

40 DAYS OF *prayer*



THEALLIANCE

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WEEK 1 CHRIST OUR SAVIOR

Colossians 1:13

As we focus on the life of Christ, this week's theme is *Christ Our Savior*, which forms part of the fourfold gospel of Jesus, a cornerstone of our denomination. God's plan for salvation commenced immediately following the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden. The consequence of sin is death; however, it was not God's intention for humanity to endure eternal death. Out of His love for the world, He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die on our behalf, allowing us to attain salvation and reconciliation with Him. Salvation can only be obtained through Jesus Christ, as there is no other name by which humanity is saved. Furthermore, our salvation is not achieved through good works, but rather through the righteousness of Jesus, imparted by faith and through the grace of God.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *Do you believe Jesus has paid your debts in full, or do you still struggle with earning your salvation?*
- *How often have you shared this truth with those close to you who need salvation?*
- *What is your personal salvation story and experience?*

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THE REDEEMER OF MANKIND

1 PETER 1:18-19

Christ's blood deals with our real needs, bringing forth a way of being human that is characterized by freedom—freedom from the unbearable burden of trying to revert, by our own perishable means, the awful consequences of trespassing our very humanity when we disobeyed God.

Jesus, through His priceless and unfading blood, has secured our freedom, our safety, and our soul's deepest satisfaction. When Jesus stood in my place, I, too, was crucified—my sin was judged, my shame covered, and my fear silenced. And in Him, I, too, was raised to a new kind of life. The striving of the old life—to earn, to repay, to prove—has become obsolete. Christ's blood paid for our redemption, buying that which was lost, returning such to its original owner. That truth shook the first century world to its core. People asked, "Can this really be? Can someone truly take another's place and bear their punishment?" It sounded too good to be true, and yet it is!

Christ's finished work allows us to stop relying on ourselves, resting instead in the One who took our place, being thus fully convinced that doing so is infinitely better than trying to feel valuable and safe on our own—either by trying harder to be "good" (religion) or by trying harder to be sufficient (non-religion). The gospel's invitation to accept the loving offer of Jesus taking our place is the best news ever heard by human ears.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Abba, You say that my value comes from being created by You in Your image. That's why You love me unconditionally. That doesn't mean that Your love has nothing to do with me, but that it doesn't depend on any act on my part. I am intrinsically valuable by the sole fact that You created me with that value. I am worth so much that when You lost me, You sent Your Son to look for me. He bought me back for Yourself and gave me back what my own sin took from me. Thank You, Abba. Amen.

SAVED THROUGH HIS GRACE FOR HIS GLORY EPHESIANS 2:8-9

When you think of being “saved,” do you picture a moment in your past—a prayer, a decision, an experience, that secured your eternal future? It’s good and right to treasure that moment—it changed everything. Isn’t it also amazing that when Paul writes, “by grace you have been saved,” he’s not only affirming that moment but pointing to so much more? Saving grace isn’t just a past event that shapes our eternal future—it’s a present-tense reality. Saving grace is at work right now—still active, still shaping us, still transforming us.

That is really good news. We live in a world starving for salvation, a world that constantly tells us we have to earn our worth and protect our own vulnerability. We breathe an atmosphere of pressure—perform, prove, protect. In that suffocating air, saving grace is like oxygen. It relieves the ache to make a name for ourselves and the fear that we’re on our own to survive. Grace says: you’re already loved, already secure—not because you earned it, but because Christ gave it.

And this grace isn’t just divine kindness. It cost everything. “Not from yourselves” means we could never live a life good enough. So, Jesus lived it for us, bore the cost we couldn’t carry, and rose to secure what we never could. He remains our Savior now—still healing, shielding, and sustaining.

And when grace tells your story, people don’t just see you—they glimpse the One who made it possible.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Jesus, I admit how easily I slip into striving—trying to earn and secure what can only be received. Thank You for saving me. You lived the life I failed to live and gave Yourself so I could breathe freely in the grace that still holds me and will save me still. Rescue me today from the fear and pressure to control. Root me in the freedom of being fully known, fully loved, and fully secure. Let my life reflect not my effort, but what You’ve given. Help me rest in the truth that Your grace is enough. Amen.

THE ADVOCATE AND THE DEFENDER

1 JOHN 2:1

“May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who long for your saving help always say, ‘The Lord is great!’ But as for me, I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; you are my God, do not delay.” –Psalm 40:16–17

The Lord is the comfort of every soul that longs for Him in sincerity. He never leads to disappointment, but to a deep, abiding joy that is not tied to circumstances, flowing from communion with the living God.

Our greatest comfort lies in magnifying the Lord even in the midst of trouble. Even when the solution is not yet visible, we declare with confidence that He has not forgotten those who love Him (see Isaiah 49:15–16). Every time we praise Him, we proclaim our faith that salvation is on its way and that the Lord will be glorified above all pain.

Here lies a deeply personal comfort: even in our lowest, most broken state, we are not forgotten. The Lord does not only attend to the strong—He draws near to the poor in spirit, the helpless, and the weary (see Psalm 35:10). He is my help and my deliverer. He will not delay, for He sees, He hears, and He cares.

These three comforts draw for us a sacred portrait of the living God:

- He delights in those who seek Him.
- He is glorified in the hearts of those who love Him.
- He is near to the brokenhearted.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord, we rejoice in You, for You are our hope and our comfort in every season. We magnify Your name even in trouble, trusting that Your salvation is near and that You never forget those who love You. Thank You for caring for the poor and the brokenhearted, for drawing near to the weak and the weary. You are our help and our deliverer—do not delay. Draw us closer to You and fill our hearts with steadfast joy and daily praise. Amen.

THE PIONEER OF OUR SALVATION

HEBREWS 2:10

It was the Father's desire from the beginning to be in relationship with His creation. Because of sin, this communion was broken. We cannot repair it or fix it. The only One who can is Jesus. Christ's sacrifice made reconciliation with the Father possible, and His suffering made our salvation complete. He walked the path of suffering to show us the way through; to show us there is a way through. Jesus didn't just save us from eternal separation from the Father, He saved us for life here on Earth. In this life, suffering will touch us at one time or another. Christ, the trailblazer of our salvation, demonstrated that He is not only the path to salvation, but the path through suffering as well. Let Him walk with you through your suffering, no matter how insignificant you may think it is. What do you need from Jesus today? Ask Him. He has walked the path of suffering and will walk it again beside you because of His perfect love. Let Him.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Father, Son, and Spirit, You made the way. Thank You for Your great love that showed us the path to salvation and through suffering. Thank You that we do not walk that path alone. Show me today where I have been trying to carry my suffering and give me the courage and grace to hand it to You. Amen.

THE SAVIOR WHO BROUGHT US FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

JOHN 8:12

There I was—chasing a suspect with a gun in hand through a neighborhood. Moments earlier, he had riddled a house full of people with bullets. He turned a corner. I cut through a yard to intercept him. Suddenly, we were face-to-face. He stood with both hands raised, still gripping an automatic pistol, angry and agitated. He began blaming everything: a cheating wife, an ungrateful family, a collapsing world.

My partner shouted, “You shot at a house because of that?” Then he added, “You need a preacher! Talk to him,” he motioned toward me, “he’s one.”

The man looked at me. Something shifted. Then he asked, “If I shoot you right now, what would you do?”

Time froze. In that moment, everything I believed—my training, faith, and hope—came into focus. I looked at him and said, “I know where I’m going. Do you?”

His shoulders dropped. Tears filled his eyes. He collapsed to his knees and cried, “I don’t!”

Salvation isn’t just about going to heaven. It’s about walking with Jesus here and now, carrying His presence even into life’s darkest moments. On the Cross, Jesus stepped into our darkness so we wouldn’t have to stay there. When we believe in Him, He frees us from guilt, fear, and the weight of our past. He is the light that reveals truth, invites transformation, and offers life. Only then can we confidently say, “I know where I’m going.” Once we’ve seen that light, we can’t help but point others toward it.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for being present in my darkest moments. Your presence is not just for eternity—it’s for today. You give hope, calm my fears, and transform my life. You found me in my lostness and lit my path. I am Yours, and You are mine. Help me reflect that assurance to others. Keep me close as I go through this day so Your light shines through me. Teach me to live in truth, obedience, and hope. As I look to the end of my days, I thank You for the Cross that secures my place with You forever. Amen.

THE DEMONSTRATION OF GOD'S LOVE

ROMANS 5:8

The perfect, infinite, and holy God has always loved us. Even though we were sinful, unaware, or maybe even opposing Him, He loved us.

We have no knowledge to give to the One who knows everything. We have no riches to give to the One who has created every diamond and atom of gold. We have no sacrifice that we could bring that isn't overshadowed by our guilt of sin.

And yet, God chose to respond in a way that human understanding would deem as impossible. When we didn't love Him, He showed us kindness and love. Despite our lostness, Jesus changed everything. He showed us God's love. He is not just a sign or messenger, but the Way. We were in a mess that we could not get ourselves out of. Still, He made it possible for us to be close to Him and experience and enjoy Him—all because He loves us.

To those who knew nothing, God gave the knowledge of who the Father is (see John 17:8). To the ones who had nothing to give, He gave an inheritance from heaven (see Colossians 1:12). To the ones who had no sacrifice to give to atone for their wrongdoings, the Son gave Himself (see Ephesians 1:7).

This is how we know that we are loved. When we had nothing to offer, Jesus gave everything. This is love demonstrated on the Cross. The greatest sacrifice ever given was for you.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Because of You, I know the Father.

