

6th

40

ANNUAL

DAYS OF PRAYER

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

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.

For the sixth year in a row, we as churches and as a community in El Dorado and Union County, Arkansas are being called to follow the example of Jesus by spending the next 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 to pray for the specific needs identified by over 25 of our area ministers, ministry leaders, and community leaders.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

EVENT DATES

**Thursday,
October 1**
12:00 PM

Community-Wide Prayer

Located at the MAD Amphitheater. All are welcome to attend!

**Wednesday,
November 4**
7:00 PM

Annual Prayer Walk

Route is tentative at this point. We will begin at the Police Station at 7 p.m., then walk to the City Hall, then walk across the NorthWest Avenue to the Central Office of the El Dorado School District and then make our way 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!

40 DAYS OF PRAYER GUIDE

**Thursday,
October 1**

DAY 1 – Thankful for the Avenue of Prayer

And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened – Luke 11:9-10 (NLT)

OBSERVATION: With advances in technology, we now have the ability, with a series of swipes, taps, and clicks, to communicate with people around the world. As amazing as these new avenues of communication are, they pale in comparison to the ancient avenue of communication that we call prayer. In prayer we “ask” God to meet our most basic needs. In prayer we “seek” God’s will for our lives. In prayer we persistently “knock” trusting that God will answer. As God’s people “ask, seek, and knock” we will grow in our relationship with God and soon we will realize just how good God truly is. As it turns out, what we need is not to spend more time learning how to use the latest technology, instead we need to take the time to master the art of prayer.

PRAYER: Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prayer truly is a gift. Forgive us when we neglect this gift, storing it in a closet to only take it out in case of emergency. Kindle within us a zealous desire to pray each day, so that we might know you and your goodness. Thank you, God, for hearing this prayer and every prayer that we offer. In Christ’s Name, Amen.

**Friday,
October 2**

DAY 2: Peace in our Community

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. – Philippians 4:6-7 | KJV

OBSERVATION: In uncertain times, we must be reminded that we serve a certain God! May our community continue to look to the cross for strength and stability amidst the storms of life.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father we thank you that in the midst of everything we see happening in the world, you have shown us the way to live in your peace! We pray for the willingness to follow your Word for everything we face! We look to you in all things to grant us the peace that truly passes all understanding!!! Even now, we thank you for peace in our communities, our City, our state and our nation!!!

**Saturday,
October 3**

DAY 3: Peace in our Nation

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. – John 14:27

OBSERVATION: Two of my favorite hymns are "Peace, Perfect Peace" (by Edward H. Bickersteth) and "Prince of Peace! Control My Will" (by Mary S. A. Barber). The first line to "Peace, Perfect Peace" is "Peace, Perfect peace, in this dark world of sin: The blood of Jesus whispers peace within." We not only live in a dark world of sin, but we live in a nation that is far from peaceful and the reason is sin. The answer is found in the second song: "Prince of peace control my will, bid this struggling heart be still; Bid my fears and doubtings cease; Hush my spirit into peace." Our nation may be far from peaceful but Jesus promises us a peace unlike any the world has to offer...one that does not depend on outward circumstances.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, our nation so desperately needs the peace that Jesus promised to His disciples long ago. Our nation is torn apart by riots, vandalism, and violence, we pray for the only peace that is possible through the Prince of Peace. AMEN

**Sunday,
October 4**

DAY 4: Praise of God

I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. – Psalm 18:1-3

OBSERVATION: Praising God can mean simply speaking the truths we know about Him. That's how David starts his praise: "The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer" Praising God and thanking Him for what He has done in our lives can help us to think about "whatever is true," which the apostle Paul says will help us have peace (Philippians 4:8). But, it can also change our hearts and lives as we pay closer attention to who God is and what God does for us on a daily basis. When we praise God, we become more aware of His workings all around us.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, You are our Rock, our fortress and our deliverer. We come to You today to give You all the praise and honor that is due unto You alone. Thank You Lord, for Your goodness towards us all. By praising you today we become more aware of your presence in our lives and in our community. God fix our eyes on you today. In Jesus's name we pray, AMEN.

