

40 DAYS OF *prayer*

WEEK 2

PRAY NOW

Luke 18:1

Always includes *now*. Jesus' prescription for whatever we're facing right now is prayer. There should always be this sense of urgency within us to seek the Father for His help, direction, and power. James echoes this when he writes, "Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray" (James 5:13a). Prayer should be our first reaction, not our last resort. That is part of what the Lord wants to teach us as we begin another year in prayer as the Alliance family. In the face of challenging circumstances, we're all apt to shift immediately into problem-solving mode, trying to bring our resources to bear on the issue, only to find ourselves overmatched. As we ask the Lord instead, we turn our attention and faith to the unlimited resources of our Almighty God. "Lord, teach us to pray!"

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PRAYING FOR IMPORTANT DECISIONS

LUKE 6:12-16

I learned many lessons from my maternal grandmother. I used to sleep over at her house on weekends and remember falling asleep in her room while she, on her knees by the bed, would pray to God for hours. She interceded for her family, herself, and her church. And in times of difficult decisions, in tears, she prayed to her Creator. In the morning, I'd find her in the same place and position praying. She lived a Spirit-led life that showed her devotion to God through fervent prayer. She followed her loving Savior's example.

Jesus' prayer life is constant throughout the gospels. In this passage, we read that after praying all night, He chose the men who would carry on His message after He had ascended to the heavens. This was a critical decision, and He prayed before He chose. Jesus was a man of prayer who depended solely on the guidance of His Father. He needed this time away to pray. He knew the need to seek direction and discernment from His Father.

We all have moments where we must make decisions that could potentially change the direction of our lives. Unfortunately, we don't always understand the need to pause to allow the Holy Spirit to lead us to seek guidance from our Father. We must not get ahead of ourselves without first having submitted to the Holy Spirit and persisted in fervent prayer. We need to follow Jesus' example. That's what my grandmother did!



REFLECTION PRAYER

Dear Jesus, I long to follow Your example. Holy Spirit, lead me in times when I must make important or hard decisions. Stir in me a deep yearning and sense of urgency to seek Your guidance as I discern Your plans for my life. May I be reminded to completely rest in Your will and surrender my time to truly seek You in fervent prayer. In Your precious, loving name, amen.

PRAYING FOR WORKERS IN THE HARVEST FIELD MATTHEW 9:37-38

Whenever I spend time with an international worker, I hear the same question: “Michelle, who do you know that can come serve with us?”

As Christ followers, each of us is called to be a witness of Christ to people we encounter. Regardless of our location, the call is the same—to be His witnesses, telling people everywhere about Him (Acts 1:8). And yet, nearly half of the world’s population has yet to hear Jesus’ name or encounter a Christian and has no access to the gospel, no ability for someone to pray with them in Jesus’ name, no understanding of the extraordinarily extravagant love, grace, and forgiveness of God shared by someone they meet.

In Matthew 9:36-38, Jesus tells His disciples, “Ask the Lord of the harvest . . . to send out workers.” In verse 36, we see His motivation: “He had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

His compassion prompted Him to direct His disciples to pray for workers. How do we compassionately reach the world for Christ? We pray for more international workers. God leads people to leave behind their current life to embrace a new country to call home, a new culture to adapt to, a new language to learn, and new people to share Christ with. My Acts 1:8 family, our international workers need teammates. Would you pray for the Lord to send new workers, and would you ask Him if He is sending you?



REFLECTION PRAYER

Jesus, give us deep compassion for the lost. We know the harvest is plentiful and the workers are few. God, send more workers. Now. Prompt people today to take a step of faith to tell someone they’re hearing Your voice telling them to bring the gospel to another part of the world. Bury deep in their soul a confidence that they will have a new global address and that by the power of Holy Spirit, they will be part of a great harvest for the Kingdom. And Jesus, are You asking me to go? Allow me to listen to You. Amen.

PRAYING FOR HEALING

JAMES 5:14-16

Jesus hurts when you hurt. Jesus feels the weight of your sorrows. He sees you when pain and woundedness becomes the lining of your spirit, when it takes hold like moss on a rock. He is there when you receive hard news, the kind that results in years of uncertainty, the kind that straddles hope and fear. Jesus stoops down when your choices have left you broken and desperate and full of guilt and shame. He is with you always and beckons you to come to Him, the Healer.

