyone living in darkness and despair. I know Your Word will not return void.

I pray the gospel will be proclaimed to every prisoner and will be received in a way that creates revival in the hearts of all who hear it.

In Jesus' name and for Your glory, I pray!

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Hebrews 13:1-3, Matthew 25:34-40,
Matthew 28:18-20, Isaiah 55:9-11, and Isaiah 61:1-3

REFLECTION

God, what are You showing me?

What do You have for me to do as a messenger of the gospel to those in prison and those left behind?

Day 31 | Political Leaders

by Doug Miller

GUIDED PRAYER

Dear Father God,

We know that all authority comes from You. Your sovereignty is omniscient. We prayerfully ask for discernment as we approach a time of electing our local, state and national leaders. Father, You call us to love others (John 15:12); to pray for our leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-2) and You call us to live in unity (Ephesians 4:3). Father, we know that You see our frustrations and sometimes confusion, but You promise that when we pray, You will give us guidance and peace. Like King David, most of all, we seek Your wisdom.

Father, show us how to listen with open and humble hearts and especially be respectful to people different from us. Father, forgive us for the times we've failed to treat each other as Your creation.

We ask all of this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

John 15:12, 1 Timothy 2:1-2, Ephesians 4:3

REFLECTION

Day 32 | Peace

by Terry Williams

GUIDED PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank You for Your incredible gift of peace. In this world filled with chaos and conflict, turmoil and strife, confusion and distraction, Your peace is all we need. You, dear Jesus, are all we need to achieve peace in our personal lives, relationships, jobs, and this world we live in.

Forgive me, Lord, for relying on myself or others whenever trouble or trials send my life out of Your will and out of control. I know, Lord, that the only answer to the madness is trusting in You and relying on Your perfect peace moment by moment.

Help me, Jesus, to choose peace in my interactions with others when I am walking in uncertainty and when there is chaos all around me. Give me Your peace, oh Lord, when I face fear and confusion.

Remind me that You have already given me Your perfect peace, and help me choose to rest in it.

And finally, Lord, help me to live in peace with others so that they are drawn to You and Your name is glorified.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

John 14:27

(The words of our Lord to His disciples shortly before He was crucified)

REFLECTION

Thank God for His gift of perfect peace.

Ask God to show you who you need to live in peace with or
make peace with and how you can choose peace over chaos.

Day 33 | War

by Tim Lawless

GUIDED PRAYER

Father in Heaven,

All creation cries out in anguish due to the suffering brought upon it by war.

Your image bearers commit acts of violence against each other, and these acts cannot easily be forgotten.

War results in warriors and innocents killed or wounded physically, mentally, and emotionally.

You alone, Lord, know the extent of the suffering, and You alone will end it.

Lord, we ask You to bring Your peace to creation in a way that brings You praise, glory, and honor. Until then, equip Your servants to go out and minister to those affected by war and be an instrument in Your hands to bring about healing.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Isaiah 2:4

REFLECTION

Eternal peace will come. We must continue to be willing to be used by the Lord to help those who are hurting.

Day 34 | **Human Trafficking**

by Rex Miller

GUIDED PRAYER

Pray

Lord, help me to see the needs around me, to ask how I can help,
and to be willing to give:

To speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights
of all who are destitute.

To speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy
(Proverbs 31:8-9).

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

2 Kings 4:1-7

REFLECTION

Human Trafficking awareness has become more prevalent recently with the successful movie, *Sound of Freedom*. Many billboards along the interstate also address the concerns of human trafficking. In its simplest terms, Human Trafficking is labor trafficking, which is forcing people to work off their debt (a debt that seems never to end), and as commercial sexual exploitation, which is forcing people to perform the vilest acts to please others. Often, these victims come from poor nations, have no family support, or have no other means to survive.

The prophet, Elisha, notices and listens to the wife's plea. He asks her what resources she has, uses those resources, and instructs her to seek help from her neighbors. In turn, her neighbors see her need and help her. In the end, God provided for this woman and her sons. This is a beautiful story of hearing a need, asking what can be done, and helping to solve that need.

