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Heartland Conference of the Global Methodist Church

CFMC Prayer Ministry 28-Day Devotional

***“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who
build it labor in vain” – Psalm 127:1***



Next Step 2030

As we move into our "Next Step 2030" campaign, we're reminded of Psalm 127:1, which beautifully calls us to prioritize our relationship with God in all our endeavors. With that in mind, the Claremore First Methodist Kingdom Prayer Ministry, is thrilled to share this heartfelt prayer devotional with you. We genuinely hope it inspires you to reflect on God's abundant generosity towards our congregation and the deep love He offers to each individual and family in our community.

Our church has a remarkable history of serving those in need. Many have come through our doors searching for food, clothing, or shelter, but what they have found is the transformative love of Jesus Christ. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we have a remarkable opportunity to positively impact lives in our community, one family at a time.

The potential for what we can accomplish together through Christ's love is truly limitless. Let's embark on this inspiring journey with enthusiasm and hope, dedicating ourselves to prayer and service for our community as we look forward to an exciting and positive future.

Mathew L. Jones

Prayer Minister FMC Claremore





A Firm Foundation

Scripture:

"According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder, I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it, for no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid: that foundation is Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 3:10 - 11 NRSV

Devotion:

Reflecting on our Next Step 2030 project, we are faced with numerous choices. What materials will we use, how large should our building be, and do we have a place to lay a firm foundation? We will review our budget for the building project and consider how the building will be utilized. A thousand decisions and just as many changes all along the way. Each of our choices affects the entire project. Paul uses the metaphor of construction to teach us about the importance of the foundation upon which we build our lives. He emphasizes that as believers, we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to build on the foundation of Jesus Christ. This foundation is not merely a suggestion; it is the cornerstone of our faith and the source of our strength.

Prayer:

Lord, our God, lead us as we build, make our foundation firm to withstand the difficulties of this life. Let our faith and our Christian Neighbors Center be built on the love of Christ. Amen.

Action:

Let each of us check our faith foundation, ensuring it is built on the everlasting love of Christ.

Quote:

"Jesus is the only foundation, the only sure foundation. That's the reason we should come to Him. Nobody else has that foundation; riches doesn't have it; popularity doesn't have it." - William Marriion Branham





We Shall Behold Him

Scripture:

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him. But you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. After a little while, the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me, because I live, you will live also." John 14:16 - 20 NASB

Devotion:

I've recently been reflecting on the song "We Shall Behold Him." There's a line that resonates deeply, "The angel will sound the shout of His coming, and the sleeping shall rise from their slumbering place... and we shall behold Him face to face." Oh, what a glorious day that will be! I can hardly wait for the moment when we finally see Jesus face to face, stroll along the streets of gold, and share a meal with the saints of old. Yes, indeed, what a glorious day that will be! But until that day comes, let's continue to press on in our journey of faith. Our new Christian Neighbors Center will play a vital role in this by fostering relationships, spreading the good news of Jesus, and addressing the everyday needs of our neighbors.

Prayer:

Father, help us to run a good race. I pray that each of us will meet scores of people in heaven who came to our church seeking assistance and received the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Action:

Let's all spend some time in prayer and meditation to seek God's guidance on how we can help build our new Christian Neighbors Center.

Quote:

"Do not be content to rest on the mountaintop; strive for heaven for it is your eternal home." - Author Unknown





The Poor Made Rich

Scripture:

"Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be made rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?" James 2:5 NASB95

Devotion:

Poverty has no agenda and has no bounds; it infiltrates the lives of individuals in every city or village across the globe. It is the universal plight that does not differentiate based on race, color, religion, political beliefs, or geographical location. It stands in stark contrast to a world that values wealth and status, however, God draws near to those who are downtrodden. God is attentive to the heart's true condition and selects those who are deemed overlooked by society, bestowing upon them the rich blessing of faith. God works to provide for those who need. Let's continue to allow God to work through us to meet the needs of the poor in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, Thank You for choosing the humble and for reminding us to see others through Your eyes. Help us to reflect Your love and grace in our actions. Help us as a church body to complete the Christian Neighbors Center. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Action:

I feel honored to be part of a church that has a legacy of helping people. We send people all around the world to help orphans, widows, and families in need. We invest in lifting the poor out of poverty and into the loving Hands of Jesus, who is the Christ. Let's continue to work towards the future.

