

40 DAYS OF *prayer*

WEEK 6 EVANGELIZE NOW

2 Corinthians 6:2

Queen Esther risked everything to go before the king to help bring salvation to her people. There was a point when she said it was time to act. Her mentor, Mordecai, said, "Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14). In our world today, people are desperate for rescue from empty lives and fears that plague them. 2 Corinthians 6:2 says that the time of God's favor and the day of salvation is now. Let's pray powerful prayers asking God to use us for such a time as this in our society to share His salvation, that people will receive His love for them.

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FREELY FORGIVEN

ISAIAH 55:6-7

Dreaming is interesting. In some dreams, we possess gifts we don't actually have, like powers that allow us to fly, great wealth, or fame. In other dreams, the gifts we take for granted are taken away.

We've all had a dream where something was chasing us while we were unable to run away. Or what about the dreams where we want to warn someone or cry out for help, but our voice doesn't seem to work?

Personally, these are the dreams that affect me the most. Unable to flee from the evil that is pursuing me, I feel powerless. When I call for help and no one hears my call, I feel hopeless and fearful. That is what makes this passage so beautiful.

Forgiveness, while a truly amazing gift, is not the only gift present in the passage. It is not even the first gift given to us. God, in His provisional grace, gives us the ability to seek and call Him. Who are we that we can seek the eternal Creator and Judge and find Him? Even more, who are we that He listens when we call? Why should a holy God hear the calls of those who act as His enemy?

According to His character, His gifts continue to come. God gives an invitation for the wicked to turn from sin and receive compassion, not justice. Wow! The all-knowing and all-powerful Judge invites the guilty to receive a pardon.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Father, we thank You that You may be found by those who seek You. Though there are many who are lost, that are hopeless, fearful, and powerless, You can still be found by those who seek You. We thank You that You hear us when we call. We give You glory and praise! Amen.

BRINGING MANY

DANIEL 12:3

While growing up, my father often shared with me one of his favorite Bible verses, Daniel 12:3:

“Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.”

“Julie, win souls to Christ!” he often exclaimed.

My earliest recollection of his evangelistic zeal was when I was 12. One Saturday morning, I experienced his “waffle evangelism.” My father had met a family at a department store and brought them home with him. “Julie, grind the wheat. It’s time for a waffles!” Eventually, the whole family of eight came to know Christ.

As I watched my father more closely, I learned his strategy.

It all started with fervent prayer. Even after he retired, my father woke up early in the morning and began to pray fervent prayers for “divine appointments.” Dad befriended people at supermarkets, department stores, or just on the street. There, he would meet people open to the gospel and lead them to Christ.

When international students and refugees started arriving, things became really wild!

In 1979, a member the king’s Cabinet from a far-off country fled to Omaha. My father befriended the majority religion leader and eventually, his daughter came to live with us. In the evenings, she would often read the Bible with me. Here was a young lady from a 99 percent majority religion country reading God’s Word with me. Recently, one family member came to Christ and was baptized.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I realize that the urgency of prayer is crucial in reaching the lost. In John 15, You ask Your disciples to abide; if we abide in You, we bear fruit. Apart from You, we can do nothing. Father, as I abide in You, I pray for divine appointments, that You rescue people out of darkness into light! I ask You persistently! In Matt 7:7-8, the verbs are continuous actions: “Ask and keep asking, keep and keep seeking, knock and keep knocking.” I petition Your throne of grace on behalf of my friends here and around the world! Amen.

SAVED THROUGH FAITH

EPHESIANS 2:8-10

Ephesians 2:8-10 makes simple the reality of the good news of Jesus. It cannot be earned in any way. It is a gift of grace, the unmerited favor of God. A gift must be received from the giver—in this case, through faith in the Gift Giver, Jesus.

How do you know that you have received this gift via grace instead of striving in human effort? Verse 10 makes this plain—a transformed life. In Jesus, by grace and faith, we become God's workmanship or masterpiece. He molds us to become in all ways like Jesus, and this is the evidence that we are doing so by grace, not works.

I once read that only grace can change us in the consistent way we desire. Putting off the old self and its propensity towards works is critical to growth in grace, which only comes by grace in the first place. This truly is a wonderful gift of grace that saves us but also sanctifies us.

