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Answered Prayer

Ponder and pray the following passage for our whole church as you begin the Week of Prayer and Fasting 2022. Underline, highlight, and emphasize words and phrases that stand out to you. Linger over this passage throughout the week. From God's Word to our Second Mile family:

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1:3-11

Maybe we can relate to Paul's imprisonment if we think of it this way:

It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in [my weariness, the pandemic, my mental health, the daily trials and tribulations] and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

Is this your experience? It seems a collective weariness has blanketed most of us. This prayer guide was written with that in mind. Each day in the booklet is shorter than it has been in years past. As a body we will focus on less content, but still pray with depth and focus. Meaningful

repetition is important, especially when fatigue is bearing down. Therefore, the focus of this year's guide is the Philippians message series our church enjoyed in the fall of 2021. Be encouraged to revisit any or all of the messages throughout this week (secondmile520.org/messages/series/view/philippians). Let the daily passages, the prayer points, and the messages remind you of God's work in your life and in our church. He has been and will continue to be faithful to us.

Please dive deep into the Answered Prayer section of the guide. If we are feeling worn out and weary it may be difficult to see God's goodness around us. We encourage one another by sharing how God meets us in our need. The Answered Prayer section is full of the words of our Second Mile brothers and sisters. This section is almost as long as the daily prayer section and we hope you will see the riches of his mercy through each word.

Let us press into this week and this upcoming year. Let us imagine the completion of 2022. Let us treasure God's Word, grow in having the mind and compassion of Christ, and truly embrace "To live is Christ." As brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus let us link arms and tighten grips for the glory of God and remember that Jesus is better, greater, worth it, enough, and compelling.

Monday — Treasuring the Word, Jeremiah 15:16

Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. Jeremiah 15:16

- Ask God to quiet your heart this week, to make you ready to hear from him.
- Spend time pondering and worshipping him for his greatness. Name specific attributes of God. Write down your thoughts as an act of worship.

Process these questions and pray through your honest thoughts and feelings concerning God's Word.

- Do you treasure the Word of God?
- Is your life structured to cultivate a knowledge and love for God's Word?
- What is attempting to choke out your love for God's Word? And by extension, your ability to bear fruit?
- What is your day-to-day routine of abiding in God's Word?
- How is the Word of God growing into fruitfulness in your life? How is it transforming you?

Make these passages your prayer for today, tomorrow, and every day for the rest of your life:

Incline my heart to your testimonies (Psalm 119:36).

Open my eyes to see wonderful things (Psalm 119:18).

Unite my heart to fear your name (Psalm 86:11).

Satisfy me in the morning with your steadfast love (Psalm 90:14).

- Memorize and meditate on Jeremiah 15:16.
- Ask God to cultivate a life-long hunger for his word.
- Pray that he will continually teach you to eat his word.
- Plead with him to make his word a joy and delight to you.
- Thank him and ask him to remind you that you are called by his name, the son or daughter of the Most High God.

Tuesday — To Live is Christ — Because of God’s Grace, by Faith, We Rejoice, Philippians 1:21, 4:4

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Philippians 4:4

The limitless love of God is continually poured out on us through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). This love leads us to prayers of gratitude, deeds of kindness, removes wrong attitudes, and enables us to resolve problems with others. God’s unfailing love empowers us to believe and proclaim, “To live is Christ!”

- Ask God to help you believe and grow in experiential knowledge of his love.
- Pray that you will be caught up in the fullness of his love.
- Think about this great love all day. Without this foundation, “to live is Christ” is hollow.
- Pray that he will help you overflow with love for him, for yourself, and for others.

Do you cling to Christ in all things? The obvious answer for all of us is no, we do not.

What do you cling to in stress, frustration, and exhaustion? How do you fill in the blank: To live is _____? Success, fame, money, entertainment, friends, family?

- Confess these God-substitutes to the Father and ask him to free you from what binds your heart and mind. Allow him to bring the refreshment of his love into these areas of your life.
- Plead with God to teach you what “to live is Christ” means. This will be a life-long pursuit. Trust him and ask him for patient endurance.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to live for the glory of God above all things.

In this pursuit because of Jesus, we can rejoice!

- Pray that your circumstances will not diminish your rejoicing. If you do not want to rejoice, confess this to God and ask him to renew the joy of your salvation (Psalm 51).
- Thank God for the hope you have in Christ alone.

Say this as a personal meditation again and again today and everyday until you believe it: To live is Christ, therefore I rejoice!

