

2024 PRAYER FOCUS: SALT & LIGHT

“Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, ‘If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things *that make* for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes’” (Luke 19:41-42).

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Here in Luke, this only begotten son of God looks over the city of Jerusalem and weeps because of their unbelief. The heart of the Father was in the heart of the Son who cared enough for lost people to die for them.

Imagine the heaviness as He considered the depth of their lostness. Without faith in Him, they were absolutely and completely lost — and so He wept from a broken heart.

Earlier in His ministry, in Matthew 9, it says, “when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like **sheep** having no **shepherd**.” Jesus saw them (in Luke 19) as people without peace and without a knowledge of where to find it. In Matthew, He sees them as sheep without a shepherd.

How we see people impacts our response. Do lost people make us angry or broken? Do shepherd-less people frustrate us or move us to compassion? Who are the people in your world who are lost — shepherd-less? As you think of them what is your immediate response?

We cannot be salt and light unless we are moved with compassion for those who are lost. This month, pray the Lord would break our hearts for those who are lost and have no peace.

APRIL PRAYER FOCUS — BROKENNESS FOR LOST PEOPLE

As we focus on a different region of the Missionary Church and a different department at Bethel University each week, pray that our churches will be broken for lost people. Pray that students who come to Bethel and who do not know Jesus will be impacted by the testimony of other students and faculty and that they will surrender to the Good Shepherd. Ask the Lord to open your eyes to the shepherd-less people around you and ask that He move you to compassion.

WEEK #1

PERSONAL REFLECTION — WELCOME THE PRODIGAL: “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son’” (Luke 15:20-21).

- Is there a prodigal in your life for whom you have become weary of praying?
- If the prodigal returned today, would you be moved with compassion and receive him/her with an embrace?

- Are you looking in faith for the day the prodigal will return?
- Take a moment and pray for that prodigal — perhaps it is someone else’s prodigal, but you are moved with compassion to intercede on their behalf.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY — PRESIDENT AND STAFF

- Pray for Dr. Bellefeuille, her cabinet and staff that they will remain focused on Jesus and committed to the Word of God.
- Pray that these leaders will continue to have their eyes of compassion on students who are lost.
- Pray that students will see Jesus in each of these cabinet and staff members.
- Pray that God will keep these leaders encouraged as they serve the Church through Bethel University.

EAST CENTRAL REGION — CHURCHES IN OHIO

While the majority of these churches are on the west side of the state, the Lord is opening doors in Columbus.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: JEFF KEPHART

STAFF MEMBERS INCLUDE: Jeff and Jean Gerig

This week we encourage you to pray for the churches, pastors, and leaders in the East Central Region.

- Pray the Lord will work in the lives of pastors and church members to see people as He sees them.
- Pray that they will see that the fields are white unto harvest.
- Pray the Lord will break their hearts for lost people.

PRAYER INITIATIVE: Ask the Lord to create a movement of prayer across the region that has a focus on those who are lost and without Jesus.

RESOURCING PASTORS: Pray that pastors will lead with hearts of compassion for the shepherdless and that the Lord will give them a burden for the community.

PLANTING CHURCHES: Pray for the Lord’s leading as they work with Jose Mendez and the Building Bridges network to plant churches in Columbus, Ohio. Pray that God will lead other churches to expand their ministry through planting churches.

LUDLOW FALLS CAMP: Pray that the Lord will be honored this summer as the camp celebrates 125 years of ministry where hundreds have given their lives to Christ.

- **PRAYER:**
 - Pray that pastors will see that they have not just been called to a local church but to a community.

- Pray that pastors will be used of God to mobilize the church to reach their neighborhoods.
- Pray that churches will not lose sight of those Jesus loves who are not yet walking with Him.

WEEK #2

PERSONAL REFLECTION — SEEKING THE LOST: “I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance” (Luke 15:7).

As you reflect on this week’s verse, who is the one in your life that Jesus would leave the 99 to seek?

- Is He leading you to spend less time with the 99 so that you can spend time with one who is lost?
- Pray that your church will regularly experience the joy of the one sinner who repents and turns to Jesus.
- Pray that the hearts of the 99 will be filled with compassion for the shepherd-less and that, like Jesus, they will weep for those who do not know peace in Him.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY — REGISTRAR’S OFFICE

- Pray that the Lord will grant these staff members wisdom as they help students with class schedules.
- Pray the Lord will open doors for spiritual conversations with those who really have no idea what they want to do.
- Pray these staff members will be sensitive to those students who are struggling so that they might speak into their lives.
- Pray that students will see Jesus in every member of this department.

MICHIGAN REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: DALE RINKE

STAFF: Stephanie Hamrick

CHURCHES NEEDING STAFF:

- Bethel Missionary Church — Yale, MI
- Elkton Missionary Church — Elkton, MI
- New Life Missionary Church — Bay City, MI

This week we encourage you to pray for the churches, pastors, and leaders in our Michigan Region which includes churches in Michigan, north of I-94.

The Michigan Region is committed to:

- **Vision** — “Every Church mobilizing believers to intentionally lead people to Christ and make disciple-makers.”
- **Vision Impact... On Point**
 - Every believer a Spirit-empowered follower of Christ
 - Every follower of Christ a disciple-maker
 - Every church a disciple-making, church planting church
- **Our Driving Passion** — The Missionary Church is a family of churches committed to the authority of Jesus Christ, the Bible and the Great Commission.
 - We pursue relationship with God as our top priority.
 - We depend on the Holy Spirit through prayer.
 - We introduce people to the gospel and multiply disciples everywhere.
 - We value, strengthen and multiply churches.
 - We develop Spirit-led leaders to advance God’s mission in the world.
- **PRAYER:**
 - Pray that the Lord will give each pastor and church leader compassion for the shepherd-less and passion to reach the lost.
 - Pray that each pastor will experience a deep intimacy with Jesus that drives them to seek the one who is lost.
 - Pray that each pastor will see that their call is to a community and not just to a local church.
 - Pray for an abundant harvest in this region.