Because of You, I have an inheritance from heaven.

Because of You, my sins are forgiven.

Because of You, I know that I am loved. I know the love that defied death. Help me to always remember this love and live in this truth.

You loved me before I was Yours. You love me today, and Your love will never fail. Amen.

THE SOURCE OF OUR ETERNAL SALVATION

HEBREWS 5:8-9

It is no secret that many in recent generations have departed from their faith for various reasons, but often after legitimate hardship or crisis. It is worth sympathizing—even empathizing—with these stories, but we need not arrive at the same conclusion. Jesus does not offer to us a faith ill-equipped for suffering. In fact, suffering characterizes the path our Christ walked through, on which He secured for us life everlasting.

Jesus, who prayed to the Father who could save Him from death, and was heard “because of his reverent submission” (Heb. 5:7), still died. This is not because His prayers were not answered. Jesus was not saved from death, but journeyed through death to become our rescue, demonstrating His power and willful obedience.

While a faith unfit for suffering is worth deconstructing, the model and way of King Jesus provides a deeper, lasting hope. Eternal salvation is found in a person, not a philosophy. Jesus shows us the way in “learning obedience” and being “made perfect.” This is not to say that Jesus was once disobedient or imperfect—Jesus’ obedience was a faithful, habitual practice of deep communion with the Father, emphasized throughout His life and ministry, crowned by His Crucifixion, and ratified by His Resurrection.

In this same way we, though sometimes weak and fearful of suffering, are invited into intimate dependence upon our Father, knowing that through the work of the Lord Jesus, He can deliver us through whatever this world sends our way.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for your gift of eternal rescue. May we receive it continually throughout the hardships of our lives. Father, thank You for your power over death and Your desire to fellowship with us. Holy Spirit, empower us for the same faithful obedience that Jesus demonstrates. May we be keen on how You are shaping us, who You are shaping us into, and what Your good will is in every situation, good or bad. Deliver us now as You have done before, and give us a victory that glorifies Your name and points us toward our blessed hope. Amen.

40 DAYS OF *prayer*

WEEK 2

CHRIST OUR SANCTIFIER

John 17:19

As we focus on the life of Christ, this week's theme is *Christ Our Sanctifier*. We believe that our purpose was determined even before our formation in the womb. This is conveyed in Jeremiah 1:5: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart." Additionally, 1 Peter 2:9 states that we have been brought out of darkness into light to proclaim His excellencies and become His chosen people, a royal priesthood, and His possession. As adherents of Christ's teachings, it is crucial for us to recognize that God has a specific purpose for our lives. In fulfilling this purpose, He sanctifies us through the work of the Holy Spirit within us. We are set apart for holy living in this fallen world and are equipped to carry out His work.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *Do you believe God has a purpose for your life?*
- *Do you feel empowered to fulfill His calling?*
- *How do you manage the conflict between flesh and spirit?*

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HOLY AND SET APART FOR GOD

HEBREWS 10:9-10

As I have traveled about to many churches, I have heard people talk about godly examples in their lives. The greatest godly example is Jesus Christ Himself! Jesus alone has the power to forgive sin as He was the sinless sacrifice who gave His life at Calvary and rose again the third day. In today's passage, we see that Christ not only atoned for sin at the Cross, He also wiped out the Old Testament sacrificial system and instituted the opportunity for the Christ follower to be made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.

In The Alliance, we call being “made holy” the process of sanctification. Sanctification is the process whereby the Christ follower is set apart from sin unto God and His purposes. Those words were drilled into me as a freshman in 1980 at St. Paul Bible College (now Crown College). The full engagement of the Christ follower in these things, with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, cannot help but produce holiness in the Christ follower's life, set apart for God's plan! When this happens, there is great freedom from sin, great excitement in understanding God's personal life plan, great fulfillment in engaging the life of Christ in us and through us, and also a great expectation for the future!

Sanctification is not an add-on to the Christian life—it is God's deepest desire for His son or daughter!



REFLECTION PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your only Son, Jesus, to be born into this sinful world, live a sinless life, and give His life as the perfect sacrifice for all sin, for all time. Thank You that Your plan for Your children does not end with salvation but also includes sanctification. Thank You for the Holy Spirit who can help us to be set apart from sin unto You and Your purposes. Help us, Father, to discover these things and be hungry to live them out in a world that needs You so desperately. In Jesus' name, amen.

THE SANCTIFYING WORK OF CHRIST

1 CORINTHIANS 6:11

Sanctification is not just a distant goal; it's a present reality for every believer in Jesus Christ. In 1 Corinthians 6, Paul reminds the church who they used to be—caught in sin, far from God. Then he declares something radical and beautiful: “But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified” (v. 11).

Sanctification is the process of being made holy, but Paul speaks of it here as something already done. Why? Because in Christ, God has already set us apart for Himself. The moment we believed, the Holy Spirit began a lifelong work in us—a work rooted in a past event, our salvation, and aimed at a future hope, our glorification.

Notice the order: washed, sanctified, justified. God cleanses us, makes us holy, and declares us righteous. This isn't something we earn; it's a gift given in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Spirit.

That means today, no matter how you feel or what you face, you are not who you once were. You are being transformed daily by the Spirit. Sanctification is not about striving for God's approval—it's about living from the identity He's already given you.

Are you living as someone who has been sanctified? Let God's truth change your mindset today. You've been washed. You've been set apart. Now walk in that holiness with joy and confidence.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord, thank You for washing me clean, setting me apart, and making me righteous in Christ. I submit to You today in light of what You've already done, growing in holiness by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

SANCTIFIED TO FULFILL HIS PURPOSE

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13

We do not believe in salvation by works—however, do we tend to slide into a “sanctification by works” mindset? A bit of a, “Thanks for saving me, Jesus, but I’ll take it from here” mentality?

Well, of course we don’t say that out loud—but do we tend to act like that is what we believe?

Sanctification is the lifelong process of becoming more like Jesus. These verses parallel Colossians 2:6, which says, “. . . just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord”—surrender in faith and receive salvation—“continue to live in Him”—surrender in faith again for sanctification. We trust we’ll be with Him in glory and now trust God to shape us for His glory.

We believe in Jesus as our Sanctifier—the One who purifies and empowers us to live a life wholly devoted to God. Through the Holy Spirit, He transforms our desires, aligning our will with His.

God’s purpose is not vague or distant; it’s personal and present. He is working in us so that our actions reflect His love and truth. Our obedience, though imperfect, becomes an offering when it flows from His power within us.

God is the One who creates in us the longing and then gives us the ability to fulfill what He has for us.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Loving Triune God, thank You for prompting me to surrender my heart, my desires, and my plans to You. I invite the Holy Spirit to deepen my desire to obey and trust. Help me to walk in obedience driven from the engine of Your love for me. Fill me with Your Spirit, that my life would reflect Jesus in all I do. Shape my will to align with Yours and empower me to live faithfully in every place You’ve called me. Use me, Lord, for Your Kingdom, Your purpose, and Your glory! Amen.

SANCTIFIED TO BEAR WITNESS

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-24

To be sanctified is to be set apart—not only for holiness but for purpose. In 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24, Paul reminds us that sanctification touches every part of who we are: spirit, soul, and body. It’s not a partial transformation, but a complete one, rooted in the faithfulness of God.

God is not merely interested in changing our behavior; He desires to shape our character so that we can bear witness to His presence in us. Our lives become living testimonies of grace, purity, and power—signposts that point to Christ. True witness flows not from perfection but from transformation, from a life surrendered to the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.

This work is not ours to accomplish alone. The One who calls you is faithful. Our role is to cooperate with His Spirit, walking in obedience, allowing Him to cleanse and equip us so that we might reflect Jesus to a watching world.

Biblical sanctification is God’s will, and it’s God who does the sanctifying. As 2 Chronicles 29:3–6 illustrates, the people were commanded to “sanctify themselves” and cleanse the temple. Still, it’s only through the Spirit’s power that this work becomes effective.

Author, Gordon T. Smith, notes that sanctification is both for transformation and service: “We are sanctified for mission.” As believers submit to God’s Word and Spirit, they are renewed and shaped into the likeness of Christ. Though not yet perfect, we press on, knowing that final sanctification will be complete when we see Jesus face-to-face.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Father God, thank You for being the God of peace and for Your faithful work of sanctification in my life. I surrender my spirit, soul, and body to You. Purify me through and through and make me a vessel fit to bear witness of Your truth and love. Help me to walk in holiness, not for my sake alone, but so others may see Jesus through me. May my life be a testimony that brings glory to You. In Jesus’ name, amen.

SANCTIFIED TO BEAR FRUIT

JOHN 15:5

My wife and I live in Temecula, California—a region renowned for its vineyards. Years ago, a friend gave us a single grapevine, which we planted in our backyard. Soon, branches emerged, and within a year, grapes appeared. From that single vine, we now have ten plants, producing hundreds of pounds of grapes annually. The key to this abundance is simple yet profound: branches must remain connected to the vine to thrive; detached, they wither and bear no fruit.

Christ is our Sanctifier! He has set us apart for His holy purposes, to live fruitful lives, marked by fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—as described by Apostle Paul. And He has set us apart for meaningful ministry that inspires others to love God and one another. Yet, we sometimes mistakenly believe this depends on our own efforts. We are tempted to trust less and try harder! But this is not the Lord's way!

In John 15:5, Jesus says, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” Jesus reminds us that true fruitfulness comes from Him alone, not from striving harder but from trusting Him more.

