

2024 PRAYER FOCUS: SALT & LIGHT

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.” “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven!” Matthew 5:13; 16

For the past several years the Missionary Church has maintained a strong focus on making disciples to the fourth generation. World Partners has championed disciple-makers who are leading the charge among unreached people groups in some of the most difficult parts of the world. North American churches have been reevaluating vision, programs and strategies with the question in mind: “Will this help us multiply disciples?”

There is also a growing sense of urgency about reaching the next generation. There is one Missionary Church group that connects monthly just to pray for a multiplication of disciples among the next generation.

Paul wrote to the Colossians, “Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone” (Colossians 4:6). Our lives are to be such that others will see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven. Our speech is to be full of grace and seasoned with salt so that our speech draws people to Christ rather than repels them.

There is a certain humility with being salt and light. It requires thinking first of Jesus and how we reflect him and then thinking of others and praying that our lives and speech will move people to seek Jesus. This kind of life is born out of a place of intimacy with Jesus. I cannot live the Jesus-life apart from a deep love for Him that continues to grow as we fellowship with Him.

JANUARY PRAYER FOCUS — INTIMACY WITH JESUS

We are changing the format this year. Instead of a daily scripture and prayer, we want to focus on a different region of the Missionary Church each week and a different department at Bethel University. We also want to challenge everyone to look at the theme of the month and ask each week what the Lord wants to say to us.

WEEK #1

PERSONAL REFLECTION: “And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden” (Genesis 3:8).

- Have you ever found yourself hiding from the presence of the Lord?
- Is there anything that is keeping you from having an intimate relationship with Him today?
- Is your speech always full of grace?
- How do you want the Lord to change you in 2024?

- Take time to celebrate who you are in Christ.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY — ACADEMIC SERVICES/SUCCESS

These incredibly important staff members help students navigate course schedules and choose majors. They tutor and provide academic coaching so that students can excel. They also seek to be examples to students of what it means to follow Jesus.

- As you think about their role, how do you sense the Lord wants to use them as they interact with students?
- Pray for grace and wisdom as they provide counsel to students and pray for opportunities to speak into the lives of students.

CENTRAL REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: KEN SNYDER

STAFF MEMBERS INCLUDE: Tim Johnson, Stephen Lane, Travis Geisel, and Alexis Wilson

CHURCHES NEEDING STAFF:

- Fellowship Missionary — Youth pastor
- Grabill Missionary Church — Lead pastor
- Grace Church, Canby — Student Ministry pastor
- North Leo Church — Part-time Worship pastor

This week we encourage you to pray for the churches, pastors, and leaders in the Central Region. The Central Region includes churches in Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

- Ask the Lord to show you where these pastors and leaders might be most vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy.
- Pray for insight as to how to pray for their walk with Jesus.

The Central Region leadership established four goals several years ago:

- **PRAYING PEOPLE:** We are committed to being a **praying people**. In everything we do, we seek to invite the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us, so we can get in on what God is doing, rather than focusing on what we want to accomplish.
- **STRENGTHENING CONGREGATIONS:** We help churches develop and strengthen partnerships with each other and develop qualified and competent leaders.
- **MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES:** We long to be part of a movement of disciple-making that stretches across nations and generations - a movement that finds a way to span the gap between head and heart; between knowledge and action.
- **PLANTING CHURCHES:** From the beginning, our denomination has had a heart for seeing unreached people become reached. Whether across the globe, or in our own backyard, we're committed to the planting and cultivation of communities of justice, peace, and Christlikeness.
- **PRAYER:**

- Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to pray for the pastors and leaders of the region as they focus on these goals.
- What part will their relationship with Jesus play in the fulfillment of these goals?
- What resources will the Lord need to provide?
- What will these leaders need from the Lord to lead the region toward these goals?

WEEK #2

PERSONAL REFLECTION: “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen” (Jude 24-25).

- As you reflect on this week’s verse, how are you prompted to give praise to the Lord?
- Where have you witnessed His keeping power?
- Where do you need His strength in your life today?
- Take time to praise Him for all He is able to do in and through you.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY — ADMISSIONS

These staff members seek to help students discover their calling; they help them grow spiritually and walk with students from their first visit until their first day of class. They provide some of the first impressions.

- As you think about the potential impact of these staff members, how does the Lord prompt you to pray?
- As you think about students and their first encounter with Bethel, what do you sense the Lord would have them experience?

EAST CENTRAL REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: JEFF KEPHART

STAFF MEMBERS INCLUDE: Jeff Gerig and Jean Gerig

CHURCHES NEEDING STAFF:

- True Life Community Church; Troy, Ohio — Full-time Youth associate

This week we encourage you to pray for the churches, pastors, and leaders in the East Central Region. The East Central Region includes churches throughout the state of Ohio.

