

2024 PRAYER FOCUS: SALT & LIGHT

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.’ Amen” (Matthew 28:18-20).

What an incredible privilege we have to partner with the Holy Spirit to equip believers to make disciples to the ends of the earth. This has been the mission of the Church from the very beginning. The Missionary Church has embraced that mission and has accepted the challenge to be a disciple-making denomination and to urge each of our churches to focus on making disciples to the fourth generation.

God is working. There are more and more stories of people engaged in making disciples. Many of our churches have been started as disciple-making networks. God is blessing and we are seeing a multiplication of disciples.

As we pray this month with a focus on making disciples, begin with a look at your own circle of friends. Are there people in your life who need to be discipled? Family members? Friends? Neighbors? Are there people in your circle of influence who are not yet believers who need someone to walk with them on a faith journey that begins with trusting Christ and continues to them discipling others? Pray for those connections.

MAY PRAYER FOCUS — MAKING DISCIPLES

As we focus on a different region of the Missionary Church and a different department at Bethel University each week, pray that our churches will be intentional in making disciples. Pray that leaders in each church will model a disciple-making lifestyle. Pray that every student attending Bethel will take advantage of discipling opportunities. Pray for upper classmen, staff and faculty that God will use them to disciple students so that every student has the opportunity of being in a discipling relationship.

WEEK #1

PERSONAL REFLECTION — NEW COMMANDMENT: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35).

- Our demonstrated love for other disciples of Jesus is a witness to the world that we are disciples. As we pray about discipleship, are there other disciples you have difficulty loving? Ask the Lord to change your heart.
- Who are the disciples in your circle of influence who need to be shown an extra measure of grace and love? Pray for them.
- Ask the Lord to lead you to someone who is open to spiritual conversations so that you can begin the journey of leading that person to become a disciple-maker.
- Pray for your church and its leadership that God will empower them to lead the church to be a disciple-making church.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY — AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AND INTERPRETING

- Pray for the professors in this department that they will not only teach to communicate with sign language, but they will also instill in students that this broadens their field of ministry.
- Pray that students will catch a vision for reaching this culture and leading the hearing impaired to become disciple-makers within their specific communities.
- Pray for any hearing-impaired students who are on campus or who attend classes that they will not feel isolated but that they will know the love of Jesus through other students and faculty.
- Ask the Lord to call the hearing-impaired to give leadership to disciple-making movements among others who are hearing-impaired.

CONNECT REGION — Churches in Ohio, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, North and South Carolina, and Tennessee

Praise the Lord for these churches — many of them were started because of disciple-making movements. While they may be scattered geographically, they are connected relationally.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Kevin Beasley

Pray for Kevin as he gives leadership to these churches with a focus on:

- An increased sense of unity and cohesiveness as a region.
- Identifying strengths and weaknesses and utilizing those strengths moving forward in 2024.
- Broadening their efforts to co-labor in the region.
- Celebrating what the Lord is doing in seeing larger numbers of baptisms and growth among many of their churches and some of their disciple-making movements growing and seeing new disciples.

PRAYER:

- Pray that the Holy Spirit will unify this region as Jesus prayed in John 17.
- Pray the Lord will lead them to utilize their gifts to complement one another for the advancement of the Kingdom.
- Pray for God's abundant provision of human and financial resources.
- Pray for purity of heart for pastors and leaders throughout the region.
- Pray that God will deepen the disciple-making culture throughout this region.
- Pray for God's protection for marriages.

WEEK #2

PERSONAL REFLECTION — SEEKING THE LOST: DOERS OF THE WORD: "At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did" (Acts 9:36).

- Who are the disciples you see who are "full of good works" that could use a word of encouragement? Pray for them and ask the Lord to show you how to affirm them.

- Ask the Lord to show you people in your life who might be open to spiritual conversations if you ministered to them through good works.
- Pray that the disciples in your church would be “full of good works” as an expression of the love of Christ and as a way of opening doors to those who are not yet disciples of Jesus.
- Pray that your light will so shine before men, “that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

BETHEL UNIVERSITY — MUSIC AND ART DEPARTMENT

- Pray that students will learn to praise God through music and art.
- Pray the Lord will call worship leaders who can use music to lead congregations to experience the presence of the Lord.
- Pray that God will equip young songwriters to write new songs that call the worshiper into the presence of the Lord.
- Pray for the faculty in this department that God will use them to disciple these students to use their music and art to communicate to others the wonder and majesty of God.

