



### 2018 40 DAYS OF PRAYER CAMPAIGN

For the 4<sup>th</sup> year, we as churches and as a community are being called to follow the example of Jesus by spending 40 days in concentrated, coordinated prayer. If you are willing to be a part of this spiritual discipline, please use each day's prayer guide to pray for at least five minutes a day for 40 days and pray for the specific needs identified by over 34 of our area ministers, ministry leaders, and community leaders.

**If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.**

- 2 Chronicles 7:14

### WHY 40?

Throughout the Bible the number 40 seems to have a special spiritual significance. When the flood came in Noah's day, it rained 40 days and nights. Israel wandered in the desert and ate heaven-sent manna for 40 years. Moses fasted and prayed in Jehovah's presence for 40 days and nights. Israel's spies explored the Promised Land for 40 days. Jonah gave the city of Nineveh 40 days to repent or be destroyed. Most importantly, Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness fasting, praying, and combating Satan.

### NEW COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

New for 2018, we are partnering with the good folks of Camden and Ouachita County with our 40 Days of Prayer campaign. Even though the individual prayers are unique to each county, both counties are praying for the same topics on the same day. For example: On October 1st, both Union and Ouachita counties are thanking God for the avenue of prayer.

### SAVE THE DATES

**Kick-off Community Prayer  
Monday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 12 pm**

*In the City Hall atrium. All are welcome to attend.*

**Community Prayer Walk  
Wednesday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> 7 pm**

*We will begin at the Police Station at 7 p.m., walk to City Hall, then across North West Avenue to the El Dorado School District Central Office, and finally to the Court House square. At each stop we will be led in prayer by one or two of our ministry and community leaders. This will be a powerful way to end a powerful prayer campaign.*

**WEEK ONE**

**DAY 1: Monday, October 1**

*Thankful for the avenue of prayer*

**Today: 40 Days of Prayer Kick-off**  
12 pm @ City Hall atrium

*Join us as we pray the first prayer of the 40 day campaign together.*

SCRIPTURE: I John 5: 13-15 (KJV) "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, & that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

OBSERVATION: Since God is not the author of confusion, we look unto Jesus Christ the author and finisher of our faith, who being made perfect, became the author of eternal salvation to all that obey him; therefore, every prayer that is not in accordance to the will of the Father, does not have access to God.

We observe the avenue of prayer through the foundation laid by the "Wise Master Builder". He says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. The avenue of prayer leads believers to foundational truths; prayer instructs and teaches the believer how to build thereon. (Supporting Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 14:33; Hebrews 12:2; Hebrews 5:9; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11; John 14:6)

PRAYER: Father, as we pray today, we thank you for true love toward us. We thank you for world love by giving your only begotten son, Jesus Christ, who died so that everlasting life could be given to all whom believe that You raised Jesus from the dead. Father, we submit our will and our ways to you so that we may truly be the children of God; using Your strength in the Holy Spirit, making us able to resist the devil and the evils of this world. Now unto him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God, our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever,

Amen. (Supporting Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 6:6; John 3:16; James 4:7; Romans 10:9; Jude 24-25)

**DAY 2: Tuesday, October 2**

*Peace in our Community*

SCRIPTURE: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. -Matthew 5:9

So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. -Romans 14:19

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. -Romans 12:18

OBSERVATION: When Jesus spoke these words, he wasn't commanding us to be passive or have a laissez-faire type of attitude. He wasn't talking about being tolerant or even an appeaser. Being a peacemaker is about chasing after it, accepting our responsibility for it and even fighting for it. If you are a Christ-follower and you are not at peace with those around you, pray that God would help you be obedient to the words of our Lord.

PRAYER: Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hate may I bring love. Where offense, may I bring pardon. May I bring union in the place of discord. -St. Francis of Assisi

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**DAY 3: Wednesday, October 3**  
*Peace in our nation*

SCRIPTURE: "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them" (Psalm 119:165). (KJV)

OBSERVATION: According to several research companies, the USA's overall crime rate continues to go down each year since it had an all-time spike in 1991. Our nation's low crime rate shows we are living more and more in a time of peace. However, individual cities' crime rates fluctuate each year. Also, in a recent article by the Pew Research Center, "Nearly eight-in-ten Americans say that when it comes to important issues facing the country, most Republican and Democratic voters not only disagree over plans and policies, but also cannot agree on basic facts." Yes, our crime rates are low, but we are not living peacefully. Our nation needs peaceful citizens, and we are only going to have true peace and great peace by loving the Word of God, which shows us the true way of peace through Jesus Christ. "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7). (KJV)