No matter the circumstances, let us remain in Christ through Scripture, prayer, fellowship, and unswerving faith no matter the circumstances. As we stay connected to Him, God will produce abundant fruit in our lives.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord, You are the vine and we are the branches. You promise that by remaining in You, we will bear much fruit, and apart from You, we can do nothing. Help me stay connected to You. Without You, I am powerless; through You, my life is set apart and flourishes. Guide me to seek You in every part of my life, especially in the area of _____. I'm tempted at times to try to solve this on my own. But God, I can't. You can! Please help. I place my trust in You alone. Amen.

SANCTIFIED TO BE MADE IN THE LIKENESS OF GOD

EPHESIANS 4:23-24

In John 17, Jesus offers a stunningly personal prayer as He prepares for the Cross. His thoughts are focused on us—His disciples—both then and now. In verse 19, He declares, “For their sakes I sanctify myself.” Why? “So that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.”

Jesus dedicated Himself fully to the Father’s will, setting the stage for us to be set apart for God’s purposes. Through His sacrifice, we gain our identity as beloved children of God, empowered to fulfill His divine plans (see Hebrews 10:10). Christ is our Sanctifier, once and for all.

Christ our Sanctifier speaks to our unique call. Sanctification extends beyond moral purity; it’s about being dedicated to God’s holy purposes. Your life is not random—God knew you before you were born (see Jeremiah 1:5), giving your existence profound meaning.

Yet living as someone “set apart” in a world filled with compromise is challenging. The battle between flesh and spirit is real. At times, we may feel weak, unworthy, or unsure about God’s calling on our lives. In those moments, remember 1 Peter 2:9, “You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a people for God’s own possession . . . called out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

You are God’s possession, and He sanctifies you by His Spirit—not through your strength, but His. Sanctification is not about striving; it’s about surrendering to Him. Jesus has made the way. Now, we walk in it, trusting the Spirit to empower us to live uniquely, love deeply, and shine brightly.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Take time today to honestly answer these questions before God: Do you believe God has a purpose for your life? Do you feel empowered to fulfill His calling? How do you manage the conflict between flesh and spirit?

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of Jesus. I am grateful for being set apart. Help me to walk in that truth today—not out of obligation, but out of purpose. Sanctify my thoughts, desires, habits, and heart. May my life reflect the glory of the One who has called me out of darkness into Your marvelous light. Amen.

THE APPROPRIATION OF FAITH IN SANCTIFICATION

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-24

I am amazed when I consider the everyday jobs through which Jesus taught profound spiritual truth—from fishermen to farmers, blacksmiths to builders, and shepherds to servants. However, we can all relate to the illustration of an athlete. The goal of the runner is to win the race. This will only happen as they shed their outer clothing, tuck in their racing shirt, clean the dirt off their spikes, and clear their mind of distracting thoughts. Then, with laser focus on the finish line, they can run the race to the max. Likewise, in our journey to become more and more like Jesus, we cannot, in our own strength, consistently pick the best over the good when we set priorities. By sheer willpower, we cannot eliminate the busyness and distractions that assault our schedules. Only by placing our faith in Jesus and trusting Him to keep us on track can we hope to stay on the path our Lord has set before us. When dealing with sin that grows quickly in our lives when unchecked, trusting Jesus alone for freedom is even more essential. We must surrender our struggles and failures daily, and even moment-by-moment, so that our eyes are drawn back to Jesus all day long. What a marvelous truth—Jesus wants us to be like Him. And since one of the Spirit's jobs is to convict us of sin, we can, by faith, trust our Lord to keep us progressing in our journey.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord of my journey, thank You for loving me along the way, not just at the end of the race. I genuinely desire to walk more closely with You, to obey more consistently, and to listen more intently. Again, I place my trust and faith in You to keep me focused on You. I trust in You alone to enable me to prioritize when I get it wrong and when I'm distracted, to return my gaze to You. Holy Spirit, convict me when I slip into sin so I can return to the path You have given me. Amen.

40 DAYS OF *prayer*

WEEK 3 CHRIST OUR HEALER

Isaiah 53:4–5

As we focus on the life of Christ, this week's theme is *Christ Our Healer*. God promises healing in both aspects—physical and spiritual. At times, He provides immediate physical healing to encourage gratitude towards God, which can lead to a deeper spiritual relationship, resulting in spiritual healing. Conversely, there are instances where spiritual healing is prioritized, altering the individual's perspective on pain, and enabling them to endure while awaiting God's physical intervention. During His time on Earth, Jesus healed many individuals and often remarked that their faith had healed them. Therefore, it is essential to pray with expectant faith. Ultimately, it is at God's discretion whether He grants miraculous healing or offers the grace for endurance. When Paul implored God three times to remove the thorn from his flesh, God responded, "My grace is sufficient for you, and my strength is made perfect in your weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9).

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *Have you or your family experienced supernatural healing?*
- *How do you pray for an unbeliever's healing?*
- *How do you comfort someone who prayed for a miracle that didn't happen?*

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BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED

ISAIAH 53:5

Healing and Atonement is a foundational belief in the C&MA. Simpson wrote, in *The Gospel of Healing*, “This blessed Gospel of physical redemption is beginning to be restored to its ancient place, and the Church is slowly learning to reclaim what she never should have lost.” Nonetheless, a conservative skepticism and rationalism persisted so that they had to “contend earnestly for the faith once delivered unto the saints.” Notice that while God graciously used The Alliance to restore and reclaim this truth, that even then, they had to “contend earnestly” to maintain it, and so should we.

Healing and the Church: Jesus’ ministry, as fully described in Isaiah 53, mends and makes us whole. We live in a world that cries out for relief from anxiety, fear, and depression, desperately needing the peace and healing that Jesus offers. God asks, “Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?” (Jer. 8:22). What about the Church—is there no balm in the Church? Yes! It is Jesus. Let’s share this great message with the world.

Healing, Prayer, and the Will of God: The Alliance believes that healing is a spiritual journey that requires prevailing prayer. Acts 4:1–12 reveals that healing is not about how, but who. Focusing on who heals rather than how to achieve it, searching the heart and will of God in our circumstances.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Let us pray full of faith in God’s Word, seek His face until His will is made known, and contend boldly for the gospel of Christ, our Healer.

Father, continue to reveal Jesus as Healer of our spirits, souls, and bodies through the C&MA to a world desperate for peace.

Reveal Your will to me in my journey for healing, that I can confidently say, “Thy will be done” and, “Not to me, oh Lord, but to You be the glory.”

Will You heal through Your Spirit, if it will glorify the Father, exalt Jesus Christ, and strengthen Your church? Amen.

THE LORD WHO RESTORES HEALTH

JEREMIAH 30:17

Restoration is a beautiful word and perhaps the most important in our language. It means for something to be brought back to its original condition. It's no secret that the longer we live, the more potential there is for increased brokenness in our lives. We experience broken bodies, broken relationships, and broken hearts. Our dreams can feel as though they have been dashed upon the rocks of a craggy shore, and we are left with the pieces of what used to be whole and healthy. Such experiences can leave us feeling vulnerable, lonely, and wondering how it could have gone so wrong. The prophet Jeremiah speaks to us in such moments, and he speaks clearly. He does not deny or minimize the situation, rather he reminds us that this is not the end of the story. He tells us that God is able to repair what's broken and restore what's been lost. He reminds us that God is tender toward us in times of weakness. God is everything we would want from a physician who is giving us a difficult diagnosis. He knows the problem and the plan of treatment, but also knows something our earthly doctor cannot promise. He knows healing is assured because He is the source of our help, our hope, and our healing! He gave us this life and can do something with every aspect of it. The problem may be ever before you, but look beyond it to the One who cares for you like no other.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Father, thank You for making us Your children. We are comforted by Your continual presence and perfect care. We admit our heartaches while living in this world, but we rejoice that they fade fully into the background as we approach eternity. May Your power be evident among us as we ask for healing for these mortal bodies, provision where we are in need, and restoration for what is broken. Grant us faith and allow answers to our most earnest prayers. We hold everything before You and know Your ways are perfect, so we rest in You. Amen.

THE HEALER OF BROKEN HEARTS

PSALM 147:3

My friend Lisa Plunket died in May 2025 after a long, painful battle with cancer. We gathered to celebrate her life with broken hearts as our contending prayers for physical healing and long life were not answered. The grief was raw, and the ache of unanswered prayers cut deeply.

Yet Psalm 147:3 gently meets us in such a place: “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” This psalm was likely written after the Israelites returned from exile in Babylon—a time of significant loss. Their homeland lay in ruins, families were scattered, and worship was disrupted. The community’s collective trauma needed more than political or physical rebuilding—they needed deep soul healing. God promised to bind up not just bodies but broken hearts.

Jesus fulfills this promise as our ultimate Healer. Isaiah 53 calls Him the Man of Sorrows, acquainted with grief. He bore our sins, sickness, and sorrows on the Cross, not to give us quick fixes, but eternal restoration.

Though we longed for Lisa’s healing here, we trust that Jesus brought her into wholeness beyond what we see. In our broken-heartedness, He draws near, bandaging wounds. He doesn’t always change the circumstances, but He changes us in the midst of them.

To all who mourn, take heart—our wounded Healer is present, and He will not let our grief go unnoticed. He binds, heals, and one day will make all things new. His presence is our hope, comfort, and assurance that we are not alone in our grief.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Jesus, our wounded Healer, thank You for tenderly holding us in our sorrow and binding our deep wounds. Heal our aching hearts and shattered hopes. Remind us that You are close to the brokenhearted and faithful through every season. Strengthen us to hope, love, and trust You even in silence. Anoint us to be wounded healers—using our pain as a balm for others and our scars as signs of Your resurrection power. Teach us to listen with mercy, walk gently with those who suffer, and carry Your light into the darkest places. May our lives reflect Your redeeming love. Amen.