- Ask the Lord to show you where these pastors and leaders might be most vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy.
- Pray for insight as to how to pray for their walk with Jesus.

The East Central Region leadership is committed to the following key ministries:

- **PRAYER INITIATIVE:** Praying for God's Kingdom to be advanced in Ohio, our communities, our churches, and our neighborhoods.
- **RESOURCING PASTORS:** We seek to provide resources, training and networking to provide support for our pastors as they give leadership in the respective communities.
- **LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSIONS:** We seek to expand the Kingdom impact in our home contexts and around the world.
- **PLANTING CHURCHES:** We are partnering with leaders and churches to reproduce disciple making movements and churches throughout Ohio.
- **LUDLOW FALLS CAMP:** Ludlow Falls Camp seeks to assist Christian ministries in their effort to see people receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, grow in their relationship with Him, and learn to serve as He did.
- **CRISIS RELIEF:** Our mission: To advance disciple making movements throughout Ohio by using crisis relief efforts to open doors to discipling relationships.
- **INFUSE NETWORK:** The Infuse Network is an initiative of the East Central Region seeking to identify and connect churches who are not currently part of our denominational family but share the same heartbeat to multiply disciples in their local church context and see cities saturated with the gospel.
- **PRAYER:**
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to pray for the pastors and leaders of the East Central Region as they engage in these ministries.
 - What part will their relationship with Jesus play as they give leadership to these ministries?
 - What resources will the Lord need to provide?
 - What will these leaders need from the Lord as they lead the region toward these goals?

WEEK #3

PERSONAL REFLECTION: "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

- Is there a fear you need to give to the Lord?
- Are you overwhelmed by life circumstances and need to trust those things to the Lord?
- Where do you need special strength from the Lord today?
- Take time to celebrate and worship our God who is faithful.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY — ATHLETICS

The athletic department has multiple opportunities to be used of the Lord to advance the kingdom. The faculty and staff are committed to investing in the spiritual lives of student athletes. Student athletes who are following Jesus have opportunities to be a witness to team

members and the members of opposing teams. How they win and how they lose makes a statement.

- As you think about student athletes at Bethel, what do you sense the Lord would like to do in and through their lives?
- As you think about the coaches and staff, how would the Lord have you pray for them and their ministry with students?

MICHIGAN REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: DALE RINKE

STAFF: Stephanie Hamrick

CHURCHES NEEDING STAFF:

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

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

- Ask the Lord to show you where these pastors and leaders might be most vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy.
- Pray for insight as to how to pray for their walk with Jesus.

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:**
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to pray for the pastors and leaders of the region as they focus on this vision.
 - What part will their relationship with Jesus play in the fulfillment of this vision?
 - What resources will the Lord need to provide?

- What will these leaders need from the Lord to lead the region toward this vision?

WEEK #4

PERSONAL REFLECTION: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20).

- Who are the people God has placed in your life who need to know Jesus?
- As you follow the Lord’s leading in making disciples, remember his promises to you.
- Is the Lord asking you to adjust priorities so that you can engage with pre-Christians?
- Have you seen fruit in your life that you need to celebrate before the Lord?

BETHEL UNIVERSITY — AUDIO SERVICES

These behind-the-scenes staff people are truly servants. They serve those planning chapels and those hosting special events on campus.

- As you think about their role, what would you pray for them and their contribution to the ministry at Bethel?
- What gifts and character traits would you pray for them?

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.

- Ask the Lord to show you where these pastors and leaders might be most vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy.
- Pray for insight as to how to pray for their walk with Jesus.

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 as they focus on this vision.
 - What part will their relationship with Jesus play in the fulfillment of this vision?
 - What resources will the Lord need to provide?
 - What will these leaders need from the Lord to lead the region toward this vision?

WEEK #5

PERSONAL REFLECTION: “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in us, that the world may believe that You sent Me” (John 17:20-21).

- Who are the second- and third-generation disciples in your life that you would pray for today?
- Are there broken relationships in your fellowship that need to be mended?
- Is there anything in your life or church that needs the Lord’s touch in order that others might believe?
- Who is in your life who is just beginning their walk with Jesus? What would you pray for them?

BETHEL UNIVERSITY — BUSINESS OFFICE

At the heart of any institution are the people who deal with finances. This team provides information to students on tuition, handles billing and manages student accounts.

- When you think about these staff members, what kind of people do they need to be as they interact with students and their families?
- What measure of faith do they need to have and communicate to families?

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 show you where these pastors and leaders might be most vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy.
- Pray for insight as to how to pray for their walk with Jesus.

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:**
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to pray for the pastors and leaders of the region as they focus on this vision.
 - What part will their relationship with Jesus play in the fulfillment of this vision?
 - What resources will the Lord need to provide?
 - What will these leaders need from the Lord to lead the region toward this vision?