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ to come into this world and for showing us the way of peace. Our nation has a great need for peace, but that will only come from You and loving Your Word. Help us to have a desire for You and the Bible so we can live peaceful lives and lead others in the way of peace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**DAY 4: Thursday, October 4**  
*Peace in our world*

SCRIPTURE: "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." -John 16:33

"Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it."  
-Psalm 34:14

OBSERVATION: When we look at the world around us, it is often daunting to contemplate the possibility of world peace. But God calls us

to be salt and light and ambassadors in our world and to minister to those in our path. We are called to use our Christian influence in powerful ways in the context with which we live.

PRAYER: Father, today we pray for peace in our world. We know that it is an incomprehensible goal for man, but all things are possible for You. Make us your instruments and help us to find ways to speak truth in love to situations that bring about peace. Help us to be peace"makers" and not simply peace"keepers." Give us boldness to stand up for injustice and lead us in Your Way everlasting. Amen.

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**"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."**

*John 16:33*

## DAY 5: Friday, October 5

### Marriages

SCRIPTURE: “a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” Genesis 2:24

OBSERVATION: Marriage today is in crisis in our society. There are any numbers of reasons to blame for this, but most of them are only symptoms to the real problem. The real problem is a spiritual one brought on by our own sin in our hearts. It’s important that we get back to God’s covenantal purpose of marriage and commit to pray for our marriages today. God designed marriage as a sacred and a joyous covenant. He gave it as a gift to show the full expression of love between a man and a woman. It should be honored and never taken lightly. God has been faithful in giving to us the information we need so that our marriages are both honoring to Him and a blessing to us. Therefore, He says, a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” Genesis 2:24

PRAYER: Jesus, today we pray that Your plan for marriage would be clearly displayed through our lives. We pray that we would honor our marriages completely. We pray for open communication and to have the wisdom to listen when it would be easier to speak. We pray for humility to say I’m sorry. We pray for the graciousness to forgive like You forgave us. We pray for You, Jesus, to be the center of our marriages and that when the world looks at us, they see You. Help us to love each other like You have loved us. Amen.

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*Add words or images that God is speaking to your heart about marriage or family here:*

## DAY 6: Saturday, October 6

### Families

SCRIPTURE: “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love *your* wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged.” (Colossians 3:18-21). (KJV)

OBSERVATION: The family structure in America is nothing like it needs to be. This passage in Colossians 3 gives us God’s plan for families. Wives need to allow their husbands to lead them spiritually just like they should allow God; Husbands need to love and care for their wives while leading the whole family in the ways of the Lord; and children need to respect and obey their parents. If men aren’t leading their children to the Lord and showing them how to live for Him, they are leading them in a way that is not God honoring. We need to endeavor to lead our families in the paths the Lord would have us follow so we can save our families.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, thank you for showing us what true love is by sending Jesus Christ Who brought us into Your family. Help the single parents and married parents today lead their children in Your paths; give them strength and endurance for what is needed to accomplish Your goals; and may they be the right example to others and their children. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

## WEEK TWO

### DAY 7: Sunday, October 7 *Praise of God*

SCRIPTURE: I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. - Psalms 34:1-3 (KJV)

OBSERVATION: Life has its victories and its valleys. Life has its good times and its bad times. Life has its high moments and low moments. In life, we will experience moments of despair and moments of joy. However, whatever we are currently facing, whether good or bad, God is great and He deserves to be praised. Sure, it's easy to bless the Lord when everything is well. However, God is always God and He never changes. He is sovereign and He is good. Therefore, we must continue to praise Him.

PRAYER: Lord, I thank you for everything that you have done for me. I praise you for the good times and the bad times that I have faced. Lord, forgive me for the times I did not appreciate you for your faithfulness towards me. I know you are here with me at all times; therefore, I will continue to bless you.

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### DAY 8: Monday, October 8 *Children*

SCRIPTURE: "You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." -2 Timothy 3:14-15 (NASB)

OBSERVATION: John 15:13 says, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Jesus is your child's friend. Christ gave his life in order to save your child from sin and death. Parents and caregivers encourage your children to have faith in Him, to "love" and "trust" this Wonderful friend, also.