BUILDING BRIDGES REGION — Churches in California, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, and Texas

This week we again encourage you to pray for the churches, pastors, and leaders in the Building Bridges Regional Network, which includes more than 50 churches in Texas, Florida, South Carolina, Georgia, New York and New Jersey. These Latino churches have been a rapidly growing network that also includes churches in several foreign countries.

Pray for their extended ministries in places like Madrid, Israel, Argentina, Portugal, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Brazil, El Salvador, Columbia, and Mexico.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: JOSE MENDEZ

Special requests from Jose:

- Dennis Carrizales and Julie Fajardo battling cancer
- Gregory Trero — ALS disease.
- Pray for a miracle of healing for William, who has gone from bad to worse. He can barely walk anymore, and it is not known when an appointment with a specialist will be given. We pray for a miracle of healing.
- Queren Fabiano (pastora) — pregnant but her last pregnancy was a miscarriage
- Maria De Negrete Nava — open heart surgery
- Immigration processes for our pastors
- Open Doors for Overt. We are planning how to plant home groups for discipleship.
- Our next conference — August 22-24 — Trinity Pines Conference Center, TX
- Unity and revival in BBRN

Prayer:

- May God give us a united team, faithful, loving, and respectful of the direction of the Spirit.

- May the Lord help us grow in the identity of the ministry of Missionary Church Inc.
- May the Lord help us grow in the multiplication of disciples. Our goal is to have 900 discipleship groups by 2026. If our region has more than 400 churches in its circle of influence, it is possible to achieve this goal together.
- For the nearly 120 people who are currently enrolled in our radical discipleship training to reach our goal of 900 discipleship groups.
- For hearing the Lord in the extension and growth of the networks in such a way that only He can take the glory of the ministry.
- May God give all of us leaders the necessary ability to care for His people.
- May God bring revival in every corner where believers in our family of faith gather.
- May God give us the ability to live by believing in Him constantly and for everything, without letting human abilities interrupt God's abilities to lead and provide for His people.
- For the physical and spiritual health of leaders.

WEEK #3

PERSONAL REFLECTION — NO PHARISEES: “‘Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves’” (Matthew 23:15).

Making disciples is a serious matter. Jesus died for these people whose lives we are trying to shape.

- As you reflect on this passage of Scripture, what does the Lord reveal in you that He does not want to be passed on to those you disciple?
- Have you ever felt superior to a new believer, forgetting that you were once new in faith with a lot to learn?
- As you disciple others, pray the Lord will give you a spirit of humility — a willingness, like Jesus, to wash the feet of others.
- Pray for a willingness to travel land and sea to win others to Christ.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY — BIOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

These are the professors who lead students to explore the wonders of all that God has created.

- Pray that these professors will be able to capture the hearts of students with the wonder of creation.
- Pray that students will see the majesty and wonder of God as they explore the sciences.
- Pray that students will learn to disciple others by showing them how creative God has been.
- Pray that students will learn to defend their own faith as they learn of the power of the God who loves us.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION — Churches in Northern Indiana and Southern Michigan

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: JOHN GREGORY

STAFF MEMBERS INCLUDE: Dan Bridges, Kevin Moore, Michelle Marshall, Lisa Burns, Arin Holt, Jane Anderson, Sara Baylis

This week we encourage you to pray for the churches, pastors, and leaders in the North Central Region. The North Central Region includes churches in Northern Indiana and Southern Michigan.

- Pray the Lord will equip each pastor to lead their church to make disciples.
- Pray the Lord will lead these churches to be disciple-making churches.

CHURCHES NEEDING STAFF:

- Bristol Missionary Church — Bristol, IN
- Camden Missionary Church — Camden, MI
- Vandercook Missionary Church — Jackson, MI
- Warsaw Missionary Church — Warsaw, IN

In addition to praying for churches needing staff, remember the following needs as well:

PRAIRIE CAMP

- Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit this summer at Prairie Camp.
- Praise God for the many who have come to faith in Christ at camp.
- Praise him for those who have been called to ministry during camp.