Quote:

"Having, first, gained all you can and, secondly, saved all you can, then give all you can." -John Wesley





You Want Me to Do What?

Scripture:

"Moses said to the Lord, O'Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." Exodus 4:10 NIV

Devotion:

Moses' response to God's call offers a glimpse into our human tendencies, self-doubt and insecurity. Despite being chosen for a monumental task, he hesitated, feeling inadequate and ill-equipped. "I have never been eloquent," he said, expressing his fear of public speaking and his belief that he was the wrong person for the mission God laid before him. This passage is a powerful reminder that God often calls individuals who feel least capable of carrying out His work. Our weaknesses can make us question our worth, but God sees potential where we only see limitations. Moses may have struggled with his speech, but God saw in him the leader who would guide the Israelites to freedom. It is in our weakness that God does his most formidable work.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for choosing us despite our doubts and insecurities. Help us embrace our "Next Step 2030" campaign. Give us the courage to step out in faith, trusting that You will equip us to fulfill Your plans. May we lean on You for strength and wisdom, knowing that it is more than enough. Amen.

Action:

Reflect on the things that God has done in your life that seemed impossible at first and take time to praise Him for all He has done.

Quote:

"God never issues instructions that He is not prepared to enable us to follow."
- Elisabeth Elloit





Responding to God

Scripture:

"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." Hebrews 4:7 NRSV

Devotion:

In our daily lives, amidst the noise of society, we can often become distracted and pulled away from the things of God. However, God speaks to His beloved sons and daughters, and a heart softened by the Holy Spirit can recognize His voice. We are called to take a moment to pause and not allow our hearts to harden by the world we live in. Responding to God brings us back into His presence, a place where hearing His voice becomes easier. As we learn to listen for His voice, our hearts are made soft, and we begin to recognize opportunities to respond to God's call. Whether we are at work or volunteering at the food pantry, let's listen and respond to God's voice.

Prayer:

Father God, thank you for being the unchanging and reliable anchor in our lives. Today, help us to hear Your voice and respond with a heart that is soft and surrendered. Protect us from anything that would hinder our hearing and cause our hearts to be hardened. Amen.

Action:

Every day, let us take the time to listen for God's voice and respond with a gentle heart. Allow God to guide us to where He is already at work.

Quote:

"When I was young, I was sure of everything; in a few years, having been mistaken a thousand times, I was not half as sure of most things as I was before; at present, I am hardly sure of anything but what God has revealed to me." - John Wesley





The Good News

Scripture:

"She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 NSRV

Devotion:

This passage captures the essence of our Christian celebration: the good news of Jesus, our Savior, who forgives our sins. This message of forgiveness and grace inspires us to show compassion to those struggling in our communities. Our church offers various ministries that provide food, shelter, and clothing to our neighbors in need. We are actively building relationships with our neighbors while providing a resource of hope and redemption through Christ. By fostering a community that teaches, nurtures, and supports one another, we strengthen our church family and create a ripple effect of love. When we embody Christ's love in our actions, we demonstrate what it means to be a part of a caring family of believers.

Prayer:

Lord, let our church serve as a beacon of light in a world that often feels dark and hopeless. Equip us, Lord, with courage, wisdom, and resources to speak into the lives of those we meet. May our actions reflect Your love to those around us. Help us, Lord, to build lasting connections that point back to You, bringing glory to Your name and salvation to those who are lost. Amen.

Action:

Let's seek out opportunities to share the good news of Jesus, who is the Christ, with someone you minister to today.