PRAYER: Lord, give us the wisdom to teach our children how to embrace the holy scriptures. Thank you, for the holy scriptures that have been

written to teach, correct and redirect our children into a godly life. No child is too young, nor too old to get this essential --and honorable training from a loving family of believers. Lord, may we never overlook the Bible's value in our children's lives. A Christ-centered life will help children overcome most any problem they will encounter in this present age. The Word of God teaches our children to be wise, strong, courageous and steadfast, thank you, Father. We offer praise and thanksgiving unto you, because our children are becoming anchored to a sure foundation by reading and applying the Word of God daily. Today. Right now, Lord we are committed to teaching our children to love the Word of God. The Holy Spirit is right here with us helping us to always be mindful that God is love.

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### DAY 9: Tuesday, October 9 *Safety in Schools*

SCRIPTURE: "Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life." - Proverbs 4:23 NLT

OBSERVATION: When I chose safety of our schools to pray for, I must admit the violence in schools came to mind. We all must be diligent in our prayers for those events, but I will also pray for the weapon the enemy has used for generations. The human heart. The Bible says the heart is deceitful above all things. If we are not careful to lead our hearts it can be a tool used by the enemy from the inside. My prayer is that our young people will realize that our value doesn't come from this world. Our value comes from the Creator God and the value He set on us...the value of His only son Jesus. Child, you are valuable, and you are worth dying for!

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we humbly come asking for protection for our schools. We pray for our students, teachers, administrators, and parents. We see the news and it is easy to take our eyes off of You. God, help us to lead our hearts toward You. Help us to understand that our worth comes from You and help us to love one another. May revival break out and I pray it starts in our schools. God protect us from any weapon formed against us either from the outside, or on the inside of us. Wrap your big ole loving arms around us all, and become more real to us every day. In the unmatched name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

## DAY 10: Wednesday, October 10

### *Hospital- health care professionals*

SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:21-22 At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor."

OBSERVATION: Today we are thankful for the men and women who work in our healthcare facilities. We are grateful for their talents and their willingness to use those gifts and talents for the glory of God!

PRAYER: Psalm 41:1-3 Blessed are those who have regard for the weak; the LORD delivers them in times of trouble. The LORD protects and preserves them—they are counted among the blessed in the land—he does not give them over to the desire of their foes. The LORD sustains them on their sickbed and restores them from their bed of illness.

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## DAY 11: Thursday, October 11

### *Those in poverty*

SCRIPTURE: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." - Proverbs 31:8-9

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you"—when you already have it with you." - Proverbs 3:27-28

OBSERVATION: The poor are a reality in our community and we as Christians are called to be proactive in ministering to their needs and building relationships to help break cycles rather than simply treating the symptoms of poverty.

PRAYER: Father, shake us from our comfort zones and open our eyes to the plight of the poor amongst us. Forgive those of us who think this is only a "big city problem." Help us to do more than merely talk, but actually minister in your name to those who are struggling.

## DAY 12: Friday, October 12

### *Those in nursing homes*

SCRIPTURE: "When you give a party (or banquet or dinner), do not invite those who can repay the favor. Instead, invite the poor and the blind, the lame and the maimed, the handicapped—those who cannot repay you—and you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." Luke 14:14

OBSERVATION: You and I don't do a lot of partying or banquet-giving, (or maybe you do) as Luke refers to it in chapter 14. But it is possible for us to do things for those in our nursing homes that they will not be able to repay.

I believe the Lord Jesus takes it personally when His children go into nursing homes where often they know no one and minister to the patients, loving them, and leading them in worship, instruction, and in prayer.

You will be rewarded, He promised, at the Day of the Lord.

PRAYER: Father, please bless those in our local nursing homes. Be their comfort and friend. Please help those who are responsible for their everyday care. And help us, your faithful servants, to minister to those who need a special touch from you through us. Amen.

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## DAY 13: Saturday, October 13

### *Military*

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 1:9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

OBSERVATION: When God has a plan, he will use whatever individuals necessary to accomplish His purpose no matter how strong or weak that person is. In this case, when Moses died, God enabled Joshua to fulfill this promise of securing the great land of Israel. The American military is unsurpassed with an extreme amount of courage and might. The American military has been a force for good throughout all of the world.