**Monday,
October 5**

DAY 5: Peace in our World

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. – John 3:16

OBSERVATION: A lot of people are asking and wondering why is God allowing all the evil in the world. Many are looking for solutions to fix world problems without looking to Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6). Jesus is the fixer.

PRAYER: Father, today we’re asking for your peace, the peace that you give & not as the world gives. We pray this for everyone. We also pray for people who are not saved so they may be saved through Jesus Christ by coming to repentance, and accepting His death, burial and resurrection. Amen.

**Tuesday,
October 6**

DAY 6: A Cure for the COVID Pandemic

We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You. – 2 Chronicles 20:12

OBSERVATION: While many believed 2020 would be a year of “focus” and “vision” no one anticipated phrases such as “social distancing” and “new normal” being part of our vocabulary. If nothing else, this year has taught us that we are NOT in control and that we must look to the One who is for answers and stability.

PRAYER: Gracious God, we acknowledge that You are ABLE to do ALL things and we boldly approach Your throne asking You to remove this pandemic from our world. We pray for healing for those who have it and comfort for those who have lost loved ones to it. In the powerful name of Christ we pray, Amen.

**Wednesday,
October 7**

DAY 7: Marriages

And God created man to his own image: to the image of God he created him: male and female he created them. And God blessed them, saying: Increase and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it. – Genesis 1:27-28

OBSERVATION: The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring. God wills and blesses holy marriages and families. Invite God in!

PRAYER: O God, who in creating the human race willed that man and wife should be one, keep, we pray, in a bond of inseparable love those who are united in the covenant of Marriage, so that, as you make their love fruitful, they may become, by your grace, witnesses to charity itself. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Thursday,
October 8**

DAY 8: Families

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. – Exodus 20:12

OBSERVATION: Families have always been important to the makeup of the community and the church. May we strive to make ours a priority as we navigate and “better normal.”

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I want to thank You for my family. For the good things that You have given to Each of us. Let not the circle be broken. May all our family give their life to the service of Jesus Christ. Thank You Lord! Amen!

**Friday,
October 9**

DAY 9: Children

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. – Deuteronomy 6:5-9

OBSERVATION: In a time that our world is filled with so much hate and divide, our children are looking to us to know how to respond.

PRAYER: Father, we know that little eyes are always watching to see how we treat others. We pray that you guide us in teaching our children how to love and respect all people. We ask that you guide us in teaching our children to forgive those who have treated them poorly. We ask that you guide us in teaching our children how to fight hate with love. We ask that you guide us in raising them up in a way that is pleasing to you. Amen

**Saturday,
October 10**

DAY 10: Hospital- Health Care Professionals

Where can I go from Your spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go to the Heavens you are there, if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. – Psalm 139:7-8

OBSERVATION: For most, Saturday is rest, recreation and relaxation. It may include chores left undone because you have been working all week. But for healthcare professionals it means a nursing shift, a full day of patient visits, surgeries, etc. It is being available for service. God is always available, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, fifty two weeks a year.

PRAYER: Father, we pray today for those who are available for kingdom purposes. Strengthen them with wisdom, courage and grace. In your strong name, Amen.

**Sunday,
October 11**

DAY 11: Praise of Christ

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. – Colossians 3:15

OBSERVATION: Too many folks trust in the things and systems of the world. Jesus is the answer for the world today. Isaiah 26:3 says, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” Trust in God’s Word because He will never fail.

PRAYER: Father, the peace that the world seeks is the peace that only you give, and not as the world gives. We acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace, and if we seek after peace it will come from knowing Him. We pray that people will come to the knowledge of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Monday,
October 12**

DAY 12: Those in Nursing Homes

The Lord himself watches over you! The Lord stands beside you as your protective shade. - Psalm 121:5

OBSERVATION: No matter our age or position in life, we all need protection. Days of uncertainty make us even more aware of our need for safety and well-being. Life for our loved ones in nursing homes has been challenging and even lonely because of the Pandemic of this year. What great comfort for those whose home is in such a facility, to know the Lord Himself is watching over them. This verse assures us that God is our personal guardian and we can trust Him.