Wednesday — The Mind and Compassion of Christ, Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 9:36

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Philippians 2:1-2

Take time now to open your Bible and read Philippians 2:1-11 several times. Let the words wash over you. Jot down the phrases that stand out to you and pray through each one.

- Ask God to help you understand what it means to have the mind of Christ. Pray that you will grow in the comfort, love, affection, sympathy, and humility of Jesus Christ.
- Pray that you will “participate in the Spirit” as he teaches you to yield your will to the Father’s will.
- Pray that you will be empty of self (selfish ambition and vain conceit) and have one mind with Christ.

Read Philippians 2:1-11 throughout the day. Consider memorizing this passage.

The fruit (evidence) of our growing in having the mind of Christ is our growing in the compassion of Christ. He emptied himself and became a servant. He asks us to do the same — “in humility count others more significant than yourselves.”

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Matthew 9:36

The defining emotion for Jesus when looking at the crowd of people is compassion. If we want the mind of Christ, we must ask the Holy Spirit to help us understand this emotion. The compassion of Jesus changes everything!

What is your defining emotion when you deal with the people in your life or view the world around you? Compassion along with the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)? Or anger, spite, disgust, judgment, shock, or even pity?

Sit with the Holy Spirit and allow him to show you your true emotion towards your fellow humans. This time will most likely be a time of repenting and a time of rejoicing. We are capable of loving and hating at the same time.

- Ask Jesus to increase in you *his mind* and *his compassion* towards others.

These questions were shared in the message on November 7th. Prayerfully work through each one. Write out your answers and share them with your community. Will 2022 be the year your compassion increases for your friends and family who don’t know Jesus? Will you open your mouth and share the gospel with them this year?

- What were you like before you encountered Jesus?
- What are two words that describe your lostness?
- How did you encounter Jesus?

- How did Jesus interact with you in those attributes of your lostness?
- What changed as a result of Jesus?
- What words describe you now, as a result of knowing Jesus as your shepherd?

- Do you believe that there is a plentiful harvest, that Jesus still saves people?
- Are you moved by the compassion of Jesus to labor and tell people about him?
- What inhibits your compassion? Selfish ambition? Unbelief?
- How often do you think of the spiritual reality of those around you? Monthly? Daily? Hourly?
- Where are you blind to the harassed and helpless state of those around you?
- Who will you tell about Jesus?

- Ask God to increase your compassion for the people in your life to the point of overflowing.
- Pray that God will give you courageous, bold compassion and enable you to open your mouth to share about his love, forgiveness, and salvation.
- Spend time praying for the person/people by name you will tell about Jesus in 2022.

Thursday — One Mind — High-functioning Church Family Relationships, Philippians 2:14-15

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world. Philippians 2:14-15

The way our Second Mile family functions matters. As a church family, is Christ reflected in our attitudes and relationships? Is Christ reflected in your attitude and relationships?

Is there anyone in Second Mile you need to forgive? Is there someone with whom you have conflict that you need to resolve?

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you dwell in unity with your brothers and sisters in Christ (Psalm 133:1, Philippians 4:2)

With whom in Second Mile do you share brotherly/sisterly affection? Do they know you care for them? Have you told them? Call or text them today to encourage them (Hebrews 3:13).

If our Lord has told us to go and make disciples, then internal grumbling and disputing among God's people is completely counterproductive.

- Ask God to help you be an encourager rather than a grumbler and complainer.
- Pray through the following "one another" Scriptures. Think about specific people in Second Mile with whom you can practice these one another disciplines. (For a full list, go to this website: <https://overviewbible.com/one-another-infographic/>)

Love one another (John 13:34, at least 16 times in Scripture).

Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10).

Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2).

Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5).

Stir up one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24).

Pray for one another (James 5:16).

Show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9).

Look to the interests of one another (Philippians 2:4).

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19).

- Pray that our church would have God-honoring, high-functioning relationships.
- Pray that our church would shine like stars even in this crooked and twisted generation.
- Ask God to help us be a people of actions and deeds and not just thoughts and prayers.
- Ponder and make a list of what this could look like through Second Mile to the world around us. Identify your specific role in the list. Ask God to help you actively engage.

And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:47

- Plead with God to make this verse a reality in our midst. As a church family, may God help us cling to Jesus and cling to one another.

Friday — Citizens of Heaven as We Eagerly Await, Philippians 3:12-4:1

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:20

Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Philippians 1:27 (NLT)

Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. Philippians 4:1

We are citizens of heaven who travel the narrow path of Christ as we wait for his return.