PRAYER: That God would continue to transform hearts of those in the military so that as they engage in conflicts or peacetime missions, the Gospel of Christ will always prevail. America is called to be the light in a dark world from human standards. May the love and compassion of a strong military force, the force of good on earth, reveal the awesome light of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**WEEK THREE**

**DAY 14: Sunday, October 14**  
*Praise of Christ*

SCRIPTURE: "and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood" - Revelation 1:5

OBSERVATION: We praise Jesus Christ for He is faithful. He is the firstborn of the dead. He is Lord, and He has released us from our sin by His blood, because of His love. The things that He has done for us is the direct reflection of who He is. He is faithful therefore we receive His faithfulness when we receive Him. He is the firstborn, therefore we have access to a new birth. He is the ruler of Kings therefore I can trust His Lordship. He is love, He was the sacrifice. Who He is and what He has done deserves my praise.

PRAYER: Jesus, we praise you for all you have done, but mostly for who you are. We honor your faithfulness with our own. We acknowledge you as the firstborn, and we are privileged to be apart of your family. We gladly submit to your lordship. If you can rule the kings of the earth, I give you permission to rule over me. We praise you for your love, and the sacrifice of your blood. Only you are worthy, and to you we give our praise. May you alone become famous in our hearts. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

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**DAY 15: Monday, October 15**  
*Local business owners*

SCRIPTURE: And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; -Colossians 1:9-10

OBSERVATION: The day of an average business owner is filled with making hundreds of decisions, making as many people as possible happy, managing employees, and hopefully turning a profit. A Christian business owner tries to do all this plus seek ways that God can use their business for His glory. This requires integrity, godly wisdom and the knowledge that every interaction, be it a customer or an employee, is an opportunity for ministry.

PRAYER: Lord, we pray for our local business owners. We pray that you would enable them to walk in a manner worthy of you. Give them wisdom and understanding into how you can be honored in their business.

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**DAY 16: Tuesday, October 16**  
*For the various congregations and unity among them*

SCRIPTURE: "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit." I Corinthians 12:12-13

OBSERVATION: Within our culture we tend to talk about, sometimes with great passion, what divides us. We have debates, discussions, and many Facebook wars with people about these divisive issues. Some of these issues are important, but if we are not careful, this culture can carry over into our church congregations and cause division. In 1 Corinthians, Paul address the church in Corinth and the division that was happening. Specifically, in 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, Paul talks about unity within the Body of Christ, and how our churches can suffer if we aren't unified. In context, Paul is addressing the local church and urging people to be united and serve together using their gifts. I think we can apply this scripture to



PRAYER: Dear Heavenly Father, we pray that you give us a heart like yours. One that is open to love one another without restrictions or boundaries. We pray that you give us the ability to look beyond our differences and see that you created each of us in your image to do your will. You blessed us with gifts and talents to make us individually unique, but when we work together they are enhanced! May we develop the pure sense of brotherly love for one another, regardless of race, that will allow us to live as one family and function as one body of Christ! This prayer is not only for our city, county and state, but for our country! May El Dorado serve as the blueprint of what a city can be when race is not a factor and the love of Christ abounds! In the precious name of Jesus, we pray! Amen!!!

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### DAY 19: Friday, October 19

#### *Nonprofit agencies engaged in making a difference in our community*

SCRIPTURE: 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Matthew 25:35-36 (NIV)

OBSERVATION: There are many non-profits in our community who are serving in numerous areas. We are greatly blessed to have so many caring people in our community who are ministering to the needs of others.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, thank you for all the many non-profit organizations, their staff and volunteers who give willingly of their time in service to others daily. I ask Jehovah God that you bless each one as they are ministering to the children, youth, adults and senior citizens by providing food, finances, lodging, and other needed support meeting emotional, physical and spiritual needs. We ask that you provide the financial means for them to continue operating in their individual ministries. In the precious name of Jesus, amen!

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### DAY 20: Saturday, October 20

#### *Kids in foster care*

SCRIPTURE: "He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, and will break in pieces the oppressor." -Psalms 72:4 NKJV

OBSERVATION: Today we are mindful of the children who find themselves in foster care, the families they are taken from, the families that take them in, and the organizations/agencies that help children and families navigate the process.

PRAYER: Father, I thank you for your constant watch and care of your children. Today, we lift up foster children who have been displaced, removed or who are in need of a new environment for whatever reason. We ask that you would grant your peace that surpasses all understanding to these children and also to the households that will receive them. We ask that you would anoint the foster parents with wisdom, grace, and an overwhelming sense of your love so that the children entrusted in their care would feel safe and loved. Thanking you in advance in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**“He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, and will break in pieces the oppressor.”**

**-Psalms 72:4**

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## WEEK FOUR

### DAY 21: Sunday, October 21

#### *Praise of the Holy Spirit*

SCRIPTURE: “Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.” -Acts 9:31

OBSERVATION: The churches had been suffering persecution for which reason they experienced anguish and suffering, but God who has control reached one of the persecutors and saved him (Paul) by entering the church in time of peace free of conflict for the moment, the church grew multiplied, expanded, with a sense of deep reverence for God. Thanks to the Strength and presence of the Holy Spirit in the church and in the leadership.