PRAYER: Father, we pray especially today for those in nursing homes. Be the strength of their lives and breathe your joy into their very souls. Let them sense your care, comfort, and love.....be the Glory and the Lifter of their heads. Angels, surround them all and keep them high above evil and free from harm. Let them know that your mercies are new every morning and great is your faithfulness. Amen.

**Tuesday,
October 13**

DAY 13: Firefighters & Police Officers

The Lord is thy keeper; the Lord Jehovah is thy shade upon thy right hand. – Psalm 121:5

OBSERVATION: Each of us are created in the image of God and He takes special care for His children, the promise of protection is a reality for those who trust in Him and cry for help in any situation.

PRAYER: Father we pray for the protection of all the firefighters and policemen of the city, manifest every day of their lives your promised presence, your angels camp around them during and out of service, you will keep them from all evil, the evil one will not touch them, nor cause them any harm. They will not be fatigued day or night, you will keep their soul, you will keep their departure and entrance from now and forever in the mighty name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

**Wednesday,
October 14**

Day 14: Military

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. – Ephesians 6:10-12

OBSERVATION: I recently visited my relative's grave at Rock Island National Cemetery, Moline, Illinois. George N. Johnson, 38th Infantry, Alabama, gave his life for a military cause in 1864. He died along with 2,200 others after suffering horrible conditions in the Rock Island Prisoner of War Camp after their capture in battle at Lookout Mountain, Tennessee.

PRAYER: "Greater love has no man than to lay down his life for a friend", says Jesus. And who would know better? For He laid down his life once for all to atone for the sins of the world! He laid down his life for me and you! May we take up our cross daily, our military service daily, and serve the risen Lord by serving one another equipped with the military armor of God! Amen.

**Thursday,
October 15**

DAY 15: Local Business Owners

A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion. – Psalm 112:15 (KJV)

OBSERVATION: Our local community depends so much upon our local business owners, especially when it comes to sponsoring events and giving back to the community. We, as a community, need to remember to help them when they help us.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we ask that you bless the business owners of Union county. We ask that they seek your council and conduct their business according to Your Word and will. May we remember to help them as they have helped us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Friday,
October 16**

DAY 16: Paramedics & Emergency Medical Technicians

But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' – Luke 10:33-35

OBSERVATION: Perhaps there is no passage that so clearly reminds us of Paramedics. While others are wondering what to do or simply standing and staring, Paramedics rush in to supply aid. They see things they wish they could forget. They do whatever is necessary. Untold lives are saved through their effort.

PRAYER: Father, we praise that You have supplied this world with Paramedics. They remind us of You & Your action through Jesus. Please bless, comfort, and guide them on every situation they are called to. Thank You for so often working through their efforts. Protect their health and families. Please continue opening people's hearts to be called to such blessed work. We pray these things through Jesus. Amen

**Saturday,
October 17**

DAY 17: Our Various Congregations and Unity Among Them

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. – Ephesians 4:1-6

OBSERVATION: In Ephesians 4:1-6 we find Paul urging the church at Ephesus to walk worthy of the calling they have received. This passage reminds us that we represent Christ in what we do, what we say, and how we respond to others. We are the Church and we are encouraged in this passage in how to respond and be together as one Church body reflecting ONE GOD.

PRAYER: Dear Jesus, may Your Church be seen unified in peace. May we speak and act with humility, gentleness patience, and love. You are faithful and above all and in all. May we reflect You so well that the world may know You are God and You are on Your throne.

**Sunday,
October 18**

DAY 18: Praise of the Holy Spirit

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. – 2 Thessalonians 2:13

OBSERVATION: The Spirit's work in our lives should produce in us thanksgiving, always.