Quote:

"I want the whole Christ for my Savior, the whole Bible for my book, the whole Church for my fellowship, and the whole world for my mission field." - John Wesley





The Law Fulfilled

Scripture:

"The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law." Romans 13:9-10 NIV

Devotion:

Paul's words remind us that the heart of God's law is relational. It's not just about following rules, but about fostering a genuine love for those around us. Love is not merely a feeling it requires action and intention. To love our neighbors entails recognizing their value and dignity as individuals created in the image of God. This love pushes us beyond our comfort zones to serve and uplift others. We are seeking to build the Christian Neighbors Center for a very important reason. Our investment aims to break down social and economic barriers while helping us build bridges within our community. This center will enable us to share the good news of God's incredible love for everyone. Imagine arriving in heaven and being greeted by a group of people who say, "We are here because you housed us, fed us, and clothed us when we needed it the most. Your love guided us onto the narrow path of salvation." I think we can all agree that this would be money well spent.

Prayer:


Dear Lord, thank You for the reminder that love fulfills the law. Help us to embody this love in our daily lives. Open our eyes to those in need around us and give us the courage to act. Amen.

Action:

As you go about your day, consider how you can represent love in your interactions. Who in your life could use a reminder of their worth? How might you express your love tangibly? Let love guide your actions and be the foundation upon which you build your relationships.

Quote:

"I continue to dream and pray about a revival of holiness in our day that moves forth in mission and creates authentic community in which each person can be unleashed through the empowerment of the Spirit to fulfill God's creational intentions." - John Wesley





Pleasing Sacrifices

Scripture:

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16

Devotion:

Hebrews 13:16 highlights a dual call to act: to do good and share with others. Doing good and sharing with others includes a wide range of actions, from simple kindness to significant efforts that can create positive change in our communities. When we engage in acts of goodness and sharing, we fulfill a moral obligation and express the love of Christ to those around us. Notice that Hebrews 13:16 also says that our generosity is a sacrifice that God finds pleasing. Whether it's volunteering your skills, supporting a friend, or offering encouragement, your willingness to share can transform lives and strengthen community bonds. Reflect on what you have, how can you use it to bless someone else?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, Thank You for the opportunities to do good and share with others. Help us to recognize the ways we can contribute positively to those around us. May our actions reflect Your love and may they please You. Amen.

Action:

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. As you navigate through your week, ask yourself how you can be more intentional in doing good and sharing what you have. Recall that these small sacrifices, which may seem insignificant in the grand scheme of life, hold immense value in the eyes of God. How can your actions today resonate with His love and purpose?

Quote:

"A sacrifice to be real must hurt, and we must empty ourselves. Give yourself fully to God. He will use you to accomplish great things on the condition that you believe much more in His love than in your weakness." - Saint Teresa of Calcutta





Praise Is Appropriate

Scripture:

"Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise Him." Psalm 147:1

Devotion:

Yes, it is good and fitting to praise the Lord, the Creator of the universe. Yes, it is good and fitting to praise the Lord who sustains us by His mighty hand. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Each of us has great reason to praise the Lord. He watches over us and guides our steps. He brings healing in times of sickness and deliverance in times of trouble. Even in the uncertainty of our darkest hour, we can find reason to praise the Lord. Praise for the Lord comes in many variations. We praise when we study His word, we praise when we sing out the wonderful worship songs we enjoy so much, we praise when we help those in need. But the most excellent form of praise is when we share the good news of Jesus with someone. When we share our faith with someone and they decide to follow Christ, they, too, will find it fitting to come singing praises to the Lord.

Prayer:

Lord God, Abba, Father, we come praising your name. We raise our voice in song, and we sit quietly reflecting on your word. We come boldly before your throne in prayer, and we praise you, all-mighty God, but let us not forget those who cannot praise you, for they do not know you. As a body of believers, let us work diligently, using all of our resources to lead others to the cross of Jesus, that they might join us in rejoicing and praising the Lord. Amen.

Action:

Let's take a moment to reflect on the value of witnessing a new believer worshipping and praising God.