PRAYER: Blessed God and our Father, we thank you for the presence of your Holy Spirit who flows with his power in the church to fulfill your purpose of bringing harmony, unity, growth, strength, courage and multiplication of the church so that everyone knows your name and be glorified.

Glory to your Holy Spirit we pray in the name of Jesus Christ.

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### DAY 22: Monday, October 22

#### *Our judges and the judicial system*

SCRIPTURE: “For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.” Proverbs 2:6-9

OBSERVATION: We know that the Lord gives blessings to the repentant who approach him with a broken heart and a contrite spirit. He has promised to provide—and will provide—knowledge, understanding, and wisdom generously to the humble. We may desire full knowledge, understanding, and wisdom all at once, however most often it is revealed

to us over time as we continue to walk uprightly before the Lord. Patiently follow his commandments and apply his grace and mercy in your life. As you do so, you will come to a knowledge that He once died for you and that He now lives for you; you will understand how much He loves and strengthens you; and you will gain the wisdom and ability to express charity, the pure love of Christ, with all whom you encounter.

PRAYER: “Heavenly Father, we thy children approach thee in humble prayer for those working in our courts. Instill in them the courage to seek and follow thy will. Give them wisdom and understanding to deal charitably and judge righteously with all. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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### DAY 23: Tuesday, October 23

#### *Firemen*

SCRIPTURE: Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. – John 15:13, To grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit – Isaiah 61:3

OBSERVATION: Twenty-four hours a day every single day of the year there is a group of individuals that are always ready. That group is comprised of more than fifty men and women at the El Dorado Fire Department and thirteen different volunteer fire departments spread around our great county. When tragedy strikes, or threatens to strike, in the form of a fire, they are at their best. When everyone runs away, they are running toward one of the most powerful forces on earth to protect you, your family, and your property. They are willing to sacrifice all that they are, for all that you are. They are willing to lay down their life to give you a hope in some of the darkest times that can befall any of us. To give us beauty instead of ashes.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, today we come humbly to you and give thanks for who You are and specifically give thanks for the calling that you have placed in the lives of the men and women who carry the mantle of “firefighter”. Father thank you for their willingness to serve us in our darkest times. Lord protect them from that which they seek to overcome, the dangers posed by fire. Bless and protect the firefighters in a way that only you can. In Jesus Name, Amen.

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**DAY 24: Wednesday, October 24**  
*Policemen*

SCRIPTURE: “But I say to you, do not resist and evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also...” Matthew 5:39 NRSV

OBSERVATION: We often read these words of Jesus as a radical to passivity. In truth, His teaching calls for a much deeper confrontation than a reciprocal act of violence. In Jesus’ context, being struck on the cheek conjures up a social order that places masters over servants and the powerful over the powerless. By striking someone, the striker acts to put the recipient into his or her proper lower place, and expects the one who is struck to cower back to their appropriate behavior. When Jesus tells his listeners to stand and give the other cheek, he calls for them to stand against the oppression of violence by refusing to allow worldly power to take control of them. Jesus tells the crowd to resist worldly desire for power and stand as a pillar of the peace of God’s kingdom. The difficult calling of law enforcement asks something similar of the men and women who put on their uniforms. They stand in the face of violence and unjust claims of power in order to be the presence of peace in our communities. Their task demands more than retributive response, it demands an ability to hold fast in the presence of evil and be the light of peace and respect. They are icons of hope in a world that often feels hopeless, and they earn their status in the moments when our citizens are in greatest need of hope. I, for one, am grateful.

PRAYER: Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our law enforcement. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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**DAY 25: Thursday, October 25**  
*Paramedics*

SCRIPTURE: Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who have the gift of leadership, those who speak in unknown languages. 1 Corinthians 12:28 (NLT)

OBSERVATION: Note that after the gift of teaching come those who God uses to perform HIS miracles, HIS healing and HIS help to others. Drinking my coffee one morning a calmness flowed through me and the thought that I really did not need to be at work on time occurred. That day I left an hour later than normal. While stopped at an intersection my radio/pager went off. The 911 operator told our department to respond to an address where a 3 week old infant was not breathing. Looking up I realized the address was the house directly across the intersection. The mother, infant in hand, ran out of the house screaming, “God don’t let my baby die.” That morning a mother’s prayer was answered.