WEEK #3

PERSONAL REFLECTION — EMPOWERED: “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

What are you trusting the Lord to do through you?

- How does the Lord want to empower you for ministry? Empowered with compassion? Empowered with brokenness? Empowered with boldness?
- Where is He calling you to be a witness?
- Praise the Lord for those who spoke into your life and led you to trust in Jesus. Pray He will equip you to speak into the lives of others.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY — STUDENT LIFE STAFF

These are the people who seek to help students connect with God, with fellow students, with faculty, and with future employers.

- Pray that these staff members will be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit as they seek ways to connect students with God.
- Pray He will use this department to carefully connect students in meaningful relationships with peers.

- Pray the Lord will open doors for key relationships with faculty that will give them opportunities to disciple students.
- Pray the Lord will open doors for students who are graduating so they can have an impact in the marketplace.

GREAT PLAINS REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Andy Petro

CHURCHES NEEDING STAFF

- Clatonia, NE — Co-vocational lead pastor
- Northwinds Church, Keewatin, MN — lead pastor

This week we encourage you to pray for the churches, pastors, and leaders in the Great Plains Region, which includes churches in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska and South Dakota.

The Great Plains Region is committed to:

- **BEING RELATIONALLY CONNECTED** — We encourage, facilitate and resource churches rather than direct them. Our goal is to inspire and partner with one another to increase ministry effectiveness.
- **BEING KINGDOM MINDED** — We focus more on the mission than the institution. We change the organizational structure whenever necessary to stay on mission.
- **BEING BIBLICALLY GROUNDED** — We are fiercely faithful to core Biblical doctrines to ensure that we stay theologically sound. We are not dogmatically exclusive.
- **CREATIVITY EMBRACING** — We allow freedom and flexibility that empowers churches to be relevant in their communities.
- **LEADERSHIP EMPOWERING** — We identify, develop and release leaders. We do not limit God in who He calls to leadership.
- **PRAYER:**
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to pray for the pastors and leaders of the region that they will always have their eyes on the harvest.
 - Pray that their deepening relationship with Jesus will give them an increased compassion for the shepherd-less.
 - Pray that God will use their creativity to reach a greater harvest.
 - Pray that God will use each pastor to equip the next generation to seek those who are lost.

WEEK #4

PERSONAL REFLECTION — TEACH OTHERS: “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2).

- What have you learned from Jesus that you need to pass on to others?

- Who has God put in your life who needs to receive what you have learned?
- Who are the shepherd-less who would benefit from your story of once being lost?
- Take a moment and praise the Lord for those who taught you to walk with Jesus and ask Him to give you opportunities to speak into the lives of others.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY — WELLNESS CENTER

This team focuses on physical wellness through the fitness center and also on mental health through their counseling ministry.

- Pray that these staff members will be able to build relationships with students — especially those who do not yet know Jesus.
- Pray for student athletes who have come to Bethel to play sports, but who may not know Jesus, that God will touch their hearts through coaches and professors.
- Pray for the coaching staff that God will give them teaching moments — not just about a particular sport but about life and especially life with Jesus.
- Pray for those students who are struggling mentally/emotionally that they will seek help through the counseling center.

VINIA / WESTERN REGION — Vinia is a diverse family of leaders, pastors and churches partnering on mission together to engage, develop and empower leaders for kingdom movement. We are the western region of the Missionary Church.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Dave DeVries

STAFF MEMBERS: Mike Somers, Toby Lazo, Rick Dunn, Phil Graf, Doug Posey, Tim Kanter, Zach Roleder, Rachel Martinez.

CHURCHES NEEDING STAFF:

- Living Oaks Church — Thousand Oaks, CA
- Missionary Church Investment Foundation — Regional Ambassador

This week we encourage you to pray for the churches, pastors, and leaders who are a part of Vinia, which includes churches in California, Colorado, Nevada, and Texas.

- Ask the Lord to give these pastors an even greater vision of the harvest.
- Pray that each pastor will recognize that their calling is to a community and not just to a local church.

Vinia is committed to Engaging, Developing, and Empowering Leaders for Kingdom Movement.

- **Get Connected with Others** — Stop limiting yourself. Engage through peer cohorts, collaboration and partnerships for ideas, encouragement and support.
- **Grow Your Leadership Capacity and Confidence**
Who you are is how you lead. Develop yourself and your leaders in character, convictions and competence through a customized leadership trellis system.
- **Gain Internal Focus and Clarity**
Know yourself to lead yourself. Wake up every day with the clarity you need to pursue

the results God wants. Empower yourself and others through coaching solutions for you, your team and your church.

- **PRAYER:**

- Pray that as these pastors encourage one another they will be reenergized for ministry in their communities.
- Pray that these pastors will continue to grow and be equipped with not only the skills but the heart to reach lost people.
- Pray the Lord will fill these pastors with compassion for the shepherd-less.
- Pray He will give them eyes to see the lost as He sees them and that their hearts will be broken for those who have not experienced the peace of Jesus.