Quote:

"No outward practices will stand in the place of new birth. Nothing under heaven will stand in its place." - John Wesley





Let Us Worship

Scripture:

"O' Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." Psalm 95:6 NRSV

Devotion:

Psalm 95:6 invites us into a sacred space, a time to focus on our Creator. We are beckoned to humility and reverence. Bowing down and kneeling are physical expressions of our hearts yielding to God's greatness. It's a reminder that, while we often seek control and independence, true fulfillment and strength come from surrendering to the One who knows us intimately and cares for us deeply. Worship is more than just singing songs or attending church; it's an acknowledgment of who God is and what He has done. When we worship, we shift our focus from ourselves to Him, recognizing His love, grace, and sovereignty. It is within this posture of worship that we find peace and perspective amid life's challenges. As we take time to worship today, let's intentionally set aside the noise around us. Whether in the quiet of your home, in nature, or within the community of believers, allow your heart to kneel before God. Reflect on His goodness, meditate on His Word, and express your gratitude.

Prayer:

May our time with you be fulfilling, and may we find contentment in your presence as we meditate on your word. Lead us in the vision you have given us as a church that we might build a space to meet the needs of our community and share the good news of the gospel of Jesus, who is the Christ. Lord, help us to recognize the moments in our life where we can bow down and kneel before You. May our worship be a true reflection of our hearts and an acknowledgment of Your greatness. Thank You for being our Maker and for inviting us into Your presence. Amen.

Action:

Spend time in prayer for those in our community that do not know Christ.

Quote:

"You never go away from us, yet we have difficulty in returning to You. Come, Lord, stir us up and call us back. Kindle and seize us. Be our fire and our sweetness. Let us love. Let us run." - Augustine of Hippo





Keep Yourselves in the Love of God

Scripture:

"Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. And have mercy on some who are doubting; save others, snatching them out of the fire." Jude 1:21-23a NASB 95

Devotion:

We make it a habit of inviting everyone to get involved in a ministry or small group. We want everyone to feel they have a place of service and a place of belonging. However, people sometimes become overwhelmed by all the busyness of ministry. The constant demands of ministry can pull us away from our quiet time, draw us away from reading scripture, and from spending time in prayer. Before we know it, we find ourselves feeling distant from God, no longer relying on His provision. Jude 1:21 reminds us to stay in God's love; it doesn't instruct us to stay in love with God but emphasizes that we should be anchored in God's love for us. We are encouraged to seek God's love anxiously. We should seek to wade in God's love like wading in a river. We want to be centered in it, not on one bank or the other, but walking in the middle of His love. Jude 1:21 also reminds us that there will be some who doubt God loves them. Let us not be judgmental but merciful, just as God has been merciful to each of us. Additionally, we must look for opportunities to rescue those who are lost. Jude 1:21 describes it as "snatching them from the fire", thereby leading them from the brink of destruction to the living water of Jesus, who is the Christ.

Prayer:

Lord, teach us to live in the center of your love and help us to snatch souls from the fire. Let our worship and our work be pleasing to you, our Lord. Amen.

Action:

Let's be sure to take time out of our busy day to stand in God's love. Let us also seek out those who are headed for destruction and lead them to the love of God.

Quote:

"An infinite God can give all of Himself to each of His Children. He does not distribute Himself that each may have a part, but to each one He gives all of Himself as fully as if there were no others." - A. W. Tozer





Keep the Fire Burning

Scripture:

"The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously: it must not go out."
Leviticus 6:13 NIV

Devotion:

As believers, we are reminded in Leviticus 6:13 that the fire on the altar must be kept burning continually. This is not just a physical fire, but a symbol of our spiritual fervor and relationship with God. The altar represents a place of sacrifice, worship, and connection. Just as the priests were instructed to keep the fire alive, we too are called to maintain the flame of our faith through prayer, worship, and obedience. We should reflect on what fuels our spiritual fire. Are we spending time in God's Word? Are we engaging in community with other believers? Are we passionate about our relationship with God, or have we let distractions and burdens snuff out our enthusiasm? Keeping the fire burning requires that we actively seek ways to draw closer to God.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, help us to keep the fire of our faith burning bright. Guide us as we spend time in Your Word and in prayer. Ignite our hearts with passion for You and for the lost in our community. Let our life be a constant source of worship and service. May our fire burn bright for all the world to see. Amen.