PRAYER: Merciful Father, You have answered the prayers of those in physical anguish and despair by placing Your servants – EMT’s and Paramedics at the right place and at the right time to heal those in desperate need. Good Samaritan Servants, sometimes at the risk of their own life, that step forward to aid both friend and stranger. Servants that give us a marvelous example of the great commandment - love one another. Father, send down Your blessings on these Your servants, who so generously devote themselves to helping others. Place Your hand of protection around them. Grant them courage when they are afraid, wisdom and ready recall of their skills when they must make quick decisions, strength when they are weary, and provide them with a strong, calming presence to those they encounter. We pray that You will overwhelm them with Your love and that you surround them with believers who will pray and encourage them. Father, thank you for these good Samaritan Servants that serve our community. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

**DAY 26: Friday, October 26***For the spiritual leaders in our community*

SCRIPTURE: “And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may 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 1:9-11

OBSERVATION: As we think about the spiritual leaders in our community, we are indebted to them for the incredible selfless love they pour out day after day. We are appreciative of their deep knowledge of the Lord. We are grateful for the deep insights from God’s word they continually share with us. We are satisfied to follow their discerning leadership. We are delighted to follow their example of purity and righteousness. Through Jesus, join me in giving praise and glory to God for our spiritual leaders in this community who influence us to passionately follow Christ.

PRAYER: Father, we thank you for being the awesome God you are. Thank you for giving us men and women who lovingly lead us as we follow you. We humbly ask your Holy Spirit’s anointing to be upon them. As they give of themselves, increase their love, knowledge, depth of insight, and discernment. Give our leaders eyes to see what is best, pure, and blameless. Give them ears to hear as they seek your holy face. We ask you to fill our leaders with the fruit of your holy righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ. Deliver our leaders from temptation and guard their heart and minds in Christ Jesus. Father, we know you can do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine through the power of your Spirit. We love you and we give you all glory and honor and praise! It is by the shed blood of Jesus that we approach your throne of grace. We ask all this in the name and according to the reputation of our glorious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

**DAY 27: Saturday, October 27***Those incarcerated (and their families on the outside)*

SCRIPTURE: “For I was hungry and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came

unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry, and fed thee: or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Matthew 25:35-40 (KJV)

OBSERVATION: “Am I my brother’s keeper?” A question that’s been rehearsed from the time of Cain and Abel. Yes, we are. And, let brotherly love continue. A 1965 popular song by Hal David with lyrics suggesting, “what the world needs now, is love sweet love, it’s the only thing that there’s just too little of: what the world needs now is love sweet love, no, not just for some, but for everyone”, is ever true. In observing the day, time and era we live, we must keep in perspective that God is love. (Supporting Scriptures (KJV): Genesis 4:9; Hebrews 13:1-3; 1 Peter 2:17; 1 John 4:8

PRAYER: Father, we thank you today for new grace and mercies. For we know that our strength is made perfect in weakness. Where we fail in our earthly duties and responsibilities, please forgive and create in us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us.

Father, your word declares that your respect for all people is the same, and he that does wrong shall receive for the wrong done.

Father, give us your burden, that is, to pray and visit those in need, to have and possess kindness, and use our will to love others as we say we love You.

(Supporting Scriptures (KJV): 2 Corinthians 12:9; Psalm 51:10; Colossians 3:25; 1 John 4:21

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ”

*-Philippians 1:9-10*

## WEEK FIVE

### DAY 28: Sunday, October 28 *Praise for answered prayer*

SCRIPTURE: Pilate therefore said to him: Art thou a king then? Jesus answered: Thou sayest that I am a king. For this was I born, and for this came I into the world; that I should give testimony to the truth. Every one that is of the truth, heareth my voice. (John 18:37)

OBSERVATION: Jesus wants to reign in our hearts, homes, churches, city, nation, world and universe. We praise our Lord for his countenance to our prayers.

PRAYER: Almighty and everlasting God, who in your beloved Son, the King of the whole world, did will to restore all things, mercifully grant that all the families of the nations now kept apart by the wound of sin, may be brought under the sweet yoke of His rule, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

### DAY 29: Monday, October 29

#### *Teachers, administrators, other school employees*

SCRIPTURES: Proverbs 22: 6 "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

Mark 10:14 "People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom belongs to such as these...'"