Jesus speaks, and storms lose their power. With His touch, fevers disappear and bleeding stops. Jesus shouts, and the dead are raised to life. As He speaks truth in love, kindness, and compassion, troubled souls are set free and broken hearts are mended. When asked in faith, Jesus brings healing. He delivers from the entanglements of the enemy's schemes. His authority breaks all chains of lies and sin. Jesus longs for all things to become new—when pain, sickness, sin, and sorrows are no longer a part of your story.

When wounds are deep, remember who holds the truth of who you are. When fear of the unknown threatens to consume you, remember who spoke the planets into being yet holds you in His hand. When your struggles with sin intimidate and torment you, reach for the nail-scarred hands that already set you free. Cry out in prayer to Jesus, where your healing and deliverance awaits.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord Jesus, loving, kind, compassionate Healer and Deliverer of our souls, thank You. Thank You for healing and restoring us, setting us free, and making us whole. Thank You for empowering us to be a part of the Kingdom work of healing and delivering through the authority You gave us as Spirit-filled disciples. Clothed in Your love and goodness, may we be quick to come with faithful prayer to the aid of all those who are in pain, wounded, sick, suffering, bound in sin, and needing deliverance. May You receive all the glory and honor for restored lives. Amen.

PRAYING FOR DELIVERANCE

2 CHRONICLES 20:1-17

Trouble, danger, distress, and fear. In this passage, God's people are under the most serious of threats as their enemies, vast in number, intend for their utter destruction. The king is rightfully afraid, but rather than give into despair, he turns to the Lord. What follows is a testimony to the fruit of faith over fear, a picture of trusting in God despite circumstance.

The king gathers all of Judah—men, women, boys, and girls—and turns to the Lord in prayer. He begins by acknowledging the sovereign power of Yahweh, praising Him for His provision, confessing that He hears and will save, calls on His justice, and ends with one of the most tender expressions of trust in all of Scripture: “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you” (2 Chron. 20:12).

Reading beyond the assigned passage, we see the Lord's response to the prayer of faith (2 Chron. 20:15–17). He has indeed heard their prayers and responds, encouraging His people to not be afraid. The grounds? The battle is not theirs but His. And further, He promises His presence. What follows is one of the more amazing stories of God's sovereign power and care for His people that the Bible has to offer.

Trouble, danger, distress, and fear? Don't know what to do? Fix your eyes on Jesus. The battles are real, but ultimately as His child, they are His, and He promises His presence. May the Lord encourage you to turn to Him in faith-filled prayer!



REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord God, I come in the name of Your Son, to whom belongs all authority on heaven and on earth, who sits at Your right hand, far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion and above every name that is named—not only in this age but in the age to come. I praise You and give You thanks for the gift of the presence of Your Spirit. Lord God, would You, in Your kindness, remind me this day that Your power is made perfect in my weakness. Help me, Lord, to keep my eyes on Jesus! Amen.

PRAYING FOR EVANGELISTIC OPPORTUNITIES COLOSSIANS 4:2-6

“Devote yourself.” That’s language we don’t hear too often. To be devoted speaks of dedication and an unswerving commitment. Today’s passage begins with the instruction that our prayer life, and any fruit that flows from these prayers, begins with devotion.

What should we pray for? We should pray for an open door for our message, clear proclamation, wisdom, and that opportunities are not missed. How do we do this? We do so graciously, seasoned in a way that adds flavor (not irritation), and that provides insights to life’s many questions.

It sounds simple, right? At this point, some people will tell you it’s not, that the people don’t want to hear our message, that culture has changed and is hostile to the church.

Jesus disagrees. He told His clumsy followers, who had a record of getting it wrong, that the fields are ripe for the harvest; the problem was that the laborers were few, unconvinced, or simply unwilling.

Today, our prayer is that we are not counted among the few, the unconvinced, and the unwilling. In contrast to many of our prayers, we have a significant part to play in answering this prayer. How? By being willing.

Will you, like Jesus, look for open doors? Will you knock on these doors often—aware that in ourselves, we cannot save anyone? Jesus loves to come in and eat with everyone who invites Him in.

The Holy Spirit prompts the hearts of the hearers. May our feet walk in tune with His leading.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord, may we make the most of every opportunity, in grace, through our words and our actions. Would You help us believe with confidence in the good news, and may we be devoted to this cause. We love You. Amen.