PRAYER: Father God, we come to you with thanksgiving and praise for the work of the Spirit in our lives. We recognize that we are nothing had the Spirit not performed His work in our lives. We extend all glory and honor to You, and take not credit for ourselves. We were born again by the Spirit, function currently by the Spirit, and trust our future to the Spirit. Praise the Father, praise the Son, and especially today, we praise the Holy Spirit.

**Monday,
October 19**

DAY 19: Nonprofit Agencies Engaged in Making a Difference in our Community

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. – Hebrews 13:16 (NIV)

OBSERVATION: Non-profit agencies are making a difference in our community. We are blessed to have so many who do so much to serve the needs of our community. We live in a city where we can find a number of resources available to us. We can go online and find many non-profit organizations in El Dorado. It is great to be part of a community where so many are willing to put their faith into action by showing Christ's love and meeting one another's needs.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we bless and praise You that every good gift and every perfect gift comes from You. May we continue to have a heart for each other. Thank You for so many in our community who give so much. We thank you for the churches and organizations dedicated to meet the needs of our community. Continue to provide all that is needed so that others are touched and blessed through agency and church. In Jesus name, amen.

**Tuesday,
October 20**

DAY 20: Racial Equality

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. – John 13:34 (NIV)

OBSERVATION: Harmony is the combination of simultaneously sounded musical notes to produce chords and chord progressions having a pleasing effect. Our community is a diversity of cultures, races, and beliefs, but when we work together, even though we have many differences, it's like musical harmony, when many sounds together produce a pleasant symphony.

PRAYER: Dear Heavenly Father we thank you for your agape love! The love that is unconditional and sees us as you created us all, in your image! We pray that we learn to see one another as true brothers and sisters, all your precious children!!! When we look at one another, may we see you, Our Father!!!

**Wednesday,
October 21**

DAY 21: Foster Care/Adoption

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you. – James 1:27 (NLT)

OBSERVATION: The CALL is an organization that recruits, trains and supports foster care families in Union & Ouachita County. Currently (report July 2020) Union County has 55 children in foster care. There are a total of 20 foster homes in Union County registered with the State to care for them (12 of these homes were recruited by the CALL). Family recruited and/or supported by The CALL foster homes are caring for 26 children. For more information about the CALL contact Karen Hicks, Union County Coordinator at 870-904-0581.

PRAYER: Father, thank You that You reached out to us, through Christ, when we were orphaned and all alone and adopted us into Your family, gave us a name and a forever home with You! Help us reach out with Your love to boys and girls who have no home and provide the love and nurture that they need to grow and flourish in You. Thank You for organizations like the CALL who provide training and care for foster families who answer Your call to provide foster care for children who so desperately need it. Thank You for those families who adopt children in foster care and show the world the greatest example of what You have done for us! We offer up this prayer to You...until no child is waiting! Amen.

**Thursday,
October 22**

DAY 22: Our Judges and the Judicial System

...then God raised up judges who saved them from their plunderers. But they wouldn't listen to their judges; they prostituted themselves to other gods—worshiped them! They lost no time leaving the road walked by their parents, the road of obedience to God's commands. They refused to have anything to do with it. – Judges 2: 16-17 (The Message)

OBSERVATION: There is certainly every good reason for us to pray for Judges and our judicial system, especially in these days of cultural strife, injustices, differences of view, arguments over everything. That God raised up judges who deliver God's people is a biblical given. That we do not to listen to our judges—especially if we believe they can't, don't, or won't "judge" like we believe they should, is a human given—in the words of Burger King, we like to "have it our way." The trouble is, it was never supposed to be "our way;" this is God's good creation! The key to harmony may yet be what human beings were called to do first in creation—to walk with God. What difference might it make if we were walking with God, rather than blaming "the other side." It's not about what the judges do—it's about what the people do. Not about "them;" it's about US.