Human Trafficking is an international, complex problem, but helping those near you and me can play a significant role in helping someone gain their freedom.

Day 35 | Persecuted Christians

by Jenny Hander

GUIDED PRAYER

Father,

You have warned that all who want to live a godly life will be persecuted (2 Timothy 3:12). Yet, I live in a time and place where Christians suffer minimal persecution for their faith. Help me to remember this is not the case for all who follow You. I pray that from Your glorious, unlimited resources, You will empower persecuted Christians with inner strength through Your Spirit in them (Ephesians 3:16) so that they may stand firm in their faith. I ask You to give them the joy of Your presence (Psalm 16:11) and remind them of Your love for them and the eternal place You have prepared for them. Bring comfort to their bystanders—spouses and children watching and waiting for the persecution of their loved one to cease. May those who persecute Your followers see the love their victims have for You and be changed by that love to the point of surrender to You as their Lord. May stories of persecuted Christians strengthen my own faith and remind me that following You is worth any cost.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

2 Timothy 3:12, Matthew 10:16-39, Matthew 11:6
Hebrews 10:32-36 and Hebrews 13:12-14

REFLECTION

For stories of persecuted Christians or to learn how you can support those enduring persecution, visit the Voice of the Martyrs at www.persecution.com. There you can sign up to receive a free magazine which will share stories and prayer points for persecuted Christians.

Day 36 | Serve the Nations

by Pastor Will Stevens

GUIDED PRAYER

Lord of All Creation,

I pray for the Christ-followers all over the world doing ministry to support and grow the local Church. The smallest light can be seen in the darkest place. I pray, Lord, You would use these lights to guide the lost out of the darkness and into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. I pray You protect those carrying the Light. Give them strength and courage, the resources they need, and a great resolve to carry out the mission of the Church no matter what hardship they face.

Lord, I pray specifically for the Christians in Ukraine and Russia and those caught between Israel and Hamas. I pray for Christ-followers in many Middle Eastern countries that persecute Christians. I pray that You would provide hope, love, and aid to those suffering through your servants. May your servants be warriors for the Kingdom in how they respond to violence, threats, and evil. Help them to hold their ground so they may help Your Church rise from the ashes when these conflicts are over.

And Lord, I pray for discipline and focus for those Christ-followers in areas that are safe but full of people content in their comfort and wealth. Please help them not to become complacent, lazy, or distracted by the pleasures of this world. May they stay focused and lead others to see that nothing satisfies more than the life-giving water of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Joshua 1:9, Galatians 6:9

REFLECTION

What are those good things you grow tired of doing?

Pray for the strength to keep doing what is right and the courage to be a light that leads others to the Church.

Day 37 | Called to Ministry

by Pastor Jordan Cash

GUIDED PRAYER

O Holy One,
I live with so much noise. Too much noise. Quiet my soul.
Away from the noise I hear You.

You are the Lord of the Harvest. There is so much work to be done.
A great harvest waiting.
The Lost, the people of the earth, are the ones who do not know You.
They are that harvest.

I am praying to You to call out more workers.
Burn a new passion in the hearts of those You are calling.
Those You are calling to ministry.
Have You called me? Are You calling me?

You have promised workers to do Your ministry.
But why are the called running? Something has shaken their faith.
Embolden the called. Strengthen their faith. Strengthen my faith.

Allow me to be the spark for the awakening of someone's calling.
Fan into flame Your gifts within my life.
Even if I am not called to vocational ministry,
Thank you that I am a part of Your work.

Allow this church to be a place that encourages, equips,
and sends Your called into ministry.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Luke 10:2

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

REFLECTION

Are you called to vocational (as your job) ministry?

Continue writing to let God speak to you.

Who do you know that is called to vocational ministry?

Write their names down and pray for them.

Day 38 | **The Gospel to the Nations**

by Janae Fuller

GUIDED PRAYER

Jesus,

You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Although we once walked in darkness, by Your grace

You rescued us and brought us into life in Your Kingdom.

No longer separated from You, we are called the Children of God.

This Good News, the Gospel—

May it be accessible to every tribe, tongue, generation, and nation.