OBSERVATION: When I was young there was a religious organization that boasted that if they were allowed to instruct a child from an early age, that the child would always adhere to that religion. That is why Jesus was so adamant about allowing the children to come to him. We need to teach our children well; to bring them up in the ways of the Lord and pray for those who instruct them on a daily basis in our schools.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, you love children so much that you enjoyed being surrounded by them. We pray for their instructions in school. May they

teach them moral strength they need to make it in a world of sin. May the administration wisely pick teachers who are morally sound themselves. From the bus drivers who pick them up in the morning, the janitors, the lunchroom workers, and all the people our children come in contact with during the day. Father, let all these people set good examples for our children.

Through Him who said, "...let the children come to me." Amen.

### DAY 30: Tuesday, October 30

#### *Homeless in our community*

SCRIPTURE: "And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?" And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' - Matthew 25:38-40

OBSERVATION: In the 2017 report to Congress, the Department of Housing and Development shows approximately 556,000 people to be homeless in America. There is a need in America, El Dorado is not immune. As the church we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves! These are our neighbors as well. We are also called to be a generous people! Often, we allow our flesh to come out and look down upon those in need, and even say blanket statements, such as "they just need to get a job", without even knowing the people or their circumstances. Our knee-jerk reaction is often coming from a stance of pride and selfishness. Matthew 25:35-46 speaks of the difference between the actions of a follower of Christ and one who does not. The follower of Christ shows compassion for people in need, and the Lord says in verse 45, 'whatever you did for the least of these you also have done for me!'

PRAYER: Father, today we pray that we may as a church, see with the eyes of Christ and be generous to those in need around us. May we, as the Bride of Christ, show compassion and love to all of our neighbors! May we be able to show the love of Christ in such a way that Christ may be undeniable in the lives of our neighbors. Praise God from whom all blessing flow.



**DAY 33: Friday, November 2**  
*Thanks for our freedoms and liberties*

SCRIPTURE: For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But do not use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead use your freedom to serve one another in love." Galatians 5:13

OBSERVATION: If we are not careful, freedom can be mistaken for license. Although we are free we are NOT at liberty to do anything and everything we want. If we love one another we will use our freedom for the betterment of people rather than use it to do them harm.

PRAYER: Holy Father who grants us an abundance of freedom, we thank you so much that you gave us your Son to free us from the bondage of sin. We are thankful that we live in a country that affords us the freedom to worship you freely. Being mindful of the fact that is so easy for us to misuse our freedoms to others harm, we pray that you will give us the wisdom to always use our freedom in this great country wisely. Help to be thankful for all of the freedoms we enjoy in this country and to seize every opportunity to use our freedoms to benefit others. Amen

**DAY 34: Saturday, November 3**

*Government leaders on all levels and the decisions they make*

SCRIPTURE: I Timothy 2:1-3- "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior"

OBSERVATION: We pause for a moment, to offer up a prayer for our president, for the cabinet, and for government leaders on all levels and the decisions they make.

PRAYER: We stop today and pray as the scripture has taught us. We know that you have called us to pray for our leaders! In doing this Lord, help us to lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. We

believe this is good and acceptable in thy sight. May our leaders be led by your wisdom; may they search your will and see it clearly. Lord, we ask that you look graciously upon our leadership. Give them wisdom for the facing of the challenges of our nation. Where there is pride, subdue it. Where there is a need, supply it. Where there is error, rectify it. Where there is default, restore it. Lord, let thy will be done. We offer this prayer in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

**“For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But do not use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead use your freedom to serve one another in love.”**  
-Galatians 5:13

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**WEEK SIX**

**DAY 35: Sunday, November 4**  
*Those unreached with the gospel*

SCRIPTURE: For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Luke 19:10

OBSERVATION: The scene with Zacchaeus provides Luke’s Gospel with its ultimate statement about Jesus. Jesus knew His purpose on earth. His purpose was not to reform the Jewish religion. His purpose was not to prove the Pharisees wrong. His purpose was not to bring in a military, political kingdom. His purpose was to bring salvation to lost people which include you and me. Jesus dedicated the three years of his earthly ministry to finding people who knew they were lost and showing them God’s way of salvation; the way of repentance and faith.