PRAYING FOR SPIRITUAL INSIGHT

EPHESIANS 1:17

Prayer, like other spiritual disciplines, is meant to lead us into intimacy with God. Prayer is spending life with God, a conversation with the Lover of our souls. It includes what is dear to our heart and what is dear to Him. If our approach to prayer is like a vending machine, getting answers for payment, we will not comprehend the Apostle Paul's words in Ephesians 1:17.

Inspired by the Spirit, the best thing Paul could pray for the Church was that they would be given the wisdom and insight to know God intimately. Scripture tells us that God desires to give us good gifts in the context of relationship. He is all-knowing and all-wise; wisdom and insight are His to give. Consider the opposite—the teachers of the Law in Jesus' time knew the Law, but they did not know the Father. Therefore, they lacked insight into what the Law meant for people's lives. Do you desire spiritual insight and wisdom? Good. Proverbs 2:6 says, "For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." James 1:5 tells us that God desires to give us wisdom. Get to know your Lord who desires for you to know Him intimately. Ask Him, and you will have what you need.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Father, we want to know You more and more each day.

Holy Spirit, please give us the spiritual insight and wisdom to navigate this complex world. I want to see what You see and have Your heart for the people I encounter and situations I face.

Jesus, You made all this possible. Teach us how to live in this world as You did.

May it all be for the glory of God! Amen.

PRAYING FOR DELIVERANCE

MARK 9:14-29

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you felt powerless to make something happen yet were unsure of the reason why? Today, in our passage of Scripture, we find the disciples confused. They had been following Jesus for some time and had seen God use them to set people free. Yet in today's story, they were powerless to cast out demons. Once Jesus set the boy free, the disciples privately asked Jesus why they were powerless. He tells them, "This kind can come out only by prayer" (Mark 9:29).

Jesus is making a connection between our spiritual authority and prayer. He is telling His disciples that a consistent life of prayer is necessary. Did you notice that Jesus didn't stop and pray before He cast out the demon? But He did pray consistently; His life was marked by prayer. Over and over in Scripture we read of Jesus going away to pray. The prayer that Jesus is talking about is not when you find yourself in a position of need but before you have the need. It's a prayer that builds your faith muscles and produces greater intimacy with Jesus.

Remember that our positional authority comes from our position as children of God who are seated with Christ in the heavenly realm, but our practical authority comes through prayer. When we fast and pray, our dependence transfers from one of depending on our own abilities to depending on the all-sustaining power and presence of Jesus.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Jesus, we come to You desperate to know You and to become more like You. Would You teach us how to live a life of consistent prayer? May we be known as people who regularly get away to be with our Father, so much so that we carry the aroma of Christ. And when people see us, let them see You. Help us to carry Your presence well as we walk with You through our daily lives, loving and serving those You put before us. In Jesus' name, amen.

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BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

JULIE ARANT

Since 1979, Julie has been on a journey that has opened her eyes to beautiful people from the nations and has taken her as an “armchair traveler” to the ends of the earth. It all began when her father and mother met a special international friend at a local supermarket.

EDGAR CASTRO

Edgar was born in El Salvador. On October 16, 2004, he married Bertha N. Martinez, and they have two children. In 2016, he received the call to work as the Hispanic coordinator for the Central Pacific District. In 2020, Edgar was appointed to lead the CPD in the area of church multiplication.

HANNAH CASTRO

Hannah is the senior editor/story liaison at the National Office. She is passionate about drawing people closer to Jesus through testimony and story. She and her husband, Ciro, live in Columbus, Ohio.

CHARLES CHAPMAN

Since 2021, Charles has served as the candidate development specialist for Alliance Missions where he helps recruit, develop, and deploy IW candidates from all around the country. Charles moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio with his wife, Liz, and children, Julia and Marcus, in 2022 to join the National Office team.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

ISAAC CHARLES

Isaac serves as the pastor and church planter at Jubilee Intercultural Alliance Church in Columbus, Ohio, and he and his family are from India. He recently received his ordination with the Ohio Valley District. He has served in Church Ministries at the C&MA National Office in Reynoldsburg since September 2021. He is married to his wife, Leena, and they have two boys, Brayden and Bryan.

ADAM CLEWER

Adam is a father, son, follower, leader, minister, angler, writer, swimmer, and student of theology. He is surprisingly good at playing pool one-handed.

BILL CORBIN

Bill was a college pastor for 25 years, he has been married to Heidi for 25 years, and they have five kids. He loves Jesus, loves students, and loves the gospel!