What does it mean to you to be a citizen of heaven? Look up the following passages in your Bible. Add any Scriptures you may know to this list.

Revelation 5:10; Ephesians 2:4-7,19; Matthew 5:14-16; 1 Peter 2:9

- Pause, ponder, and pray.
- Ask God to refine your perspective and bend your heart to himself. Surrender whatever may be holding you back from fully embracing your heavenly citizenship. Have you fully surrendered your life to Jesus? Today is the day.

We are citizens of heaven which means we are waiting for Jesus to return. The Bible says that the road to life is narrow and difficult (Matthew 7:13-14). As people who are on the narrow path and desire to walk the second mile (Matthew 5:41), much will be required of us as we wait for him. Distractions, impatience, temptations, and exhaustion will surely wage war against our souls (1 Peter 2:11-12).

Do you desire to be a narrow-path follower of Jesus?

- Read Hebrews 12:12-15. Ask God to strengthen your drooping hands and weak knees, to make your path straight while you wait for his return.
- Read Hebrews 12:1. Pray for the desire, discernment, and discipline to throw off everything that hinders and any sin in which you are entangled. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you. Ask your brother or sister in Christ to help you. You are not alone!
- Read Hebrews 12:2. Pray that you would keep your eyes fixed on Jesus who is the founder and perfecter of your faith.

In waiting, God develops the parts of our character that take the longest to grow and mature. Humility, patience, submission, persistence, and joyful endurance are essential for a follower of Jesus.

Besides Jesus' return, for what are you waiting? A job? A relationship? The next step in the plan? The ability to forgive someone? Freedom from sin?

- Ask God to show you how he is developing humility, patience, submission, persistence, and joyful endurance as you wait.
- Be courageous and plead with him to develop, refine, and build your character in these areas as you wait.
- Pray for the ability to wait and endure on the narrow path as the Father loves, shapes, and grows you.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! Psalm 27:14

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. Psalm 40:1-2

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. James 5:7

- As you wait for the stuff of life, ask God to continually remind you to wait for the Lord.
- Pray that you will not be distracted by earthly things but will set your mind on heavenly things (Colossians 3:1).
- Ask the Holy Spirit to continually remind you that your waiting is not meaningless. Trust God to complete the work he started in you.

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6

Are you motivated by seeing Jesus face to face one day? As a citizen of heaven who waits, do you look forward to heaven?

- Sit in Jesus' presence and ask him to return soon.
- Ask God to give you the ability to endure and to eagerly await his return.

Saturday — A Sent Church who Sends — Supporting and Partnering, Philippians 4:14-20; Matthew 28:18-20

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. Philippians 4:19-20

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

As a reminder, the church in Philippi was Paul's sending church. They supported his ministry through encouragement, prayer, and finances. Read Philippians 4:10-23 for context of the support he received from them.

Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Philippians 4:14-15

Do you support the ministry of Second Mile through encouragement, prayer, and finances?

- Praise God for his continual provision to our church. He allows us to meet budget every year through the generosity of our body.
- Thank God for his provision in your own life. Pray that he will enable you to be content in whatever situation (Philippians 4:11).
- Ask God to show you how to support Second Mile in practical ways. In what ways do you encourage, pray, serve, and give?
- Pray that your gifts will be "a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God" (Philippians 4:18).
- Ask God to continue to provide encouraging supporters for the ministry of Second Mile so that we can continue to be a sending church for others.

Are there other ministries you support through encouragement, prayer, and finances?

- Pray for ministries and/or ministers you personally give to and pray for. Thank God for their work. Praise him for his provision. Thank him for using you. Count it a joy to be a partner in the gospel with these people and ministries.

Second Mile also supports various ministries in our yearly budget through our collective giving.

Pray for the following people and ministries. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you pray with precision and insight. Trust him to guide your prayers. If something comes to mind and it honors him and whoever you are praying for, pray it!

Seeds Community Center led by Christe LePeau

- "Getting back on our feet after being virtual has brought many obstacles. Please pray for the right connections in the community to continue our work."
- Contact Christe if you would like to help: clepeau@gmail.com

Evan and Audrey Eusey, Sapporo, Japan

- Praise God, the Euseys are finally back in Sapporo!
- Ask God for a quick and peaceful reentry for their family, specifically for their children.
- Pray for reconnection with their friends and new connections with people ready to hear about Jesus.
- Pray for renewed humility, patience, submission, persistence, and joyful endurance in what God has asked them to do in Sapporo.