PRAYER: Dear Lord, we thank You that You thought enough of us to leave the shining courts of glory to come to earth on a seek and rescue mission. You commended Your love toward us in that while we were yet sinners You died for us. But, we realize that there are so many who remain lost because we as believers have failed to be the witnesses that You’ve called us to be. It’s our prayer that we focus our attention on what’s important. And that is, sharing the good news with the lost, the least and the left out. And so, we come boldly to Thy throne of grace that we might obtain mercy and grace to help in our time of need. We pray that we’d have a burning zeal to share You with the lost souls of city and having as our battle cry that You didn’t come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. We ask it all in the powerful, precious and preeminent name of Jesus, amen.

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**DAY 36: Monday, November 5**  
*Upcoming elections*

SCRIPTURE: “If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” - II Chronicles 7:14

OBSERVATION: As we enter into the elections tomorrow we are thankful for the election process and for those candidates who seek God’s Will in the decisions they make and the policies they champion.

PRAYER: Father, today we pray for our community and nation tomorrow as we head to the polls. May we elect those who hold the values found in scripture. We pray for those in leadership positions that they will seek Your Will in their daily lives and in the causes they champion.

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**DAY 37: Tuesday, November 6**  
*Abused and abusive*

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 22:24- “For He has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and He has not hidden His face from him, but has heard, when he cried to Him.”

Psalm 9:9 “The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.”

Revelation 21:4 “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

OBSERVATION: May we be ever mindful of those in our community who are victims of abuse and those who are abusive.

PRAYER: We pray for those who are, or have been, the victims of abuse. We pray that they will be made whole physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Heal their wounds and transform their brokenness. We pray that as a community we will not turn a deaf ear to the plight of those who are suffering but with listen and act just as Christ would have us to. Help us as disciples to live out our faith in tangible ways to make a Kingdom

impact. Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace, so that we may act with justice and find peace in you.

Father, work in the hearts of those who are abusive and turn their hearts to You.

We long for the day when there will be no more abuse, injustice, and crime. In the meantime, strengthen us for the journey and may we be salt and light in the community. We ask all this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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## DAY 38: Wednesday, November 7

### Today: Community Prayer Walk 7 pm @ El Dorado Police Department

*We'll walk together from the Police Department, to City Hall, to the El Dorado School District Central Office, & finally to the Union County Court House. At each stop we will be led in prayer by one or two of our ministry and community leaders. Join your community in this powerful way to end a powerful prayer campaign.*

### *Addicts and their families*

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 107:13-14 "Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and burst their bonds apart."

OBSERVATION: Addiction is no respecter of persons. Anyone can become an addict to damaging behaviors. It feels like being in chains and darkness with no hope of escape. It also damages everyone around the person who is an addict; family, friends, co-workers, other drivers... We pray today for the active addict, recovering addicts and all those affected by addiction.

PRAYER: Father, hear our cry to you. There are many in our community chained by addiction. They do and say things they would never do sober. Please help them to turn toward you. Hold those who have loved ones who are practicing addicts. Give them freedom too. Restore all to your blessed peace and freedom. Grant them life. We pray in Jesus, who burst the bonds of death.

## DAY 39: Thursday, November 8

### *Local work force/jobs*

SCRIPTURE: "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." -Colossians 3:23-24

OBSERVATION: Today we are thankful for our jobs and are mindful of those who do not have jobs that are looking. May their efforts be fruitful.

PRAYER: Gracious God, I begin this new day seeking your help. When I lack energy, give me your spirit. When I lack discipline, give me your love. When I lack time, give me your patience. I have much to do. Let the patience and forgiveness I receive from others equal the patience I extend to them. Father, when I am confused guide me, and may the work that I do and the way I do it bring faith, joy, and a smile to all that I come in contact with today. The world around me seems to be spinning out of control. Be with us Lord. Keep my head on right, Father. Keep my eyes focused on Jesus. Keep my feet on the path. Walk with me. Make me aware of your presence today. I will give you the glory. Amen

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## DAY 40: Friday, November 9

### *Local, specific concerns*

SCRIPTURE: "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" Psalm 133:1

OBSERVATION: As we end our 40 Days of Prayer and the elections are over, let us continue to pray every day for our community and its newly elected officials. Although we have different values and opinions, so much more can be accomplished when we are unified and look to God

for guidance.

PRAYER: Father, we thank You that we live in a nation where people can openly unite in prayer to You. We ask You to bless our community with unity and love while we work together to improve the quality of life for everyone here.