PRAYER: Holy God, we are grateful for your care of us—for your deliverance, walking with us, and gifting us with commandments that lead to life for all peoples. We pray, "teach us your ways and show us your paths;" but too often we choose our own paths and demand our own ways. So, help us write a new ending to our story, your ending, that comes from walking with you.

**Friday,
October 23**

DAY 23: Those in Poverty

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them. – Luke 15: 1-2 (NRSV)

OBSERVATION: Poverty is not a sin; but any collection of the impoverished often includes those whom we associate with sin. While Jesus promises the poor will always be with us, in Luke's gospel, a slew of Jesus' parables promise even the "undeserving" end up paid, invited, fed, and found! Not only that, where people are impoverished, the Kingdom of God throws a party for them. If we are not helping the poor, we are failing as followers of Jesus.

PRAYER: Holy One, help us to find room at our table for all.

**Saturday,
October 24**

DAY 24: Safety in Schools

Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. – Matthew 18:5-6

OBSERVATION: In our world today we tend to spend the majority of our time protecting our own wealth, power, and ideals. But one of our greatest priorities is to protect those that are the most vulnerable--children. God has given us the great responsibility to receive His little children and keep them safe.

PRAYER: God, we come before you today to pray for the safety of our children. Ultimately they are Your children and You give them as a blessing to us. Help us to take on this great responsibility of receiving and guarding them from all harm.

**Sunday,
October 25**

DAY 25: Praise for Answered Prayer

Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches.... – Acts 12: 11

OBSERVATION: Sometimes God out of the blue and dramatically answers our prayers. Other times involve prolonged waiting. In Acts Chap. 12 the Apostle Peter was given a sudden and miraculous answer as God sent an angel to deliver him from prison. It took a bit for Peter to realize his prayers for freedom had been answered. It was only when he was out of his cell, through the maze of the prison, and in the dark street that he realized he was really delivered from jail. Like Peter, we too can be so focused on our prayers that we fail to see the answer God sends. Whether your path to praise is long or short, be ready to offer praise to God for what He does in your life. God has His timing, let's be always be ready with our praise.

PRAYER: Father, today we thank you for answered prayers! May we live lives of gratitude and in all things may we bring Your honor and glory.

**Monday,
October 26**

DAY 26: All Leaders in Government

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. – 1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NIV)

OBSERVATION: When I read a scripture such as this I do not think of a king as it is referenced. I think of those we place in roles of leadership through the process of election. Those who seek to “serve.” A term we hear frequently, but all too often many seem to forget what it means to be a public servant. An individual with authority must remember where all authority stems. All authority comes from God as we read Romans 13. May all of our leaders have a servant’s heart.

PRAYER: Father God, as we pray for elected leaders, I pray that they understand that with authority comes the responsibility of being a true and faithful servant. May Your hand guide their decisions to do what is right for the people that they serve. Help their words and actions be of Your Will. Give them the courage and integrity to stand for what is right and just. We ask that You be present in their daily lives and they be willing to ask You for wisdom. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**Tuesday,
October 27**

DAY 27: Wisdom in Navigating Social Media & Culture

And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. – Colossians 3:17

OBSERVATION: I can’t offend, hurt, or slander anyone with the social media posts I don’t write. Maximize connections and friendships. Minimize drama. Is it kind? Is it encouraging? Is it necessary? Most of all, does it provide a good representation of Christ? Our social media accounts are part of our lives. Our lives should bring glory to God, and point others towards Him.

PRAYER: Dear Lord, social media has only complicated matters in our culture. Even when issues ignite our passions, help us to spend our time praying rather than posting. May we represent You in all we do.