Tucson Refugee Ministry (TRM) — tucsonrefugeeministry.com

- Sign up for their newsletter to know how to practically encourage, pray, and support refugees in Tucson.
- Ask God to raise up someone in Second Mile to lead our body to get more involved with TRM. (Could it be you?)

International Justice Mission — ijm.org

- Ask God to end global slavery in our lifetime
- Ask God to provide all the resources IJM needs to do the work of rescuing people from horrific circumstances.
- Visit their website to learn how to become a Freedom Partner with IJM.

Aly Lawry and Bethany Tolsma with Navigators

- Ask God for continued growth in wisdom, maturity, and leadership for Aly and Bethany.
- Pray for maturity in the students that know Jesus to act with Christlikeness in the midst of cultural chaos.
- Pray for the salvation and equipping of students.
- Praise God for the abundant fruit he has grown this year in the midst of challenging circumstances.

Arizona Baptist Children's Ministry — abcs.org

- The turmoil of the pandemic has greatly increased the need for foster parents. Ask God to continue to raise up foster families in Second Mile and in Pima County.
- Ask God to give ABCS wisdom as they raise support and navigate the world as a Christian agency.
- Pray for the foster/adoptive families in Second Mile.

Hands of Hope — handsofhopetucson.com

- Hands of Hope provides free sexual health resources for the Tucson community. Ask that God will continue to use them to bring physical, emotional, and spiritual health to women and men in our city.
- Pray for financial and personnel resources.
- They have experienced grief and loss in their organization this year. Ask God to encourage them and give them the ability to persevere in the ministry God has given them.

Life in Christ Community Church — facebook.com/LifeInChristAZ

- Pray for John and Lacy Benson. As with almost all churches, this year has been difficult. Ask God to bolster their courage to serve God, to give them peace. Pray for their marriage and their family.
- Pray for Life in Christ to grow in unity, maturity, and love for each other and for our city. Pray for Pastor John and Pastor Derek Taylor as they lead their body.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-5

Answered Prayer

This section is meant to encourage you to persevere in the narrow path. God hears our spoken and unspoken prayers. He delights in giving good gifts to his children. He sees and knows our deepest needs. Spend time reading and rejoicing over these answered prayers. Thank God for his kindness and generosity to our church and to the individuals who shared answers. Please take time to think through and thank God for how he met you in 2021.

I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God? You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples. Psalm 77:11-14

Last year we asked God for the ability to patiently endure — we are still here — a definite answer to prayer. He is continually building up our church in beautiful ways. We have been refined by people leaving Second Mile and also joining Second Mile. God is at work in our midst.

“After a couple of years of feeling placeless in community, I’ve felt a deeper sense of belonging and connection within Second Mile.”

“I had been praying for a community and a church home for my family. This year I received both in Second Mile.” - Brianna Hazelman

“Holy Spirit has provided so much comfort and peace in a year that was difficult, unpeaceful, grief, and anxiety-filled. He has removed people from my life that I would not have walked away from and provided people to be the hands and feet of Jesus that I would never have thought I would have in my life. Finding a community of people who speak truth in love, who listen without judgement while pointing me to Jesus. Joy is an action and not just a feeling.”

“2021 was a difficult year for us as we navigated radically different workplaces amidst the pandemic and the current events. It was wearisome and often frustrating, confusing, and even angering at times. We found ourselves really asking "God, what would you have us do next?" as the current strain on our mental health and family felt unsustainable. God answered our prayer in a way we never imagined as he opened doors and led us through the process of leaving Tucson and moving to Colorado in January 2022 for Mike to be a youth minister at Storyline Church. Though the process has been surprising and terrifying, we have been continually confirmed by wise counsel, close friends, and true peace from the Lord. As we write this, we are in the final days of packing up our house and getting ready to move on to where the Lord has called us. Second Mile has been our home for many years, a place where we have found healing, love, and true community (another answered prayer!). While we are heartbroken to leave it, we have already felt so much love and support from Storyline. While the change is

scary, we are thankful to feel certain about the next step that the Lord is leading us into.” - Mike and Hannah DeAlto

God is faithful to our church through his Word. In 2021 we finished two and a half years of the Matthew series, revisited our core values, dove deep into Psalm 90, and saw how relevant Scripture is through Nahum, Habakkuk, and Micah. We were challenged and encouraged through Philipians, and we finished the year through the beauty of Advent.