May the knowledge of You reach the ends of the Earth,

And Your hope permeates the depths of our man-made systems.

May this Gospel be written and spoken, communicated visually,
digitally, audibly—

May it be reflected in us and be expedited by us—Your Church.

So that all will know of Your goodness and be drawn to repentance.

So that none may perish, but all come to the saving knowledge
of You.

May every people group experience the life You give and that life
in abundance.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Matthew 28:18-20

REFLECTION

How does Jesus' promise of being with us empower us to carry out His instructions?

Consider this quote from Dallas Willard: "Jesus said, 'without me you can do nothing.' (John 15:5) But it is also true that if we do nothing it will be without him."

PRAY

God, what are you stirring in me to do together with you?

***Day 39* | Responsiveness to the Gospel**

by Pastor Trevor Pierce

GUIDED PRAYER

Yahweh,

The nations are Your heritage, and the ends of the earth are
Your possession.

You are deserving of all worship, glory, and honor.

For the sake of Your name, and by the power of Your Spirit,
soften the hearts of the lost to receive and respond to Your Gospel.

Remove the veil that blinds the minds of unbelievers, that they
might see and savor your Son, Jesus. Enable them to respond to Your
grace. For only You, O Lord, are able to save.

We ask that all people groups would not only be able to hear
Your Gospel, but that they would respond in faith and repentance to
the truth.

Father, give them eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to understand
the glory of Christ.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Ezekiel 36:26-27, 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

REFLECTION

Pray that God would overcome barriers of understanding and acceptance for the gospel in the world.

Pray that God's Spirit would free people from the lies of false religions that the nations might know the true God.

Pray for the gospel to penetrate into cultures that have historically rejected it (ex: Japan, India, Myanmar).

Day 40 | **Christ's Return**

by Jeff Owen

GUIDED PRAYER

Jesus,

May You not delay but return soon. As we witness the violence in our world, we plead for peace and long for a new heaven and a new earth. As we experience grief in this life, we long to be reunited with those who have gone before us. As we struggle with the trials of this fallen world, we long for restoration. May You return, claim Your church as Your bride, and establish Your Kingdom fully.

We also thank You for Hope. Hope in Your return so that we can live our lives in expectation. May this expectation give us the strength to live our lives fully and well until the day of Your coming. Your Kingdom is not just a hope for tomorrow but also a reality for today. As we walk through this life, may we live Your peace, may we live Your assurance, may we live Your love, may we form our lives into Your likeness.

This world is Yours presently. I am Yours faithfully. Form us into the Kingdom You desire as we patiently await Your return.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

1 Thessalonians 4:16-5:9

REFLECTION

Jesus, how do I need to prepare for Your return?

Oakwood Church Plants

SELF-SUPPORTING

Epic Life, Seattle, WA
New Generations Fellowship, New Braunfels, TX
Everyday Christian Fellowship, Cibolo, TX
Fellowship at Plum Creek, Kyle, TX
The Connection Church, Buda, TX
Amistad Baptist Church, La Feria, TX
Quemado Valley Cowboy Church, Quemado, TX
Iglesia Hispana, Lynden, WA
Tabernaculo Familia de Dios, Snohomish, WA
Church 21, Magog, Quebec
Family Baptist Church (Korean Church), San Antonio, TX
Real Path Baptist Church, Eagle Pass, TX
Fellowship Oshawa, Oshawa, ON
Mesa Place Church, El Paso, TX
Remedy City Church, Beaverton, OR
Impact Church, Schertz, TX

CURRENTLY FUNDING

Mosaic Church, San Antonio, TX
Garden Church, Portland, OR
Word Of Life Slavic Baptist Church, Portland, OR
New Creation Chinese Church, Portland, OR
Calvary Church, Severance, CO
Pillar Church, Washington DC
New Day Church, Schertz, TX
Sun City Church, El Paso, TX
Canvas Church Oak Bay, Victoria, BC
Go PDX, Portland, OR
Pillar Church, San Antonio, TX
Impact Family Church, New Braunfels, TX
Iglesia Cristiana Dios de Gracia, El Paso, TX

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2154 LOOP 337 | NEW BRAUNFELS TX 78130

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