**Wednesday,
October 28**

DAY 28: Those Incarcerated (& their Families on the Outside)

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. – Hebrews 13:1-3

OBSERVATION: The author of Hebrews tells us to remember those who are in prison. He does not give us an explanation as to why they are in prison. He simply says, ‘remember those in prison.’ Then he instructs us to identify with those in prison by saying, ‘as if you were together with them in prison.’ In another words, try to put yourselves in their shoes. Think about what they face each day and what they are going through in their condition. More than 5 million children, or one in 14, in the U.S. have had a parent in state or federal prison at some point in their lives, according to the Casey Foundation. We are not to ignore the many families who are dealing with life without a father or mother at home due to a prison sentence. Hebrews 13:3 tells us to keep on loving one another. This means showing hospitality to those who need it. This means we seek to reach out to those who are facing life without a significant family member.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, remind us of those who are suffering today because of a loved one who is in prison. I pray for prison ministries and for the gospel to go into these prisons to lead inmates to Christ and to a place of new beginning with you. Thank You that You are near to the brokenhearted. I pray we will all do what we can to reach out to those in prison along with their families. In Jesus name, Amen.

**Thursday,
October 29**

DAY 29: Teachers, Administrators, & other School Employees

As we pray today, listen to God through His Spirit: "The counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have said to you. – John 14:26 (NIV)

OBSERVATION: I believe that those who teach are practicing a call from God. Teaching is the entry point to all professions and skills. Whether artists or actors, mechanics or surgeons, all owe allegiance and gratitude to mentor who first taught them. Mistakes may have been made, techniques may need practice. But the basis of all life experience is teaching.

PRAYER: Father, we pray today for those who teach. Strengthen them with wisdom, courage and grace. In your strong name, amen.

**Friday,
October 30**

DAY 30: Homeless in our Community

Jesus heals a man with a demon. – Mark 5:1-20

OBSERVATION: In this passage we read about an encounter that Jesus had with a broken man. It is heartbreaking to hear about his condition. The community was so afraid of him that they drove him away to live among the tombs. They decided to give up on him. Much like this broken man, the homeless in our community are looked down upon as unclean, outcasts, and dangerous. Many people have given up on them...but not Jesus. And we shouldn't either.

PRAYER: Dear Jesus, help us to follow your example by loving and serving the homeless in our community. We pray that you would bring healing and restoration in their lives.

**Saturday,
October 31**

DAY 31: Those Battling Presently Incurable Diseases

And Jesus passing by, saw a man, who was blind from his birth...Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents; but that the works of God should be made manifest in him...He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and spread the clay on his eyes, And said to him: Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, which is interpreted, Sent. He went therefore, and washed, and he came seeing. – John 9:1,3, 6-7

OBSERVATION: Why does God allow evil, such as incurable diseases? He allows evil so that a greater good may come from it, so that "the works of God should be made manifest". The greatest suffering of the world (the crucifixion and death of the Lord) came with the greatest good (our salvation). Our suffering only finds meaning when it is united with His.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus Christ, you chose to share our human nature, to redeem all people and to heal the sick. Since you have given a share in your own passion to those who have incurable diseases help them find hope in suffering for you are Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

**Sunday,
November 1**

DAY 32: Those Unreached with the Gospel

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. "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. – Matthew 5:13-16

OBSERVATION: May we never become so consumed with the world around us that we lose sight of those around us who desperately need to hear the saving message of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER: Lord, we're committed to partnering with missionaries around the world. May unreached people groups be reached with the Gospel. And Lord, as we partner to reach around the globe, empower us to also walk across the street. Right here, right now, we know there are many who need a relationship with Jesus. We know you love them all, as you love us, and we want them to experience that love. May we truly be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

**Monday,
November 2**

DAY 33: Local Workforce/Jobs

We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. – John 9:4

OBSERVATION: In the gospel according to the writer John 9:4 it talks about working the works of Him that sent Jesus, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

PRAYER: Lord we are asking you to give each of us individually and all of us collectively the stability and the ability to do our part to help our neighbors, provide for ourselves, and our families. Help us to see you the light of the world and see ourselves to walk by faith and do the works necessary to accomplish the task necessary to live comfortable in the world as we wait for your return, to take us to a far better place. Lord, when we are there with you, where everything that we need and want will be provided. Thank you Lord, for what we now have and thank you for that which you have for us in the future. Amen.