Here are some answers specific to the Philipians series:

“God used Philipians 1:20-26 to continue to shape my understanding of what it means that “to live is Christ”, but particularly how that should impact my desire to continue with others for their progress and joy in the faith.” - Aly Lawry

“In Philipians the passage that stood out to me was 3:7-8. Just continuing to dig in on counting all things as loss to make Jesus the center of my life.” - Caleb Jackson

“Philipians 2:15 has been an encouraging verse for me. Much of my time at work has been among a very difficult crew, both in conversation and in action. Much of my career I've been slow to talk about my faith and as a result I do a poor job speaking about Jesus or even Second Mile. In January God gave me an opportunity to speak about my faith to a few members of my crew, and as a result I'm becoming more known as a church-goer. There's still plenty of work to do in this area but throughout the year my identity in Christ has been coming to light, and this verse has been an encouragement to persevere amidst a crooked and twisted generation.”

““The God who has overflowing grace to accomplish your salvation is the same God who graced you with suffering for His sake” -Chad Haynes based on Philipians 1:29. I feel like Chad spoke a lot about suffering and the reality of it in the Philipians study which is exactly what I feel like our body needed. After going through a miscarriage and infertility for 5 years and now being a nurse caring for children who have cancer, I have seen and experienced suffering first hand. It's hard, it's perplexing, it is so painful. But God is with us through it and has meaning and purpose in it, even when we don't understand. Reading Gentle and Lowly this year has also really helped me to appreciate the teachings in Philipians as well and see how much Jesus really loves us, even in the trials and tribulations of this world.” - Tamara Lillestol

“I really liked the sermon on anxiety and relationships within the church from Philipians. I think a lot of times we can see the Bible as comforting when it comes to anxiety but without active solutions outside of miraculous healing. I really liked the way Chad presented that passage and that the Lord does tell us that this is how we are to handle these things.” - Isabelle Knowles

Last year we asked God to help us in our transition to Core Communities, Equip classes, and Bible study/book groups. He continually provides support, leaders, and ideas for this transition.

God is meeting our church in the transition to **Core Communities**. These groups are designed for high commitment and engagement. We know some are still working to understand and find a place in this transition. Here are a few words from those who are enjoying the process:

“Core groups have been a long awaited answer to prayer. I love the intentionality and commitment to living out the gospel that comes with having a smaller and more adaptable group of people to do this with.”

“We have been so blessed with a vibrant, deep community. We joined a core community this year and have been so blessed by friendship, encouragement, sharpening, and accountability through it. It was something we prayed for entering our marriage and God answered in huge ways!” - Ben and Hannah Weaver

“Deepened community — to the point of feeling like family — in core groups.”

“This year we prayed for God's guidance regarding Core Communities. We had recently dissolved a Community Group that had become difficult to lead and weren't sure what to do next. Through God's guidance we re-formed as a much smaller and healthier Core Community with far less people. Throughout this year God has shown that community doesn't have to be a juggling act of trying to appease everyone but that it can be life giving and enjoyable. He's shown that fewer and deeper relationships are healthier for me.”

In the fall we started the huge journey of our **Equip classes**. More than 180 people participated in our first semester learning about the Bible. Equipping classes provide a formative environment for the Second Mile family to be equipped through theological training that cultivates disciples who effectively amplify Jesus. We pray this continues to deepen our faith and spiritually mature our church.

Various **Bible studies and book groups** were led throughout 2021. These groups are meant for both spiritual and relational growth. Men and women gathered together to study Scripture and to encourage one another. Please read these encouraging answers to prayer:

“God has been very faithful to me through the Homiletic Bible Studies, core community, and long term close friendships at Second Mile. All have been safe spaces for me to be my unfiltered self and grow in faith during an immensely hard season.” - Suzie Gallaher

“I attended the Evangelism class Kyle Haynes taught. I had prayed that God would help me learn to share the gospel and Kyle gave me tangible tools to use when I talk to my friends about Jesus.”