We can never embrace grace too much nor can we be too ruthless to eliminate any sort of works mentality we may have. This personal experience radically impacts our attitude and motivation towards evangelism. Having drunk from the well of grace, we cannot help but tell others. If evangelism is lacking in your life, look to grace. It will change your practice in amazing ways.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for Your gift of grace. Help us to drink this gift deeply and in so doing, find a compelling reason and a transformative message to give to friends, family, and coworkers. The message of Your grace is given through the gospel. Help us to eliminate a works mentality from our lives so that we can find the freedom of being transformed. Amen.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

MATTHEW 5:16

I work part-time as a housekeeper at a local hotel; it's a fairly new gig for me. Admittedly, it's a task that requires more humility than I tend to possess . . . especially when I first began. I was elbow deep in a mess that wasn't my own, complaining about the carelessness of guests, and arguing in my spirit about having such a menial job when the Lord simply asked, "Can you make beds for my glory?" I said, "Yes," hastily, but "How, Jesus?" was my immediate rebuttal.

You see, the goal of a housekeeper is to remain rather unseen. We quietly invade a space just long enough to make it welcoming again. The only thing that should linger is a fresh scent! So, aside from the bedside Bible, I didn't know what inspiration was to be found in fluffed pillows or hospital corners. Is it even possible to share the good news of Jesus when nobody is present to receive Him?

Well, I'm beginning to understand that nothing is wasted in God's economy! Our Lord makes Himself visible in all sorts of ways, including the inconspicuous deeds of a housekeeper. For wherever we shine our light, that place is illuminated, even if only one's spirit is able to perceive it. When there are no words exchanged to convey our faith, our willingness becomes our witness. The works of our hands point to the heart of Jesus, for service speaks of God's love in a language that every homesick soul can understand.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Father, help us to seek Your glory, and may You make Yourself evident in all our deeds. Please soften our hearts to serve one another in genuine love and humility. Oh, Lord, that You would make us bearers of Your light in every task, we pray. Amen.

PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS

ROMANS 10:15-17

In this passage, Paul was quoting from Isaiah 52:7, where we read: “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the one who brings glad tidings, who announces peace, who brings good news, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion: ‘Your God reigns!’”

God could have chosen any way to bring the message of salvation—perhaps with an angelic messenger or by working directly without a human preacher. However, God’s “normal” way of bringing people to Jesus Christ is through the preaching of the gospel, and He has chosen you to do it.

We rejoice with all those who have been saved by Jesus around the world. But still, it’s not enough. A lot of work still needs to be done. Let me show you some numbers related to this topic. The total world population is near eight billion people. A French researcher, Sebastian Fath, estimates that there are 2.5 billion Christians around the world, and only 660 million are considered evangelical Christians.

People’s rejection of the gospel is no excuse for us to not proclaim it. It does not take away our responsibility to preach to every creature.

Paul also says in 2 Timothy 4:1–2: “I urge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the Dead in his manifestation and in his kingdom, that you preach the Word; that you urge in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all patience and doctrine.”



REFLECTION PRAYER

Almighty God, forgive me for not trying hard enough to preach Your Word outside the Church. Help me bring the good news of salvation to my family, the neighborhood, and to those places where the gospel has not yet reached. Father, even if people reject me, don’t let me stop from sharing the salvation that we only find in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

40 DAYS OF prayer

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

JULIE ARANT

Since 1979, Julie has been on a journey that has opened her eyes to beautiful people from the nations and has taken her as an “armchair traveler” to the ends of the earth. It all began when her father and mother met a special international friend at a local supermarket.

EDGAR CASTRO

Edgar was born in El Salvador. On October 16, 2004, he married Bertha N. Martinez, and they have two children. In 2016, he received the call to work as the Hispanic coordinator for the Central Pacific District. In 2020, Edgar was appointed to lead the CPD in the area of church multiplication.

HANNAH CASTRO

Hannah is the senior editor/story liaison at the National Office. She is passionate about drawing people closer to Jesus through testimony and story. She and her husband, Ciro, live in Columbus, Ohio.

CHARLES CHAPMAN

Since 2021, Charles has served as the candidate development specialist for Alliance Missions where he helps recruit, develop, and deploy IW candidates from all around the country. Charles moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio with his wife, Liz, and children, Julia and Marcus, in 2022 to join the National Office team.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

ISAAC CHARLES

Isaac serves as the pastor and church planter at Jubilee Intercultural Alliance Church in Columbus, Ohio, and he and his family are from India. He recently received his ordination with the Ohio Valley District. He has served in Church Ministries at the C&MA National Office in Reynoldsburg since September 2021. He is married to his wife, Leena, and they have two boys, Brayden and Bryan.

ADAM CLEWER

Adam is a father, son, follower, leader, minister, angler, writer, swimmer, and student of theology. He is surprisingly good at playing pool one-handed.