ANointed TO SET THE CAPTIVES FREE

ISAIAH 61:1

We know that Lord Jesus is the speaker here because He quotes verses 1 and 2a in the synagogue at Nazareth (see Luke 4:16–21) and added that, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing” (v. 21). He was anointed with the Holy Spirit at His baptism. The anointing of Jesus was that sanctification of His human nature by the Holy Spirit, which commenced in the womb of the blessed virgin (see Luke 1:35), which continued as He grew to manhood (see Luke 2:40, 52), which was openly manifested at His baptism, and never ceased till He took His body and soul with Him into heaven. His earthly ministry was concerned with bringing the good tidings of salvation to the poor, binding up the brokenhearted, proclaiming liberty to sin’s captives, and opening the prison of those who were bound. He has proclaimed good news to those who are ready for salvation, accepting Him as Lord and Savior in their hearts. The term “binding up” is an ordinary expression in Isaiah’s writings about healing—the healing of the brokenhearted and broken physical body. And He is ready to save those who are bound by the power of sin, evil, and darkness.

Reflection Questions:

- 1) Have you or your family members encountered God’s salvation through Jesus Christ?
- 2) Have you or your family members ever experienced God’s healing either physically or spiritually?
- 3) Have you or your family members experienced freedom from the power of evil spirits and darkness?



REFLECTION PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, we are so thankful for who You are in our lives. Thank You for saving us from the darkest night in our lives and transferring us into Your Kingdom of Light. You are the Healer who has healed us from our illness that earthly physicians cannot heal. You have claimed us to be Yours forever, and the power of sin and darkness cannot overcome! It is a privilege to serve You and Your Church until the day You will return a second time on the earth. We pray in Your name. Amen.

THE DELIVERER AND MIRACLE WORKER

MATTHEW 8:16-17

In Matthew 8, Jesus comes back down after delivering the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew begins by recording an account of Jesus' miracles: first healing the leper, an outcast, and then the centurion's servant, a Gentile. Then, He healed Simon Peter's mother-in-law. Matthew then summarizes the rest of that evening by saying many were brought to Jesus needing deliverance, and sick needing healing, and He cast out demons and healed them, on the authority of God, with just a word.

Jesus' ministry of healing and deliverance fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy that reveals the true character of God: Messiah not only saves from the penalty of sin but brings healing physically. It shows us the substitutionary nature of Christ's suffering. He suffered to bear our sin and our physical diseases and our spiritual bondage.

Experiencing spiritual and emotional healing through the love of Jesus personally is a beautiful process. But seeing deliverance is especially amazing. In a prayer session some time ago, I was blown away to witness powers that were present in someone ultimately submitting to the authority of Jesus through the simple, authoritative prayers of the people in the room. There was nothing showy about their faith. Deliverance came simply on the authority of Christ through His blood and Holy Spirit. He showed us that night that He alone is the One who holds all the power in the universe.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Jesus, help me see and experience the reality that Your love and compassion are always available. The love You give is for my good—that I be made whole spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Through faith in You, help me stand firm in the promise that true healing can be experienced and shared, and that complete and total restoration can be tasted now and is my hopeful future in Your Kingdom. Give me boldness to share this reality with others today. Amen.

THE LORD WHO COMFORTS AND CARES

JOHN 14:16

Goodbyes are hard. In the midst of what seems like a constant struggle with goodbyes in the military, I missed the fact that Jesus had to say goodbye to His beloved disciples. He took up our pain and bore our transgressions and ultimately had to leave behind those closest to Him.

My mom suffered illness most of my life. As a young girl, I remember praying for healing. I wanted to be able to do the same things other girls got to do with their moms. As a young woman, I continued praying, believing the Lord might perform a miracle in her life. I wanted to travel with her and wanted her to be able to be the energetic grammy she always wanted to be. As time progressed, she started to struggle with more illness, not less. I became weary.

But God did not leave her. In the end, bedridden and aloof, she started to ask to go home. When all of us thought she must mean her beloved New Hampshire, we now believe she meant her eternal home with Jesus. She got her wish in November. We had to say goodbye. For now.

In His perfect will, God chose not to heal her body on Earth, but I know she is in perfect health forever. God gifted us the relief of knowing she was no longer suffering. We don't know why He chose this path, but we know He is good. He understands our pain in loss.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Father, thank You that You empathize with us when we are weary and at a loss for what You are doing. We know you have a perfect will and perfect timing. Thank You for the longing in our hearts to be with You forever in our eternal home. Please comfort us in the loss of those that go before us. Give us a passion to share with everyone we meet what Jesus did for us so they can have that eternal hope too. Spirit, guide us in Your divine appointments and give us the words to speak. In Jesus' name, amen.

THE LORD WHO BRINGS PEACE IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS

JOHN 14:27

The chaos of November 18, 2020, is etched deeply in my memory. A call from my sister shattered the morning—my mother had passed away. Just hours before, I had been told she was recovering well after surgery. I was thousands of miles away in a country locked down by COVID. No flights. No way to return. Even if I left, I wouldn't be allowed back.

In that storm of grief and helplessness, something unexpected wrapped around me—peace. Not a peace that made sense, but the steady, unexplainable peace of Christ. In John 14:27, Jesus speaks this very peace over His disciples, knowing hardship and loss were coming. He doesn't offer escape from chaos. He offers Himself.

His peace doesn't erase sorrow, but holds us through it. It's not based on circumstances, but grounded in His unchanging presence. My unbelieving friends took notice of this unexplainable peace I had and inquired about how they, too, could experience it. It was a joy to share Jesus with them—the only true source of peace!

If your heart feels unsettled today, know that Jesus speaks these same words to you: "Do not let your heart be troubled." His peace is a gift—real, present, and available even during the chaos of life!



REFLECTION PRAYER

Jesus, You are the Prince of Peace. Thank You for offering a peace that the world cannot give and that circumstances cannot take away. In the midst of my chaos, help me to lean into Your presence and receive Your peace. Quiet my heart and remind me that You are near. I surrender my anxious thoughts and troubled heart to You. Fill me with Your calming presence today. May I "let the peace of God rule in my heart" (Col. 3:15). Amen.

40 DAYS OF *prayer*

WEEK 4 CHRIST OUR COMING KING

Revelation 22:20

As we focus on the life of Christ, this week's theme is *Christ Our Coming King*. In John 14:3, Jesus informed His disciples, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." This passage underscores the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Additionally, believers are assured that they will join Him during His millennial reign upon His return as King. This is considered an honor for those who have trusted in Him and accepted Him as their Savior. The anticipated return of our King provides hope for eternal communion with Him. It remains unknown when this day will arrive, for it is known only by the Heavenly Father. Therefore, as followers, it is essential to remain prepared for the King's arrival and to evangelize, spreading the gospel globally. Upon His return, He will act as the righteous judge, delivering rewards based on individual deeds.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *Are you prepared for the coming of Jesus Christ?*
- *What happens to those who haven't heard or responded to the gospel?*
- *How often have you shared this truth with others?*

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SANCTIFIED TO BEAR WITNESS

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-24

Since I was a teenager, medieval movies have fascinated me—the horses, knights, castles, and humble peasants, some of whom unexpectedly rose to greatness as knights or even kings.

However, I learned to admire a King who chose to be a servant. He was crowned with thorns. He did not reign from a majestic throne, but from a Cross where the world thought Him defeated. What they did not understand was that this apparent defeat was the greatest victory humanity has ever seen. Throughout history, we have known kings ruling over kingdoms, but the final moment is yet to come—the day when the King of Kings will break gloriously into history, no longer riding a donkey, but on His cloud steed, ready to rule over every nation.

The psalmist asks, “Who is this King of Glory?” And the resounding answer is: “The Lord, strong and mighty; the Lord, mighty in battle.”

We have the privilege of living for Him, serving Him, and waiting for Him with faith and anticipation. Does your heart not race with excitement at the thought of seeing Him? Of witnessing earthly kings bow before Him and nations worship Him? Does the thought of standing before His throne, beholding His glory, not fill you with hope?

Do not waver in your faith. Let nothing separate you from His love. Let nothing discourage you. Your King is coming, clothed in glory, with your reward in His hand, ready to bring you into His eternal greatness.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord, King of Kings, the strong and mighty One, it is a privilege to be Your servant. Help me never forget who You are, to value Your glory and greatness. Allow me to be a faithful servant and let nothing separate me from You. I want to long for Your return more and more each day, to enjoy Your majesty in glory.

My daily walk and weaknesses—the enemy will try to use them to keep me from enjoying You for all eternity. Embrace me with Your love and never let go of me with Your mighty hand. Amen.

JESUS, THE LION OF JUDAH

REVELATION 5:5

At our most recent Council 2025, we were reminded through an old video testimony of our former Alliance president, John Stumbo, that there are moments in our lives when we are going through painful times where we, too, can say, “I don’t like this journey I am on . . . but God is in it, and God is good . . .” In these moments, we might feel like Jesus in Gethsemane, where we weep because of the cup we are having to bear, but yet surrender to the hope of God’s plan in it.

John is told in Revelation 4:1 that he would be shown what will take place at the end of time. In chapter 5, when no one is found worthy to open the scrolls that will not only reveal these times but will set into motion the restoration of all things, he begins to weep. In the vision, he is told not to weep because there is One worthy, Jesus, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David. He is able to restore all things.