ANA CUEVAS

Ana is the national director for Alliance Women. She has a bachelor's degree in missiology from Toccoa Falls College. She is a certified teacher and works as an ESL teacher in Ohio. Ana loves to go on road trips with her husband, Jorge, and two sons, Jorge Daniel and Jonatán.

MATT CYR

Matt currently serves as a workplace chaplain with Corporate Chaplains of America in southeast Wisconsin. He is married and has two young children. In his free time, he enjoys road cycling, good coffee, and family time.

MARY DELLOS

Mary has been serving with the C&MA since 1982. She and her husband, Don, have been church planters in the States, missionaries in Argentina, and dorm parents at the Alliance Academy in Ecuador. She has been serving companies as a chaplain in Denver for the past 18 years.

STACY DOUGLAS

Stacy currently serves alongside her husband in his role as district superintendent of the Central Pacific District of the C&MA. She is also a nurse on a med/surg floor. She is privileged to work at a Christian hospital in California that allows her to be both nurse and pastor.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

JUSTIN DUBOSE

Justin is the lead pastor at Alliance Bible Church in Baytown, Texas. He is also a CH (MAJ) in the USAR serving as chaplain for the 7th Psychological Operations Group (POG). A husband to Alanna since 2005, they have five beautiful children. He is passionate about training and empowering leaders.

ELLIOT ENNS

Elliot grew up as a third culture kid (TCK) with the C&MA Canada. He taught for several years at an international school in Ghana, where he met his wife, Morgan. They moved to Columbus, Ohio, in 2021, and he joined the National Office as an administrative coordinator for Alliance Missions in 2022.

PHYLLIS FITZWATER

Phyllis is a Board clinical chaplain and Board-certified pastoral counselor. She is a consecrated woman in ministry with The Christian & Missionary Alliance and has also served with her local hospice programs. She has served on the Board for the Orlando Health Bioethics Committee and was the Board chair for Life Legacy.

TOM FLANDERS

Tom serves as district superintendent for the Alliance Southeast. He and his wife, Chris, have served in the C&MA for more than thirty years, shepherding local congregations and the Alliance New England District prior to their most recent assignment.

THOMAS GEORGE

Thomas is a disciple of Jesus, husband, father, grandfather, pastor to pastors, and district superintendent. He is also the C&MA's corporate secretary.

SARAH GRIMES

Sarah lives in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, with her husband and three kids. They like trying new things and often find themselves in way over their heads. They tend to need Jesus an awful lot.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

LORIE HUNEYCUTT

Lorie is a wife, mom, and full-time caregiver. She resides with her husband, Paul, daughter Rylie (18), and son Hudson (16) in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. She is passionate about advocating for overlooked people groups and being a voice for the disability and caregiver communities through writing.

WILLIE JOHNSON

Willie is the pastor of Redefine Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

JENNY KARR

Jenny is the director for IW engagement and partnerships at the National Office. She has trained and coached thousands of Christian workers in partnership development over the past 10 years. She and her husband relocated to Ohio last year and have one daughter studying English at Vanderbilt University.

DAVID LANE

David and his wife, Susan, live in Ohio where David serves as the district superintendent. They have two adult kids. David passionately desires that the 7.3 million people living in his district have a repeated opportunity to see, hear, and respond to the gospel.

KYLE MAGSTADT

Kyle is the associate superintendent for church multiplication in the North Central District. He lives in Roseville, MN, with his wife, Molly, and two kids, June and Elm.

SARAH MANKO

Sarah was born and raised a Buckeye in central Ohio. She attends The Crosswalk (Alliance) Church in Reynoldsburg, OH, and is in her final year of dental school at OSU. She is excited to see where God will take her following graduation.

VICTOR MATOS

Victor is an Army chaplain serving in Fort Riley, Kansas. He served as an associate pastor in Colorado Springs before joining the chaplaincy. Victor is married to Christine, and they have two children, Caleb (18) and Allie (15).

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

KENDALL MCKEE

Kendall is a college pastor and residency coordinator at First Alliance Church in Lexington, Kentucky. He loves to spend his days discipling the next generation and walking through life with those close to him.

JESSICA MCCULLOUGH

Jessica lives in Lima, Ohio, with her husband and two boys. She serves in missions and family life at Shawnee Alliance Church and is also the district missions mobilizer for the Ohio Valley District. She enjoys reading, music, volleyball, card games, cats, cows and ducks, and Jesus.