BILL CORBIN

Bill was a college pastor for 25 years, he has been married to Heidi for 25 years, and they have five kids. He loves Jesus, loves students, and loves the gospel!

ANA CUEVAS

Ana is the national director for Alliance Women. She has a bachelor's degree in missiology from Toccoa Falls College. She is a certified teacher and works as an ESL teacher in Ohio. Ana loves to go on road trips with her husband, Jorge, and two sons, Jorge Daniel and Jonatán.

MATT CYR

Matt currently serves as a workplace chaplain with Corporate Chaplains of America in southeast Wisconsin. He is married and has two young children. In his free time, he enjoys road cycling, good coffee, and family time.

MARY DELLOS

Mary has been serving with the C&MA since 1982. She and her husband, Don, have been church planters in the States, missionaries in Argentina, and dorm parents at the Alliance Academy in Ecuador. She has been serving companies as a chaplain in Denver for the past 18 years.

STACY DOUGLAS

Stacy currently serves alongside her husband in his role as district superintendent of the Central Pacific District of the C&MA. She is also a nurse on a med/surg floor. She is privileged to work at a Christian hospital in California that allows her to be both nurse and pastor.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

JUSTIN DUBOSE

Justin is the lead pastor at Alliance Bible Church in Baytown, Texas. He is also a CH (MAJ) in the USAR serving as chaplain for the 7th Psychological Operations Group (POG). A husband to Alanna since 2005, they have five beautiful children. He is passionate about training and empowering leaders.

ELLIOT ENNS

Elliot grew up as a third culture kid (TCK) with the C&MA Canada. He taught for several years at an international school in Ghana, where he met his wife, Morgan. They moved to Columbus, Ohio, in 2021, and he joined the National Office as an administrative coordinator for Alliance Missions in 2022.

PHYLLIS FITZWATER

Phyllis is a Board clinical chaplain and Board-certified pastoral counselor. She is a consecrated woman in ministry with The Christian & Missionary Alliance and has also served with her local hospice programs. She has served on the Board for the Orlando Health Bioethics Committee and was the Board chair for Life Legacy.

TOM FLANDERS

Tom serves as district superintendent for the Alliance Southeast. He and his wife, Chris, have served in the C&MA for more than thirty years, shepherding local congregations and the Alliance New England District prior to their most recent assignment.

THOMAS GEORGE

Thomas is a disciple of Jesus, husband, father, grandfather, pastor to pastors, and district superintendent. He is also the C&MA's corporate secretary.

SARAH GRIMES

Sarah lives in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, with her husband and three kids. They like trying new things and often find themselves in way over their heads. They tend to need Jesus an awful lot.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

LORIE HUNEYCUTT

Lorie is a wife, mom, and full-time caregiver. She resides with her husband, Paul, daughter Rylie (18), and son Hudson (16) in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. She is passionate about advocating for overlooked people groups and being a voice for the disability and caregiver communities through writing.

WILLIE JOHNSON

Willie is the pastor of Redefine Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

JENNY KARR

Jenny is the director for IW engagement and partnerships at the National Office. She has trained and coached thousands of Christian workers in partnership development over the past 10 years. She and her husband relocated to Ohio last year and have one daughter studying English at Vanderbilt University.

DAVID LANE

David and his wife, Susan, live in Ohio where David serves as the district superintendent. They have two adult kids. David passionately desires that the 7.3 million people living in his district have a repeated opportunity to see, hear, and respond to the gospel.

KYLE MAGSTADT

Kyle is the associate superintendent for church multiplication in the North Central District. He lives in Roseville, MN, with his wife, Molly, and two kids, June and Elm.

SARAH MANKO

Sarah was born and raised a Buckeye in central Ohio. She attends The Crosswalk (Alliance) Church in Reynoldsburg, OH, and is in her final year of dental school at OSU. She is excited to see where God will take her following graduation.

VICTOR MATOS

Victor is an Army chaplain serving in Fort Riley, Kansas. He served as an associate pastor in Colorado Springs before joining the chaplaincy. Victor is married to Christine, and they have two children, Caleb (18) and Allie (15).

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

KENDALL MCKEE

Kendall is a college pastor and residency coordinator at First Alliance Church in Lexington, Kentucky. He loves to spend his days discipling the next generation and walking through life with those close to him.

JESSICA MCCULLOUGH

Jessica lives in Lima, Ohio, with her husband and two boys. She serves in missions and family life at Shawnee Alliance Church and is also the district missions mobilizer for the Ohio Valley District. She enjoys reading, music, volleyball, card games, cats, cows and ducks, and Jesus.