Our painful experience of our sin-broken world oftentimes leaves us weeping and longing for something better . . . more than that, for something perfect—a time where there will be absolutely no more mourning, crying, or pain because the former things corrupted and broken by sin will be no more, and we will be in the presence of our King. Hallelujah! Our conquering King will bring it all to an end!



REFLECTION PRAYER

We do not like the suffering we find ourselves in today (take this time to name those things), nor the suffering we see others go through because of brokenness around us. We see it through social media around our world, in our cities, and even in our homes and churches—injustice, sickness, and death. We long for their end. We long for Your Kingdom to come. Come, King Jesus! Bring it to an end! Amen.

RETURN OF THE KING

MATTHEW 25:31

Son of Man was the title our Lord Jesus used most often to describe Himself. It is an acknowledgment of His humanity, while at the same time, calling attention to His sole claim as Israel's Messiah and King of Glory. In Daniel 7:9-14, we are introduced to the One bearing the title of *Son of Man* as He appears before the Ancient of Days to receive glory and a Kingdom that would never cease to exist.

In Matthew 25:31, we see our Lord Jesus Christ, rapidly approaching His death on the Cross for our sins, confidently speaking about Himself sitting on His glorious throne and judging the nations. He knew that after the vicarious sacrifice of His precious life, He would rise victoriously from the grave and establish His earthly Kingdom, where He would reign and rule in righteousness.

As human beings living in a fallen world, we rarely see anyone claiming rights to a throne that has a genuine desire to make life better for those under their leadership. While we acknowledge that our God ordained government for the good of the people, those who govern often abuse their power. It is good to know that we can look forward with anticipation and certainty that one day soon, all the kingdoms of this world will be surrendered to the One who will sit on a throne of glory, and everyone who is a part of that Kingdom will be blessed by a benevolent dictator. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!



REFLECTION PRAYER

Father, we give You praise and glory for Your marvelous plan that provided redemption for us and the blessed privilege of being able to enjoy the Kingdom that will soon be manifested on Earth. We pray that Your Holy Spirit would fill us and use us to give others the opportunity to respond to the gospel and be delivered from the kingdom of darkness and have the privilege of worshipping You as You sit on Your glorious throne. May Your Kingdom come, and Your will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven. We pray in Jesus' name, amen.

THE RETURN OF THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

2 TIMOTHY 4:8

Her eyes are fixed on the horizon, anxiously scanning for any movement, any sign. On the pier with her are hundreds who, like her, struggle to maintain their composure in breathless anticipation. These seven months seemed like an eternity, but they pale in comparison to the agony of every second that passes waiting on this pier. Soon, her husband will be disembarking from his ship, and she will be in his arms. It will feel as though not a single moment has passed since they last embraced, and at the same time, as if it'd been an eternity. Soon. Scanning the horizon, a shape seems to appear. Every second that passes confirms: he's back. The wait is over.

Jesus promised in Acts 1 to return and take His place as King of this world, and we do not hope nor wait in vain. Christ's return is the end of all suffering, division, and pain, when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Christ is Lord. And yet, waiting is hard.

We live in a hurt and broken world. Our work can feel insignificant, leading us to think, *Does anything I do matter?* Anticipating Christ's return reminds us that we are not of this world and drives us to turn our eyes toward heaven. It reminds us that there are so many people who have never heard of Him, and it compels us to share His love with them. So, remain steadfast, and keep your eyes on the horizon.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord, we come to You with a heart that longs not for reward but for Your presence. We anxiously await Your return, but we are so grateful for Your love, grace, and power that sustains us. Lord, let our hearts increase and abound in love toward one toward another and toward all those who don't know You. When the way grows dim, Your presence is our guiding light. Let our lives reflect Your justice, Your mercy, and Your love. We wait, we love, we hope. We pray all this in the matchless and anointed name of Jesus, amen.

CHRIST IS THE BEGINNING AND THE END

REVELATION 22:13

The beginning and the end is not just a thing, an event, or a news item. It is a person: Jesus. Three phrases woven into one thought cast such majesty on Him. We hear about beginnings and endings. It is Jesus who wraps Himself in both ends.

Jesus begins with “I AM,” a phrase echoing words He spoke on Earth declaring indivisible oneness with the Father, using the name revealed in Exodus.

Sitting back, I think of beginnings and endings. Things begin; things end. Ecclesiastes says there is a “time” for everything. Jesus stands as the encompassing focal point of it all.

Much of life, however, is lived in the somewhat awkward middle; not the beginning and not the end. It is territory that is often twisted by changing circumstances. It can seem bewildering or lonely. It may be health or the loss of someone loved. It may be a job change or distance in a relationship. Life in the middle speaks of another promise of God in terms of start and finish. He is the Author and Finisher of our faith; a journey described as faith from first to last. What He starts, He finishes!

He is in the beginnings and present in the endings. We can trust Him for the middle.

Sometimes life looks like a mess. But it isn't a mess. Sometimes we feel like a mess. But we are not a mess. We are His children, and He never leaves us. He is our Alpha and Omega and everything in between.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Dear Lord, our hearts are stilled when we know that You are God. Jesus, You calmed the waters and storms. You continue to calm the waters. We find such peace and rest knowing You are indeed the Author and Finisher of our faith. We thank You for not walking away. You are Alpha and Omega in all things. Sometimes while living in the middle, it is hard to discern what is happening around us. We find our rest in You alone. Amen.

THE REIGN OF THE LORD

ZECHARIAH 14:9

Zechariah recorded this book of stories, dreams, and visions for a weary nation of Israel—to challenge them to remain faithful to their covenant with God and to inspire hope for God’s future Kingdom. We have that same hope and promise today!

Home is not just a physical place; it’s the embodiment of comfort, familiarity, and a sense of belonging. With evil permeating the world, we long for Jesus’ return. Home is in Jesus’ loving arms.

Zechariah 14:9 answers Israel’s heartfelt yearning: “The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.”

Imagine the weariness of a nation estranged from their homeland, facing doubt and uncertainty about their future. Zechariah’s words are a lifeline, reminding them that their journey has a purpose. His words give a glimpse into restoration, where God’s sovereignty reigns supreme. It’s our picture of hope!

You may feel distanced from God’s purpose or promises for your life, but His unwavering goodness and faithfulness never cease. It’s not about a political party or how the world reacts. We, as God’s children, are in the world but not of the world. King Jesus is above it all and reigns supreme! God has promised His followers that He will bring them home one day to a restored Kingdom (see Rev. 21).

We can trust in our future Kingdom to come. Home is not that far off! “At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:10–11). Christ is Lord of all!



REFLECTION PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, we place our trust and hope in Your sovereignty and justice. Use us as You see fit until Your Kingdom comes. We are Your servants in this current world to help others find Your future Kingdom, with the work already done in what your Son, Jesus, accomplished for us on the Cross. The reign of the Lord is at hand, but You still have work for us to do. Allow us to find open hearts and minds eager for Your purposes, knowing there is a beautiful Kingdom waiting for us upon Your return. In Jesus’ magnificent name, amen.

THE ETERNAL KINGDOM OF GOD

REVELATION 11:15

Revelation 11:15 says that once God's Kingdom fully arrives, "He will reign for ever and ever."

Can you picture it? Our King, in person with us and reigning over all of Creation—all we experience and know—forever and ever!

To have forever with the Lord . . . it's unfathomable. Forever is big. Forever is a long time. Forever is limitless. Forever is unbound.

Forever is coming—for you, me, and everyone else who's ever had the chance to walk this earth. But I have to ask myself, *Am I living life right now in light of forever?*

If I'm honest, no. So often I find myself weak and wearied by the here and now, troubled by my past, and worried about my future. I rarely take the time to look up from the urgency of the immediate to remember where my finite feet are marching me toward—of Whom it is I'll be coming home to at the end of this life.

As members of Jesus' already-but-not-yet Kingdom, we've been tasked to go make disciples now, baptizing them and teaching them to obey everything He has commanded us (see Matt. 28:19–20). Sometimes obeying Him seems too hard or scary, but this life is too short to live as if eternity isn't on the line, especially for those who do not yet know Christ. He promises to be with us always—a truth for now and forever. May we spend today living out what matters most to Him.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord Jesus, please forgive me for forgetting forever because of now. Please help me to pause, breathe, and recenter on You the next time I'm tempted to let the hurries and worries of life sweep me away. Please help me to not neglect my relationship with You or turn away from the good work that You've set out for me to do. Please grant me great anticipation for the day I get to be face-to-face with You in Your eternal Kingdom. Until then, may I live my life grounded in Your completed works, remembering You've already conquered and won, forever. Amen.

40 DAYS OF prayer

WEEK 5 CHRIST AND HIS MISSION

Matthew 28:19–20

As we focus on the life of Christ, this week's theme is *Christ and His Mission*. The primary mission of Jesus was to save humankind from sin and eternal condemnation by offering Himself as the atoning sacrifice. As part of His mission, He extended His sacrifice to include reconciliation, drawing people back to the Father, transforming them into the likeness of His Son and revealing the hope of glory. A significant aspect of His mission is that He invites His disciples and believers to partner with Him in carrying out His work in the world, providing opportunities for unreached individuals to hear the good news. Jesus is a missional figure who sends people to mobilize the presence of the gospel worldwide. We are grateful that God has given The Christian and Missionary Alliance the desire and passion to send workers across the globe to spread the gospel to many unreached people groups.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *Do you actively share the gospel? How often do you feel the urge to share?*
- *What is your biggest challenge in sharing the gospel?*
- *How will you overcome the barriers to sharing the gospel?*

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SANCTIFIED TO BEAR WITNESS

Redemption isn't an idea.
It's not a doctrine to memorize or a box to check.
It's a movement.
A mission.
A God who refuses to stay distant,
who steps into the ache of the world
and says, "I'll go."