“Ten years ago before we got married we began to pray God would open doors for us to love and spread the gospel among first responder families and more specifically law enforcement families. Over the last year and a half God has abundantly answered that prayer. Over the last year I have found myself attending a support group for first responder women and building deep relationships with these women. After the support group started I attended the evangelism class and was deeply challenged to spread the gospel and share about Jesus and his love in my life. Since taking the class I have gotten to share Jesus with many of the women in the support group and a couple of them have even begun coming to the gathering. God has been abundantly faithful over the last 10 years and his timing for answered prayer is always perfect.” - Nicky Wingate

"I am becoming less defensive and more like Christ in my interactions. I feel more secure in my ability to speak the name of Jesus to non-believers, and feel more confident to be more straightforward in evangelism." - Caleb Jackson

"Last prayer and fasting, I was attending the gathering via Live Stream. Normally, every year, I would beg God to not ask Philip and me to become community group leaders. Thanks to the shift to core groups, I thought I was off the hook! WRONG! That night, as we transitioned to Friday's theme, we began praying for core groups, equipping classes, and bible/book studies. That's when I felt the heart-dropping, pulse-racing, and scary thought: I should lead a book study on *Get Out of Your Head* by Jennie Allen. This time I said yes and God replied, "I'll take it from here." The 6 months in between that night and the study were exciting, challenging, and full of many battles of pride and insecurity. But God met me every time my thoughts and feelings wanted to take me to better places. He not only provided exactly what I needed but gave me more than I could have imagined. I see how he created me and is developing my leadership skills. I am more aware of his goodness in all avenues of my life. The most beautiful thing is all the growth and healing that happened over the first half of the year. I needed every bit of it to be a part of what was waiting for me in the second half of 2021. I know God will meet all of Second Mile exactly where we are at with the perfect plan for how we need to grow, be healed, and rejuvenated." - Andrea Brobeck

"I asked God to help me work through some really difficult issues I've been dealing with for years. He led me to participate in Andrea's book group this spring, which gave me the support of godly women and the courage to pursue counseling. While it has been a difficult process, I've already experienced great healing and have had hard but important conversations that are long overdue."

"God has moved in my life by using so many different books of the Bible and Bible studies in my life this year. From finishing Matthew at the start of this year, to going over Psalm 90, to the minor prophets, to the Evangelism course, to doing Beth Moore's Galatians study, to going over Philippians and learning the history of the Bible in the Equipping classes...God has spoken and taught me so much this year in so many different ways. I see evangelism in a whole new light and feel more equipped to speak about the Bible. I see how suffering, though unpleasant, has purpose because of Jesus and God can move in our lives and the lives of others because of it and that's apparent in both the Old and New Testament. It's amazing to look back at all of the things we have been able to learn this year at church and how God has moved in our body. :)" - Tamara Lillestol

"This fall I was in a place of discouragement with my job which was making my whole world feel like it was crumbling. My husband, Warren, suggested we join the Ephesians Bible study group and with much grumbling, I agreed to join too. When we read and studied Ephesians 3:16 about how God works in our inner being, my outlook suddenly changed a lot. Not only is God with me, but he is working IN ME to strengthen me for His glory. There has been such peace as I daily meditate and abide in this verse and the love God shows in it. I had been praying God would help me improve my outlook and find peace. I believe this verse (which I know I've read before) is a small part of the answer to my prayers and has made a huge difference." Sarah Metcalf

"A year ago I was praying for anyone who might join the Ephesians study that we would drink deeply of Scripture and commune with God. I also asked that He would show me the fruit of 1.5 years of study. I was able to offer the study twice and more than 30 people participated at least

to some degree. God showed me that the fruit he grew within me personally sent out seed to continue to bear fruit in others. We all benefited greatly from new relationships, studied Scripture communally at least 2 hrs a week for 10 weeks, and practiced praying Scripture to fill our hearts, minds, and mouths with His Word. For myself personally, I prayed two years ago that God would help me better believe that He loves me. The things I learned while studying Ephesians absolutely were an answer to that prayer but God only continued to deepen my belief and understanding this year. Ephesians 1:7-8 tell us that he lavishes His grace on us with wisdom and insight. What He taught my heart about this verse in particular is that His love and grace for me is never lacking, never flippant, and definitely never wasted. This is especially true when I am caught up in doubt and failure because that is when I need His love and grace the most." -Erin Anderelli

In last year's prayer guide, we prayed for the opportunity to serve our neighborhood again through Fall Family Fun. Many Second Milers engaged in serving the neighbors and many neighbors came and enjoyed our trunk or treat. He answered our prayers for this event!