HARVEST FIELD REQUESTS:

- For new pastors to enter ministry
- For new church planters to feel a call to plant
- For bi-vocational pastors to enter the harvest field

PRAYER:

- Pray for God's abundant provision for financial and human resources to begin new disciple-making churches.
- Pray for a culture of discipleship to permeate the region.
- Pray that pastors will not become weary in the work of equipping people to make disciples.
- Pray for a fresh move of the Holy Spirit across this region.

WEEK #4

PERSONAL REFLECTION — REFLECTING JESUS: "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher" (Luke 6:40).

- What are you learning from Jesus and how are you becoming more like Him?
- What do you need to model for those you are discipling?
- How can you spend more time with Jesus so that you know Him better and become more like Him?

- Pray that the Lord will continue to shape you into His image so that you can make disciples who also look like Jesus.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY — BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

- Pray for professors in this department that God will use them to challenge students to see business as ministry.
- Pray that students will catch a vision for starting businesses with the view of making disciples.
- Pray that God will call some students to start businesses in other parts of the world in order to create opportunities for people to learn about Jesus.
- Pray that God will raise up entrepreneurs who can generate large sums of money to support disciple-making ministries.

PACIFIC RIM REGION — While most of the Pacific Rim Churches are in Hawaii, they also serve churches in California, Florida and Texas.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Cal Chinen

This week we encourage you to pray for the churches, pastors, and leaders in the Pacific Rim Region, which includes churches on the islands of Kauai, Oahu, Kona and Chinese churches in Florida, California and Texas.

PRAY FOR CAL CHINEN

- Pray that God will grant him wisdom as he gives leadership to the 20 churches and 34 pastors in the Pacific Rim Region.
- Pray that God will protect him from the attacks of the enemy as they seek to expand the Kingdom in Hawaii and beyond.
- Pray the Lord will give Him ears to hear the whispers of the Holy Spirit that he might know the direction of the Lord for the region.
- Pray the Lord will renew him day by day.
- Pray the Lord will continue to give him a passion for making disciples.

PRAY FOR THE REGION

- Pray that each church in the region will be seeking the Lord for ways to multiply disciples and multiply churches.
- Pray for unity among the pastors and leaders as Jesus prayed for unity for His followers.
- Pray for God's abundant provision of human and financial resources.
- Pray that pastors will continually seek a more intimate relationship with the Lord and that they will lead with pure hearts, fully dependent on Him.
- Pray for a deep brokenness for lost people and a broad commitment to making disciples.

WEEK #5

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

- Who are the “faithful men/women” God has put in your life who are able to teach others also?
- How are you investing in them? What have you learned from Jesus that you need to teach them?
- Take time to pray for these the Lord has placed in your life that they will be open to instruction.
- Ask the Lord to keep you sensitive to His Spirit so that you know when and how to speak.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY — EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

- Pray for professors in this department that God will use them to train disciple makers who will teach others to follow Jesus.
- Pray that students will learn how to navigate an increasingly hostile education system.
- Pray that students will not just learn teaching methods but also learn to walk with Jesus in a secular environment.
- Praise the Lord for students who have a desire to invest in the next generation. Pray the Lord will open doors for them as they graduate.

CARIBBEAN REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: VICTOR LOPEZ

This week we encourage you to pray for the Caribbean Region. The Caribbean Region includes the 28 churches in Puerto Rico.

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM VICTOR LOPEZ

- Please pray for our pastors, so they could fulfill the disciple-making movement in our region to establish the kingdom of the Lord on earth.
- We pray for the pastors of our region and their families, so that God comforts them every day in wisdom and love.
- We pray for our ministry leaders so that they can impact the lives of people who do not have Christ in their hearts.
- We pray that the land will be fertile to plant churches in the South of PR.
- We pray for wisdom for the members of the regional board, so that the Holy Spirit gives them wisdom in making decisions.
- We pray for the election year in PR.

CULTURE OF PRAYER

- The Caribbean Region continues to develop a culture of prayer among their pastors and churches. Pray the Lord will build on what has already begun.

- **PRAYER:**
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to pray for the pastors and leaders of the region as they seek to develop a vibrant prayer life.
 - What would the Lord have you pray for these brothers and sisters so that they can truly connect with the Lord?
 - Pray that God will work among these pastors to not only develop a culture of prayer but also a culture of making disciples.
 - Pray that God will multiply disciples and churches in this region.