Jesus doesn't drift through the crowd in Jericho,
hoping to bump into someone who needs saving.
No, He's hunting.
Locked in.
Laser-focused on the ones everyone else walks past.

The overlooked. The outcast.
The ones who quietly wonder if they're too far
gone to matter.
He sees what others miss . . .
a man in a tree,
half-hidden by leaves and shame.

Zacchaeus isn't noble.
He's desperate.
Desperate to see something real.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-24

Someone true.
Desperate to know if redemption might have
room for someone like him.

And Jesus?
He doesn't hesitate.
He stops.
He calls.
He walks straight into the home of a man
no one thought was worth redeeming.

Because that's what redemption does.
It moves toward the mess.
It invites itself to dinner.
It restores the sacred worth you forgot you had.

This mission—
to seek, to save, to restore—
is still unfolding.
Still relentless.
Still reaching into trees, into stories, into hearts
to whisper the one truth that changes everything:

*You were never forgotten.
You are always the mission.*



REFLECTION PRAYER

Thank You for seeking me when I didn't even know I was lost. For seeing through the noise, the fear, the masks, and calling me by name. Come into the hidden places of my life. Restore what's been broken. Heal what's been wounded. Renew what's grown weary. Remind me that I was never beyond Your reach, never beyond Your love. Let Your presence rewrite my story with grace, and let my life reflect the wonder of being found. Amen.

THE MISSION OF RECONCILIATION

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-19

Years ago, Dr. Paul Bubna, the president of The Alliance at the time, structured an entire General Council around the theme of the glory of God. He preached a powerful message on the subject and invited Dr. John Piper to speak throughout the week. It was absolutely stunning for me to say the least! You see, for many years I had heard the Great Commission, to make disciples of all nations, as a bare command. The command struck my soul as a duty that burdened me like a job description from an employer. Don't get me wrong, I was totally engaged. But I lacked context. Paul and John permanently changed that for me! Suddenly I could see the wonder of God getting His greatest pleasure from glorifying His own name on the earth and inviting me to receive the greatest blessing by being part of that. No longer was the Great Commission merely workmanlike. It had become a pleasure.

That understanding and pleasure then integrated for me with the Apostle Paul's word to the Corinthians that the pursuit of the gospel to every nation is a wonderful matter of reconciliation to God and one another. Our mission is to be the Lord's humble servants, for Him to glorify Himself by building a heavenly family of children, women, and men who know Him and are bound together in freedom from sin and joy in relationship. And so, we go as commanded—not with reluctance, but with delight!



REFLECTION PRAYER

Great Father, thank You for engaging us in Your greatest pleasure as we glorify Your name through the gospel. Grant that we may hear Your word of command as the path to our own greatest pleasure in serving You. May there be every color of skin and language of tongue in our sights as we extend reconciliation to You and one another around the world, especially where Christ is little named or not named at all. Thank You for giving us a purpose that surpasses all others, both for time and eternity. Amen.

THE NEW CREATION IN JESUS

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Jesus is on mission, and He has invited us to partner with Him on that mission. Our role in His redemptive mission is to make disciples who make disciples. An essential part of being a disciple is understanding that each of us has been called by the Lord (see Rom. 8:28–30).

We have been called from, and we have been called to. The Apostle Paul poignantly makes this reality clear: “If we are in Christ, the old is gone; the new has come” (2 Cor. 5:17). Through the redemptive, regenerative, ongoing, and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, the old things from the kingdom of darkness are gone, and we are called into the Kingdom of light. We have been called from slaves to the sinful nature into freedom in Christ—from being objects of God’s wrath to citizens of God’s Kingdom.

The list of what we have been called from and what we have been called to is long and beautiful. It boils down to an issue of identity—who I was and who I am. May we continually walk in victory over the old things that we have been called from and live joyfully and abundantly in the new things that we have been called to. It is from that place, our calling into a new identity, that we most effectively partner with our Savior in the message and ministry of reconciliation as His ambassadors (see 2 Cor. 5:18–20).



REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord, we are humbled that You would graciously call us to Yourself. We are grateful for the things that You have called us from. Holy Spirit, we ask that You would divinely enable us to live into all that You have called us to. As citizens in Your Kingdom, may we be useful instruments in Your hands for the accomplishment of Your redemptive purposes in our homes, our neighborhoods, our communities, and around the globe. Amen.

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH RENEWAL OF MIND

ROMANS 12:2

Transformation starts not with our actions, but within our minds. The Apostle Paul encourages us to resist the influences of the world's values, patterns, and priorities. Rather than conforming, we are called to stand out in holiness, not defiance.

This renewal is not a one-time incident; it's a daily journey. As we surrender our thoughts to God and allow His Word to shape our understanding, we begin to view life through His perspective. Our desires change, our responses mature, and our choices align more closely with His heart.

While the world advises, "Follow your heart," God instructs us to "Renew [our] minds." Why? Because a mind renewed by the Spirit becomes fertile ground for transformation. From this transformation arises a life that discerns God's will, which is good, pleasing, and perfect.

So, today, take a moment to reflect. What influences are shaping your thoughts? Are you absorbing more of the culture or more of Christ?

Brothers and sisters, allow the Word to wash over you, invite the Spirit to work within you, and let transformation begin from the inside out.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I come before You with an open heart and mind. Your Word calls me for a life transformed by Your truth. Let Your Spirit constantly shape my thoughts so that my life mirrors the transformation You have initiated within me. Teach me to examine and discern Your will. Let transformation be my daily pursuit. Help me walk confidently on the path You have set before me. Make me a living testimony of Your grace and power to change lives through the renewing work of Your Spirit.

In Jesus' mighty name, I pray, amen.

REVEALING THE HOPE OF GLORY

COLOSSIANS 1:26-27

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul uses a particular word—“mystery”—to describe the gift of the Holy Spirit to all who would repent and believe. This mystery spoken of by Paul is “Christ in you”—the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. This gift of the Holy Spirit given to us today was a mystery to those of the Old Testament—but now, living after the Resurrection of Christ and in the light of the promise of His return, we have the Holy Spirit, who is for us constant companionship (see John 14:16–17), a seal for the day of redemption (see Eph. 4:30), the guarantee of our complete sanctification through Christ (see Phil. 1:6), and “glorious riches” according to Paul in these verses.

Not only is Christ in us a blessed mystery, but to have Him is to possess glorious riches. The gift, the seal, the promise of the Holy Spirit is of surpassing value, incomparable to the wealth, fortune, and luxury of this world. For to gain Christ—to obtain more and more and more of God—is our greatest good. Glory unto Him is the end goal of this indwelling of His Spirit because it instills in us ultimate hope. Because to have Him is to have the most glorious thing; to have His love is to know the most glorious love; to see Him is to see the most glorious beauty; to possess His Spirit is to know what it is to be gloriously rich.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Glorious God, thank You for building Your home in us, Your living temple, and that by doing so, You also build in us the hope of glory. This glory does not only ascribe to You the praise and adoration You deserve, but it places us in goodness, gazing upon Your glorious beauty and power forever. Glorify Yourself in and through our lives, dear Lord, and fill us daily with a greater and greater desire and surrender to be given up to You as our only hope and joy. In Jesus' name, amen.

DRAWING US BACK TO THE FATHER

JOHN 14:6

There are few things as reassuring as knowing you have a safe place to call home. In John 14, Jesus promised His disciples that He was preparing a heavenly home for them. This home would be a place where they would find true rest in the presence of their Father. But Thomas had doubts about this new home. Where was it located? How would the disciples get there? It was against this backdrop that we read Jesus' powerful words in John 14:6. Not only would He show them how to get there, He, Himself, was the actual way there.

As we consider the theme of Christ and His Mission, we must remember the scope of John's statement. John 14:6 is often used to guide people toward the exclusive nature of Jesus' offering of salvation. However, Jesus did not speak these words to the unbelieving masses, but instead to His inquiring disciples. Amid the trials and tribulations that come with the grind of ministry, Jesus reminded them that the rest and peace that their hearts longed for could only come through Him.

If you are wearied by the weight of God's assignment, remember Jesus' words. To experience the joy and peace that comes in the presence of the Father, you must go through Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life. He has prepared a place of promised rest for you—one that can be experienced both now and in your future home in glory.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

When I am wearied by the weight of the world's problems, please remind me that Jesus is the way into Your peaceful presence. As I combat the confusion that clouds the hearts of the lost, please remind me that Jesus is the truth that sets man's heart free. And as I am sapped by the demands of carrying the gospel to the ends of the earth, please remind me that Jesus is the life that brings renewal to my soul. How I long for the peace and rest that comes through the presence of Christ! Amen.

JESUS OUR GOOD SHEPHERD

JOHN 10:11

Have you ever noticed how John invites us to “lean in” when He recorded the “I am” statements of Jesus? It’s like he took an ancient highlighter to Scripture to say, “Pay attention to what follows.”

One of those statements is our focus today—Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

In the same breath as that statement, Jesus uttered, “I lay down my life for my sheep.” A good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. Great—if I want to shepherd well, I should lay down my life.

But that’s not the weight of this statement, is it? The weight is that Jesus, our Good Shepherd, willingly lays down His life for our sakes.