We were able to open Second Mile kids' classes again: "Reopening Second Mile Kids Classes was something that, at the beginning of 2021, I wasn't sure could happen. We were desperately short on volunteers and concerned about doing things safely. I prayed about the concerns and asked God to give volunteers a renewed vision for our kids and the ability to keep everyone safe. When we opened up classes in the spring, kids were out of sorts. There was crying, confusion, and sadness from the tiny ones. What once had been a place of laughter, learning, and life became a place of fear. And yet, volunteers faithfully showed up. They planned, prayed, and came ready to breathe new life into Second Mile Kids. And slowly, it happened. Hugs, songs, giggles, crafts, bubbles, and, at one point... kazoo! Each volunteer pouring into kids reassured them that 2M Kids is a safe place where they can be loved and learn from kind adults about our most kind and gracious God. I am overcome with gratitude when I think about the gifted people that God has brought to Second Mile Kids. Volunteers are overflowing with the joy of Jesus and they contagiously share him with kids week after week. God has been extravagant in providing volunteers who teach with exuberance, sing loudly, and most of all, pray big things over these kids. Each time I have felt discouraged this past year, God has lovingly pointed me back to his feet, and it is there that I can look to my left and right and notice that my church family is on their knees beside me. My cup runneth over." - Cara DeSmidt

God continues to refine and sustain of the elders, staff, and leaders of our church. Please don't stop praying for them.

Chad and Angel were blessed with a month break in April. God continues to hold them and keep them.

The Eusey family visited us to share what God was doing in their family and in Japan. It was good to be in face to face fellowship with this family we love and support.

So many college students are part of Second Mile. God gave us the vision to reach the next generation and these students are a tangible answer to this prayer. Pray for the students and ask God to give some of them the vision of staying in Tucson to help us reach our city.

After a long season of physical disconnection for our church, we hosted a couple of family picnics to promote connection and fun. We also hosted the Christmas Party to enjoy togetherness as we eagerly await Jesus's return. Celebrating as a family is part of God's design for us and he answered our prayers for joy, fun, and his goodness in our midst.

The following answers to prayers are personal for people in our church. We are one body with many members and each member belongs to the other (Romans 12:4). Take time to read these answers and rejoice with those who rejoice!

"I am learning to integrate my critical thinking, confidence, and intellectual/analytical mind into my faith which has made me feel so much more whole as a person and Christian." - Suzie Gallaher

"I feel like the Holy Spirit has helped me to grow in confidence in myself and who He has made me to be in my unique giftings. Through reading Paul's letters this year (Ephesians, Galatians, Romans, and Philippians), I feel like I have grown so much in knowledge of who God is and who His church is and who I am in Him." - Tamara Lillestol

"God answered the prayers of many when He healed our adult son of a skull fracture and brain bleed in a remarkably rapid period of time" - Frank & Coleen Figliuzzi

"My wife, Sarah Jenista (30yrs, vaxxed) got severe COVID and when to the ER, then the ICU, ended up on a ventilator for 3 weeks, almost died, and then finally beat COVID. She is in rehab as of this writing. Needless to say I prayed ceaselessly for her healing, but I also prayed that I would lean on God and that I would keep him at the forefront of my heart. His plan is perfect and I prayed that I would remember that even if he saw fit that Sarah would go home to be with him. God answered my prayers beyond imagining. Sarah survived and God gave me and my family the fortitude to endure. God blessed us with a loving and God-fearing church and core group that surrounded us with love, prayers, and support." - Chris Jenista

"God is healing our marriage after devastation in 2021. The Second Mile community has held us up and walked us through some very intense months. We are so undeserving of the grace that has been poured out onto us. God has been SO faithful." - John and Angela DeSoto

"God provided a new home for our family that closed on the last possible day of 2021. It's also much closer to our Second Mile community." - John DeSoto

"Not getting a promotion that I prayed for and thought I really wanted has been an absolute answer to prayer for which I am continually grateful." - John DeSoto

"This year a family member had a stroke and fell and hit her head, resulting in a brain bleed. She was given hours to live. Our family called and said our goodbyes as she lay unresponsive. One of our kids prayed and prayed for a miracle. Today, our loved one is walking and feeding herself and remembers each of us."