**Tuesday,
November 3**

DAY 34: Prayers for a Peaceful Election

Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His. He changes times and seasons; He deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. – Daniel 2:20–21 (NIV)

OBSERVATION: Throughout the Bible it is clear that God is interested and has a heart for our world leaders. We are called to pray for our elected officials. We need to be in fervent prayer as we, as a nation go to the polls to choose our leaders.

PRAYER: Dear Lord, we thank you for allowing us to live in a nation where we have the ability to freely vote for our leaders. We know that you do not make mistakes and that there is a season for everything. We ask that you guide us as a nation as we elect leaders on all levels. We pray that you will raise up and seat godly men and women to make decisions for our city, our state and our country. For we know that You are in control, that You know our future and no matter what, You are on Your throne and will reign for ever and ever. Amen.

**Wednesday,
November 4**

DAY 35: For the Spiritual Leaders in our Community

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. – Acts 1:8

OBSERVATION: In Acts 1:8, in the Physician Dr. Luke's writing to the church first turned loose in a heathen world, Jesus informs us that if Leaders want power to do what should be done that it will be accomplished after that the Holy Ghost is come upon us.

PRAYER: Father I pray for a Pentecostal experience each day over the leadership of each leader locally and universally. Lord, let your spirit take control from My House to the White House. Give us Leaders, who will make God Fearing Decisions, for that which is your will for the lives of all people. You take control and let those who have an ear hear what the Spirit Says. Thank you Father for what You have done, for what You are doing now, and for what You will do in the future. AMEN

**Thursday,
November 5**

DAY 36: Thanks for Our Freedoms and Liberties

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. – 2 Corinthians 3:17

OBSERVATION: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness...." These words come from the Declaration of Independence and set the stage for the creation of this great nation. Jefferson was saying that Life, Liberty, and Happiness come from God. When man tries to rule without God, Freedom and Liberty cease because He is the source of Freedom!

PRAYER: Lord, we give you thanks for the freedom and liberty we have in this country and we pray that it will continue to last forever. May this freedom ring from this country to all the nations of the world. We ask you to hinder those who would try to destroy it. In Jesus name, Amen.

**Friday,
November 6**

DAY 37: The Abused and the Abusive

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. – Psalm 147:3

OBSERVATION: Today we are mindful of people who have been abused. Those who have suffered abuse are often filled with shame, fear, anger and hopelessness brought about by the abuse.

PRAYER: Father, we pray for the abused. Those who are isolated, silenced, hurting and scared. We ask that you help them find courage and strength to ask for help. We know that only you have the power to heal them completely. Please use us as your instruments to lovingly care for them as they heal. Lord, we also pray for their abusers. You who are the true light, we pray that you lighten the darkness within the abusers. We pray that they are able turn their lives over to you and end the cycle of abuse. Amen

**Saturday,
November 7**

DAY 38: Addicts and their Families

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. – Psalm 107:13-14

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.

**Sunday,
November 8**

DAY 39: Praise to the God Who Holds the Future

I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One. – Revelation 1:8 NLT

OBSERVATION: We can praise, with confidence and trust, the One who holds the future, because He is eternal.

PRAYER: We praise the Eternal One that holds our future. We entrust our future to you. We trust the “ending” to the One who wrote the beginning. You are faithful to bring to completion what you began. Our confidence is in You, The God eternal, that there exists nothing in our future that can take You by surprise. The Almighty One is Lord over the future.

**Monday,
November 9**

DAY 40: Local, Specific Concerns

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. – Romans 12:10 ESV

OBSERVATION: As we end our 40 Days of Prayer let us continue to pray every day for our community, our state, and our nation and its newly elected officials. Although we have different opinions, so much more can be accomplished when we are unified looking to God for guidance. Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Let us go forward from these 40 days and remember to pray for God to guide our ways.

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. Please help us always put You and Your ways first in our lives. In Jesus’ name, Amen