Jesus has laid down His life for you. He guards the pen, watches the horizon for danger, and gently guides and shepherds you as a cherished sheep of His flock. It was handed down by the Father to Him to shepherd well, and He is bringing more sheep and more pens together, for He cares for them too.

Do you trust Jesus with the responsibility of your life? Do you believe He guards the pen you reside in and watches the horizon for danger? Do you believe He knows best for your care and shepherds your life for its good? Do you believe He knows best the times to go out and the times to come in?



REFLECTION PRAYER

Father, too often I try to emulate the example of Jesus before I understand the reality of Jesus—that I am under His loving care, shepherded well by One who has authority and power and wisdom. Help me enter into the rest of my loving Shepherd, help me to discern His voice, and help me surrender to His love today. Thank You for my Good Shepherd. And thank You for guiding me into His care. Amen.

40 DAYS OF *prayer*

WEEK 6 CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

Acts 1:8

As we focus on the life of Christ, this week's theme is *Christ and His Church*. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus stated, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The Church represents the collective Body of Believers unified by His love and empowered by His Spirit to witness for Him and execute the mission entrusted to us by Jesus. Recognizing the significance of this unity, adversaries attempt to undermine the mission through deception and conflict. Jesus calls for strength, courage, and unity to overcome these challenges. He has established a clear purpose for His Church, inviting believers to be the salt and light of the earth. It is essential that our actions shine before others, so they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven. Let us persist in collaborating with our King as He builds His Church.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *How are you serving in your local church, and where might God be calling you next?*
- *Have you invited your neighbors to church before?*
- *How do you plan to pray for your church this week?*

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THE BODY OF CHRIST UNITED IN LOVE

JOHN 17:23

In John 17:23, Jesus prayed, “That they may be brought to complete unity.” This means that the Church is not merely a gathering of people but has a role in showing the world the love of Jesus and the will of God the Father. Just as Jesus is one with the Father, believers should also love one another, be united, and become one.

When the Church is united, people in the world will recognize that God sent Jesus and that God’s love for Jesus is the same love He has for us. Therefore, the Church is not just a place where we gather to worship, but a community that reveals God’s love to the world.

Practically speaking, this means that church members should love and care for one another and make efforts to resolve conflicts. It is important to reduce disputes through forgiveness and reconciliation, to share each other’s burdens, pray together, and encourage one another. When the Church lives in this kind of unity, Jesus’ prayer will be fulfilled, and the world will experience God’s love through the Church. Therefore, we must strive to love one another and be united within the Church.

However, this cannot be achieved by our efforts alone. In fact, it is the Holy Spirit who makes all of this possible. Therefore, we must go deeper with the Holy Spirit, depend on Him more, and desire Him more earnestly. When we do so, the content of the Lord’s prayer will be fully accomplished.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord, guide the Church to be united so that we may reveal the love of Jesus and the will of the Father to the world. Melt away all division and conflict among us with forgiveness and reconciliation and help us become a community that loves and encourages one another. We confess that our own strength is not enough, so may the Holy Spirit bind our hearts together and fulfill the prayer that Jesus prayed. May the Holy Spirit, who powerfully came upon the Upper Room at Pentecost, come again upon all churches and believers today. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

UNITY IN DIVERSITY THROUGH THE SPIRIT OF GOD

1 CORINTHIANS 12:13

Jesus prayed for it. The writers of the New Testament expressed the need for it. But this idea of developing unity is a lot harder than it seems. In many cultures, people cling to the idea of unity that includes self-preservation and independence in all relationships. We say we want unity, but do we understand what Jesus had in mind when He was praying for unity for His followers?

In John 17, Jesus gave the example of His relationship with the Father. In the Trinity, love, interdependence, and trust is perfected. Operating in the kind of unity demonstrated by the Trinity is easier said than done when we are placed in relationships where God has strategically surrounded us with people who look, think, act, and believe differently.

In any ecosystem, the greater the diversity, the greater the stability. This is why Paul describes the Church in 1 Corinthians 12 with a body illustration. There is great diversity in appearance, role, and function in our physical bodies, yet purpose and even life depends on the unity of those diverse parts.

The question is, how can significant diversity operate with increased unity? If the Holy Spirit doesn't shape us to look like the Son and His approach to relationships, we're lost. The kind of intimacy found in the Trinity is not produced without a continual increase in sacrifice, selflessness, vulnerability, and trust. If these are absent in our relationships, we will not experience the beauty of unity within our diversity.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Father, forgive me for the times when competition and comparison have defined my relationships with those who were "different" than me or who held a conflicting perspective. Pride creeps in, and I feel the need to be right. I desire to experience the kind of unity and intimacy that You desire for me; the kind that is found in the Trinity. I don't know how to get there. Please do the deep work that produces a humility that allows me the freedom to be who You created me to be and yet authentic and submissive in all my relationships. Amen.

THE BODY OF CHRIST UNITED IN FAITH

EPHESIANS 4:4-5

While driving home from work, I got stuck in the usual pocket of stop-and-go traffic. My typical 20-minute drive commute quickly stretched to 40. Through the lens of frustration, I looked at the variety of cars and drivers. How could there be so many humans driving on the same road at the very same time? Each of us headed to our individual homes yet forced to use the same roadway to reach our final destinations.

In an effort to diffuse my own road rage, my eyes wandered to the many different faces I was driving among. Such beautiful diversity! My moment of wonder quickly devolved into frustration as I was cut off by yet another car trying to speed around everyone.

Like congested roads, church can feel crowded with competing personalities and agendas. Everyone is moving toward the same ultimate destination yet struggling to move forward together. God continuously calls for oneness among His Body of believers. The term “one body” should urge us toward unity, but it does not push us into uniformity. The Body of Christ is made up of individuals shaped by cultures and backgrounds who bring different perspectives. Yet what binds us together is far stronger than what separates us: our shared faith in Jesus Christ.

The diversity within the Church is a strength when it is surrendered to Christ. Satan is continuously working to divide us through fear, pride, and misunderstandings. The Church is strongest when we choose grace over grievance and mission over division.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Heavenly Father, protect my heart from division. Soften me where I have held too tightly to my own personal views. Teach me to value others as You do. Help me reflect You in word and action, choose grace over grievance, patience over irritation, and unity over personal comfort. Bring us together as Your Church in faith, mission, service, and love. Amen.

ONE BODY IN CHRIST, UNITED BY DIVINE PLAN

EPHESIANS 1:11-12

In working with the elderly and dying over the years, a conversation about inheritances occasionally takes place. Most often, the person anticipating the end of life shares their wish to leave something valuable to a family member whom they treasured and loved. The heartfelt desire is to leave loved ones something that will make a difference in their life after they are gone.

In Ephesians 1:10–11, Paul has just told believers how they became God’s people. Now the next question is why. Because “we have obtained an inheritance” (Eph. 1:11, NASB). We have gained an eternal inheritance because someone shared their faith in Christ with us while they were still living. Our inheritance received from Christ is meant to be shared now, in unity with the Body of Christ to a lost world. How are we passing on our spiritual inheritance today while we are living?

John R. W. Stott, a distinguished scholar, reminds us “to live to the praise of the glory of his grace is both to worship him by our words and deeds as the gracious God he is, and to cause others to see and praise Him too.” This can certainly come through the life of an individual; but much more so through the life and testimony of a whole community in relation with each other and with God as their focus, a community giving daily of the inheritance each of us have in Christ while we live to the praise of His glorious grace.



REFLECTION PRAYER

O God, let the joy of what I have inherited through faith in Your gracious salvation daily flow over into my words and actions. Let our hope in You as a Church bring love to a lost world, resulting in the beautiful song of praise to Your glorious grace. Let my spiritual inheritance be shared today to make an eternal difference. In the name of my Redeemer and Savior, Jesus Christ, amen.

ONE BODY IN CHRIST, PREDESTINED BY HIS GRACE

EPHESIANS 1:5-6

When Jesus spoke these words in Acts 1:8, He wasn't just giving a command—He was giving a promise. The Church would not be built by human strength or clever strategies but by the power of the Holy Spirit. This power would enable ordinary people to do extraordinary things: to witness, to serve, to love, and to build a community that reflects the heart of Christ.

Jesus also said in Matthew 16:18, “I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” This is a declaration of victory. The Church is not a fragile institution—it is a Spirit-empowered force, advancing the Kingdom of God in every generation.

You are not just a member of a church—you are a part of Christ's Body. You have been given gifts, a purpose, and the Spirit's power to make a difference. Whether you serve by teaching, encouraging, praying, or simply showing up with love, you are helping to build what Jesus started. What are your personal giftings of the Spirit? He has given them to you, on purpose . . . to be His witness!



REFLECTION PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank You for never leaving us on our own.

You have given us Your Spirit to empower and guide Your Church.

Thank You for the privilege of being part of Your Body—

whether our role feels big or small, You have asked us to be faithful to it.

We trust that Your plans will prevail,

for Your Holy Spirit has sealed them with power and purpose.

Yet we still ask: bring unity to our local church,

and let Your presence cause our communities to flourish.

In Jesus' powerful name, amen.

40 DAYS OF *prayer*

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

WOODLER ALEZY

Woodler is senior pastor of Bethesda Tabernacle in Florida, with decades of ministry and business leadership. Licensed in 1994, he also serves as a chaplain, professor, and president of the Haitian C&MA Association, and is a widely recognized preacher, teacher, and mentor.