MIRIAM NELSON

Miriam is a licensed teacher, counselor, mother of four, and wife of 19 years. She enjoys serving others and believes each person is gifted by God to bring heavenly influence. Who she is and who she is not are shaped by the hand of Jesus in her life!

DAVID PEPPERS

David fell in love with the Lord when he was 13. When he was around 15 or so, he slipped away from his first love. At the age of 21, he came back and has been pursuing the goodness of the Lord ever since. David is the executive director for Alliance Benefits.

JESSE PFAU

Jesse and his beautiful wife, Eli, have one son, Fitz. They enjoy food and currently reside in Columbus, Ohio.

KEVIN PIES

Kevin is the executive director for the Alliance Chaplain Ministries for military and federal chaplains. He is a retired U.S. Army chaplain colonel; a graduate of Crown College (1982); Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 1987 (MDiv); and an Army War College Fellow graduate of the U.S. Institute of Peace (2014).

JEFF PRICE

Jeff serves as a teaching pastor at Alliance Community Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and is a U.S. Army chaplain. Jeff and his wife, Megan, have one daughter, Charley.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

ALAN RATHBUN

Alan serves on the Eastern PA District team and as cohost of the Alliance EquippingU podcast. He has also served as a youth pastor, church planter, and pastor. He's married to Sandra, and they have three married children. He loves road trips, baseball, disc golfing, and eating good ice cream.

AMY ROEDDING

Amy Roedding is passionate about helping the next generation step into their ministry calling in the Alliance family. She serves as the director for Candidate Recruitment and Development for The Alliance, and though her role oversees both men and women being developed for Kingdom work in The Alliance, she enthusiastically pursues helping women find their place in ministry. Amy also teaches spiritual formation for Crown College's online ministry program. Amy and her husband live in Pataskala, Ohio.

JOSH SADLON

Josh is a worship leader, event producer, and songwriter who serves with Alliance Youth and Alliance Worship. Josh, his wife, Emily, and son, Gideon, live on a small farm in Kentucky.

JIM SAPPPIA

Jim, with his wife Kathy and their three children, served with aXcess for 20 years in Thailand and a CAC country. They currently live in Pickerington, Ohio, where Jim serves as the director for Global Link at the National Office.

TERRY SMITH

Terry Smith is the vice president for Church Ministries for The Alliance. He and his wife, Ruth, have two married sons and five grandchildren. Terry holds degrees from Toccoa Falls College and Crown College. He is the author of *Changing Course: Leading Older Churches in a New Direction*.

RAYNA STRONG

Rayna and her husband, Brian, live in rural Ohio and are members and servants of Clear Fork Alliance Church. They have two adult sons and daughters-in-law. In 2022, Rayna began working at the National Office as the administrative assistant for Global Link.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

PANG THAO

Pang grew up with 12 siblings and attended church in the Hmong District her entire life. She has served in her church in a variety of capacities since accepting Christ at the age of 15. She serves with Envision in operations and moved with The Alliance from Colorado Springs to Columbus, Ohio.

STEVE TRUDEL

Steve has had the great joy of living on Cape Cod for almost 30 years. He has been the lead pastor of Cape Cod Bible Alliance Church for the last six years. He is married to Alison, a Jesus-loving follower of God, and they have four wonderful children.

MICHELLE UNWIN

Michelle (“Meesh”) is the director for the International Placement Office. She has been married to Steve for 32 years. They have two amazing adult children, Kaylee and Noah, and one weird dog, Moe. Meesh loves flip-flops, sunshine, and Coca-Cola, and she really loves raising up new workers!

OLIVIA VINSON

Olivia is the assistant campus pastor and chapel worship coordinator at Crown College in St. Bonifacious, MN. She has loved being a part of the C&MA family in Troy, MI, and Lexington, KY, and has a heart to develop the future leaders of the Church through higher education.

LISA VOGAN

Lisa has the privilege of serving in the Northeastern District as disciplemaking specialist. She has been serving the Alliance family for more than 30 years in various leadership roles. She lives near Buffalo, New York, with her husband, Rohn.

HALEY WARRICK

Haley is a lifelong resident of Columbus, Ohio, a devoted wife, and has been involved in worship and various children’s ministries. She is currently called to the ministry of motherhood, staying at home to raise her twin toddlers.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

JAMIE ZACHARIAS

Jamie serves as the children's ministry director of Jubilee Intercultural Alliance Church. She is married and has two children. Jamie has been teaching for 17 years, and her mission is to inspire the next generation and help them and their families grow in their faith and have a relationship with Jesus.