"This year I have been praying Matthew 11:28-30 for myself, that God would grow me in deeper dependence and trust of Him. It has been a slow process but I have seen the Holy Spirit help me be quicker to repent and come to Jesus. It is something I hope He continues to grow me in this next year." - Aly Lawry

“Walking through my own struggles of sin, brokenness, and past hurts and helping others walk through theirs this year, I have seen Psalm 23:4 be true — that God is with me and for me (and my friends). In these dark, painful places He has been bringing reconciliation, healing, joy and hope.” - Aly Lawry

“This year my youngest sister and a friend of mine both decided to wholeheartedly follow Jesus and got baptized! For my friend in particular, I have been praying for her salvation for nearly 7 years. At times it felt impossible but it has been incredible to see the Lord at work in her life this year!” - Aly Lawry

“God answered my prayer for guidance in my career. At the end of 2020, I started a new job and it was a very difficult transition for me. It brought up a lot of insecurities, fears, poor boundaries, and lack confidence I had in myself if I was good enough for this job. God has reassured me time and time again that this is where He wants me to be and his peace has been such a blessing in times where I have felt inadequate. Though I am weak, He is strong. Though I may not know the way, He is able to guide me and show me the right path. He is trustworthy and He is my security, my solid rock in sinking sand. I am where He wants me to be and He is sanctifying me through this job and allowing me to grow in security in who He has made me to be.” - Tamara Lillestol

“My mom walked out of the hospital alive after being intubated and on a ventilator. We were ready to say goodbye over FaceTime. This beloved community rallied, comforted, prayed without ceasing, fed, encouraged and ministered to our hearts in the most deep and beautiful ways.” - Kelsi Somers

“After losing my job in 2019 God moved me into a career I did not plan to in teaching middle school. This ministry of pouring into young hearts and minds is hard but so deeply rewarding. I am humbled and thankful that our Father moved in my life how he did. I have been praying that I could have more time with my family, to be more involved in their lives. The answer to that prayer was answered by placing me as a teacher in their school. Not only do I get more time with them but I get to speak into their daily lives and influence their friends.” - Lawson Moore

“The Holy Spirit has guided me to love others through Scripture even when it’s hard. Believing that his will and power is far greater than my own.”

“The Lord has brought back my sister into our family after a year of not speaking to us! He placed reconciliation on her heart despite the struggles of family relationships.”

“Our family found many answers and treatments to multiple health issues. This strengthened our marriage and has enabled us to pursue God with more clarity and stamina.”

“Yahweh has opened my eyes to see how bitterness and anger towards others injured me and others and has acted like lactic acid to my character. He has graciously been kneading rocks out of my weary, hurting heart and helping me stretch my stiff muscles of compassion, grace, patience, and mercy. While doing that painful inward work, he has also graciously placed into my hands a new love for my children and my wife. He has opened small ways for me to step into various avenues where I can begin to walk out some of the Kingdom visions he seeded in me as a child. Answered prayer for this year: I went back to my journal to the start of 2021. This

is what I saw on my heart and in my prayers: 1/3/21 While in a job that I didn't want to be in and actually less than a week after I wrote this exploded. I prayed that I would take my eyes away from getting to "the next big thing" but to be at peace and rest regardless of my circumstance. 1/5/21 Living in the middle of a culture war battle ground at work, I was bitter, angry, and aggressive in my attempts "fix it" and eliminate the problem people. But after a meeting with David G. I walked away with the shaping prayer that I would pray "Our Father forgive me as I have forgiven others. Forgive them for they know not what they do. Remind me that you show mercy to me and thousands more forgiving transgressions, iniquity and sin. Make me a peacemaker." God answered these prayers because he has placed me in a new job on 1/3/22 that I love. He has tempered my tongue and is moving me to be a more silent person acting from compassion by fostering peace in my home, my relationships, and my inner life. He has cooled the bitterness and anger in my heart giving me *his* sight. There is so much, He is faithful, faithful, faithful... Yahweh our Father is faithful, powerful, and present, may we walk with and abide with Him." - Guy Black

"I got more into the word and memorized 6 verses this year that were critical to my stage of life. I found out the stomach problem I was having for 2 years. Also we were able to completely able to finish paying off our debt!" - Caleb Jackson

"I think the Holy Spirit has really been changing and shaping my desire for the Lord into something that is genuinely wholehearted. Starting at the beginning of summer, this past season of life has largely been centered around trusting God and his faithfulness even if the waiting is hard. This past semester has definitely brought the things or people I've been leaning on into focus and pushed me to lean into the Lord in ways I haven't before." - Isabelle Knowles

"This year the Holy Spirit has showed me the value of the Old Testament. I've been reading a commentary alongside it and seeing how the OT and NT are thoroughly connected has been fascinating. It gives me great new perspective regarding Jesus' sacrifice after reading through Leviticus and the laws. Reading through Exodus again reminds me of God's power and provision. The minor prophets brought to life the difficulties they were experiencing in that society and the parallels we can draw to today."

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1:3-11