CHARLES CHAPMAN

Charles serves as the candidate development specialist for Alliance Missions. In high school, Charles felt a call to ministry that led him to start a Christian ministry that served the homeless. After 20 years, Charles and his family moved to Columbus to help prepare the next generation of mission candidates.

CHRISTI CHRISTNER

Christi currently works as an events coordinator at the C&MA National Office.

JAE CHUNG

Jae is the district superintendent of the Korean District.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

JORGE CUEVAS

Jorge has served as an Alliance pastor for over 27 years and has been married to Ana for 33. A former district superintendent, he now serves as associate director for Church Multiplication and grants. He is part of a team planting a new church in Pickerington, OH. He is one of the core team members of the new church plant—Conexion Alliance church in Pickerington, OH

SUSAN DAVIS

Susan is the director for annual giving at the C&MA National Office. She has been blessed to be a part of the Alliance National Office for four years, supporting generous donors who support The Alliance's mission to bring all of Jesus to all the world.

MANDY DEAN

Mandy has been serving at the National Office since graduating from Taylor University three years ago. She works with Alliance Benefits in member care, where she supports and serves those who serve others.

YORDANOS DESSALEGN

Yordanos serves as an administrative assistant for Church Ministries at the National Office, supporting both Church Advance and Multicultural Ministries. She is married and blessed with three wonderful children.

SARKIS DIARBI

Sarkis is a composer and music writer, president of the Arabic Association of the C&MA, and pastor of New Life Church in Brooklyn, NY.

TOM FLANDERS

Tom serves as district superintendent in Florida and the Bahamas. He and Chris, graduates of Nyack College, have been married for nearly 40 years, are parents to three children, and have three grandchildren.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

PAUL GARCIA

Paul is a Navy chaplain who is serving onboard the USS BOXER (LHD 4). He has been in the C&MA for 16 years—serving from Nyack, New York, to Quantico, Virginia, to San Diego, California. He has been married to Heather for 23 years, and they have four sons.

DAVID GILMORE

David has been a pastor since 1985. He is married to Tami, has three adult kids, two daughters-in-law, and three grandkids, and has pastored churches in Minnesota, Texas, Wisconsin, Nebraska, and California. David currently serves as the South Pacific Alliance District superintendent.

DAVID GOMEZ

David, born in Texas, has been married to his wife, Irma, for 29 years. They have three adult children and one son-in-law. He is the district superintendent of the Alliance South Central District, a Christ-centered Acts 1:8 family of churches in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

JAVIER GOMEZ

Javier serves as superintendent for the Puerto Rico District, teaches at the Seminario Teológico Puerto Rico, and is a member of our Board of Directors. He lives in Guaynabo with his wife, Evelyn, and has four children, two daughters-in-law, and two grandchildren. Javier enjoys being with his family, reading, and playing basketball.

NATE HOWARD

Nate has served as the Eastern PA District superintendent since 2018. His pastor's heart and love for Christ's church drives his vision to spearhead a movement of gospel transformation and multiplication throughout Eastern PA. Nate and his wife, Sharon, love time with family and long walks in nature.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

DAVE JANSSEN

Dave was born in New York City and currently serves with The Alliance as the Northeast Regional Church Advance coordinator. He also serves as associate pastor of Grace Chapel in Bedminster, NJ. Dave and his wife, Jeannine, served for many years the Alliance Church in State College, PA.

TONY JONES

Tony is the district superintendent of the Alliance South District. He and his wife, Kristi, have served in The Alliance for 30 years.

SANDY KANG

Sandy, founding director of Nexus Mentoring, equips Christian marketplace leaders to invest in young adults. Alongside her husband, Ted, she has been pastoring at San Jose Christian Alliance Church since 2002. She serves on the Empower staff, equipping women worldwide. She is a proud mother to four daughters.

JESSICA KOCH

Jessica is the mother of two active kids who keep her and her husband moving and involved. She and her husband have been lay leaders at Hope Church in Westerville, OH, for over six years. Currently, she works part time at the Alliance National Office.

KERRY LAMBERT

Kerry has been a licensed Alliance worker since 1998. In the last 27 years, God has given him priceless fulfillment as a chaplain ministering to hospital and hospice patients. He lives in Murray, KY, with his wife, Mary.

JOSHUA LILLIE

Joshua currently serves with Envision, The Alliance's sending structure focused on short-term opportunities to join long-term cross-cultural work. Joshua began following Jesus in high school, graduated from Toccoa Falls College in northern Georgia, and has served with house churches and megachurches. He and his wife, Erin, live in Reynoldsburg, OH.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

DAVID LINN

David has been a pastor in the Northeast District for 43 years. He has, for 11 of those years, been the district superintendent of the Northeastern District. He loves to run, read, bike, play tennis, and play the guitar. David takes great joy in his family—his wife, Barb, two sons and daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren.

DAVID LONG

David is an associate pastor at The CrossWalk Church in Columbus, OH. He got pulled out of Christian radio to join church ministry, and Columbus drivers are grateful for the change. He resides in Central Ohio with his wife and son.

BRUCE LYMAN

Bruce has been married for 39 years and has three children and four grandchildren. He has been a pastor in The Alliance for 40 years and is now at the National Office as the director for Alliance ESL. Teaching English and equipping churches to do the same has been the joy of his life.

RACHEL MEIER

Rachel has a heart for missions and discipling the younger generations. Her desire is to be the love of Jesus wherever God leads her. She has served in multiple capacities within the Alliance family for the last 20 years. She and her husband, Tim, have two boys, a dog, and a cat.

PAM MILLER

Pam is a beloved daughter of the King, grateful to have been raised in The Alliance. Pam is married to Jeff, a pastor and district superintendent, lives in Kentucky, and serves in the Ohio Valley District. Pam desires to help others discover freedom in Christ and live fully seen and known by their Creator.

VICTOR MONROIG

Victor serves as superintendent of the Eastern Hispanic District, having pastored La Alianza Oasis, P.R., for 24 years. In the Puerto Rico District, he held roles in youth ministry, treasury, and multiplication. He was a university professor and is now pursuing a doctorate in ministries.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

RON MORRISON

Ron is the founding and senior pastor of Hope Alliance Bible Church in Maple Heights, OH. He has been married to Anita for 45 years and has served on the C&MA Board of Directors for 16 years. Ron is currently the president of the African American Pastors Association. He enjoys serving as a mentor and coach of urban leaders.

SONATA POMLES

Sonata is CAMA Services' marketing and communication specialist. An Ohioan who graduated from Capital University with a double major in creative writing and professional writing, her heart is to come alongside others with authentic community, intentional communication, and creative connectivity so they may experience dignity, restoration, and transformation through Christ.

DAVE REYNOLDS

Dave and Elena, married 38 years, serve together in Temecula, CA. They have planted three churches and several church-planting ministries. Dave is multiplication director for the South Pacific Alliance, serves on the National Church Multiplication Team, and coaches denominational leaders while pastoring Faith Community. They have three adult children.

KATHY SAPPPIA

Kathy has served with The Alliance since 2001, including 20 years as an international worker with her husband, Jim. Now director for Alliance Peacemaking, she equips churches and leaders to navigate conflict with humility and grace, reflecting Christ's heart and creating space for His transformational work in their lives.

BRIAN SCOTT

Brian was born in Marion, OH, and was raised in the C&MA. He is married to Susan, and they have three children and one son-in-law. He and Susan are currently serving the amazing people in the Great Lakes District.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

MONU SHINCHOURY

Monu is a dedicated wife and masters of divinity student at Crown College, currently serving as kid's ministry pastor at First Alliance Church, Columbus, OH. Additionally, she serves as a chaplain candidate in the Air Force. Monu is committed to serving both her community and the military.

CANDACE SILVEY

Candace is wife to her best friend, Army Chaplain John, who is currently stationed in Fort Knox, KY. She is also a homeschool mother to six amazing sons, two awesome daughters, and one fantastic daughter-in-love. She is passionate about marriages, parenting, and mental health. She enjoys writing, quilting, crafting, and thrifting.

HENDI SIU

Hendi was raised in a Christian family in the C&MA, saved when she was 11 years old, and baptized at the age of 16. She was healed from a brain tumor by the Lord at 21 years old, was ordained when she was 33 years old, and presently serves God.

EMILY SMITH

Emily is an editor and copywriter for the C&MA National Office. She earned her bachelor of arts from Iowa State University in 2021 and moved to the Columbus, OH, area after graduation as part of a church-planting team ministering to the city of Columbus and campus of Ohio State.

TODD SOVINE

Todd, as a follower of the King, a husband of one, a father of five, and a grandfather of eight, has had the privilege of serving the Master in the C&MA for 35 years in the local church and as a director for church planting in the Central District.

CAROLA THOMPSON

Carola lives in Columbus, OH, with her husband and children. Originally from Germany, she is passionate about missions, theology, and languages—both living and dead. She enjoys preaching and teaching to all ages, from preschool to adults. Carola has been serving as part of the National Office team since 2021.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

JONATHAN WIGGINS

Jonathan has served in The Alliance for 41 years. Together with his wife, Lori, they have served in Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, and for the last 13.5 years, has been district superintendent of the Rocky Mountain District. The Wiggins's have three adult children and seven grandchildren and live in Billings, MT.

MONTY WRIGHT

Monty is the district superintendent for the Alliance Northwest District where he empowers 110+ churches across four states. A seasoned leader and strategist, he champions church planting, leadership development, and mission-focused transformation. With deep pastoral roots and visionary oversight, he guides teams and churches toward healthy multiplication, cultural renewal, and Spirit-empowered Kingdom impact.