MIRIAM NELSON

Miriam is a licensed teacher, counselor, mother of four, and wife of 19 years. She enjoys serving others and believes each person is gifted by God to bring heavenly influence. Who she is and who she is not are shaped by the hand of Jesus in her life!

DAVID PEPPERS

David fell in love with the Lord when he was 13. When he was around 15 or so, he slipped away from his first love. At the age of 21, he came back and has been pursuing the goodness of the Lord ever since. David is the executive director for Alliance Benefits.

JESSE PFAU

Jesse and his beautiful wife, Eli, have one son, Fitz. They enjoy food and currently reside in Columbus, Ohio.

KEVIN PIES

Kevin is the executive director for the Alliance Chaplain Ministries for military and federal chaplains. He is a retired U.S. Army chaplain colonel; a graduate of Crown College (1982); Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 1987 (MDiv); and an Army War College Fellow graduate of the U.S. Institute of Peace (2014).

JEFF PRICE

Jeff serves as a teaching pastor at Alliance Community Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and is a U.S. Army chaplain. Jeff and his wife, Megan, have one daughter, Charley.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

ALAN RATHBUN

Alan serves on the Eastern PA District team and as cohost of the Alliance EquippingU podcast. He has also served as a youth pastor, church planter, and pastor. He's married to Sandra, and they have three married children. He loves road trips, baseball, disc golfing, and eating good ice cream.

AMY ROEDDING

Amy Roedding is passionate about helping the next generation step into their ministry calling in the Alliance family. She serves as the director for Candidate Recruitment and Development for The Alliance, and though her role oversees both men and women being developed for Kingdom work in The Alliance, she enthusiastically pursues helping women find their place in ministry. Amy also teaches spiritual formation for Crown College's online ministry program. Amy and her husband live in Pataskala, Ohio.

JOSH SADLON

Josh is a worship leader, event producer, and songwriter who serves with Alliance Youth and Alliance Worship. Josh, his wife, Emily, and son, Gideon, live on a small farm in Kentucky.

JIM SAPPPIA

Jim, with his wife Kathy and their three children, served with aXcess for 20 years in Thailand and a CAC country. They currently live in Pickerington, Ohio, where Jim serves as the director for Global Link at the National Office.

TERRY SMITH

Terry Smith is the vice president for Church Ministries for The Alliance. He and his wife, Ruth, have two married sons and five grandchildren. Terry holds degrees from Toccoa Falls College and Crown College. He is the author of *Changing Course: Leading Older Churches in a New Direction*.

RAYNA STRONG

Rayna and her husband, Brian, live in rural Ohio and are members and servants of Clear Fork Alliance Church. They have two adult sons and daughters-in-law. In 2022, Rayna began working at the National Office as the administrative assistant for Global Link.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

PANG THAO

Pang grew up with 12 siblings and attended church in the Hmong District her entire life. She has served in her church in a variety of capacities since accepting Christ at the age of 15. She serves with Envision in operations and moved with The Alliance from Colorado Springs to Columbus, Ohio.

STEVE TRUDEL

Steve has had the great joy of living on Cape Cod for almost 30 years. He has been the lead pastor of Cape Cod Bible Alliance Church for the last six years. He is married to Alison, a Jesus-loving follower of God, and they have four wonderful children.

MICHELLE UNWIN

Michelle (“Meesh”) is the director for the International Placement Office. She has been married to Steve for 32 years. They have two amazing adult children, Kaylee and Noah, and one weird dog, Moe. Meesh loves flip-flops, sunshine, and Coca-Cola, and she really loves raising up new workers!

OLIVIA VINSON

Olivia is the assistant campus pastor and chapel worship coordinator at Crown College in St. Bonifacious, MN. She has loved being a part of the C&MA family in Troy, MI, and Lexington, KY, and has a heart to develop the future leaders of the Church through higher education.

LISA VOGAN

Lisa has the privilege of serving in the Northeastern District as disciplemaking specialist. She has been serving the Alliance family for more than 30 years in various leadership roles. She lives near Buffalo, New York, with her husband, Rohn.

HALEY WARRICK

Haley is a lifelong resident of Columbus, Ohio, a devoted wife, and has been involved in worship and various children’s ministries. She is currently called to the ministry of motherhood, staying at home to raise her twin toddlers.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

JAMIE ZACHARIAS

Jamie serves as the children's ministry director of Jubilee Intercultural Alliance Church. She is married and has two children. Jamie has been teaching for 17 years, and her mission is to inspire the next generation and help them and their families grow in their faith and have a relationship with Jesus.