Action:

This week, set aside specific times for prayer and Bible study. Consider joining a small group or fellowship where you can grow with others. Look for opportunities to serve within your community or church to keep your heart engaged and your passion alive.

Quote:

"My fear is not that our great movement, known as the Methodists, will eventually cease to exist or one day die from the earth. My fear is that our people will become content to live without the fire, the power, the excitement, the supernatural element. That makes us great." - John Wesley





Consider Jesus

Scripture:

"Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession." Hebrews 3:1 NASB95

Devotion:

Consider Jesus is a remarkable statement. This should be the banner that flies over all of our churches. HAVE YOU CONSIDERED JESUS? This one short phrase can become the perfect evangelism tool. Imagine, for a moment, if just ten percent of any given congregation were to ask this question of one or two people every day for one month. "Excuse me, have you considered Jesus?" As I typed this, I took a moment to reflect on when I last considered Jesus. I have to admit that it has been a while since I paused long enough to contemplate God's mercy and grace. It has been too long since I considered how God lavishes His blessing upon us, how He meets us in times of trouble, and how He longs to connect with us in the cool of the day. God desires our presence. He desires to abundantly fill our lives and the lives of those around us. We get to bless those around us with His mercy and grace by providing clothing, food, and housing for those in need, and in doing so, we create an opportunity to ask the most important question ever asked: Have you considered Jesus?

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for your many blessings in our lives. You have invested in us, so much more than we ever deserved. Our lives are overflowing, and now we get to invest Your abundance in the lives of others through the Christian Neighbors Center. Amen.

Action:

Make some time today to consider Jesus and all He has done in your life, pause, and reflect on His many blessings.

Quote:

"It's not about finding ways to avoid God's judgment and feeling like a failure if you don't do everything perfectly. It's about fully experiencing God's love and letting it perfect you. It's not about being somebody you are not. It's about becoming who you really are." - Stormie Omartian





Faithful Stewardship

Scripture:

"Moreover, it is required in stewards that one be found faithful." 1 Corinthians 4:2 NKJV

Devotion:

Stewardship is not simply about money—it's about faithfully managing all that God has entrusted to us. What matters most in stewardship is faithfulness. When we view ourselves as stewards rather than owners, we make the transition to a Kingdom-focused life. In the parable of the talents three servants are entrusted with their master's wealth. Two invested wisely and were commended, but one hid his gift out of fear. The message is clear: God expects us to use what He gives us for His purposes. Faithful stewardship doesn't require abundance, but obedience. Stewardship is an act of worship, revealing our trust in the giver rather than the gifts. Let us be faithful stewards living with open hands, ready to serve God and bless others with all He has entrusted to us.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for every blessing You have placed in our lives. We see ourselves as stewards of Your gifts. Teach us to use that which has been entrusted to us to glorify You and serve others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Action:

Identify one area—time, talent, or treasure—where you can be a better steward this week.

Quote:

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." -Winston Churchill





Guard Your Heart

Scripture:

"Guard your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life."
Proverbs 4:23 LBS

Devotion:

That's excellent advice: "Guard your heart with all diligence." We must remain vigilant and not look away, even for a moment, lest we allow the wrong influences to enter our hearts. Imagine someone standing guard at a palace gate, allowing only a select few to enter while keeping everyone else out to protect the king. This is a serious responsibility because letting the wrong person in could threaten the rule represented within that palace.

While the guard controls who or what enters, they do not dictate who exits. The same principle applies to our hearts. Whatever, or whoever we allow into our hearts influences how we respond to the world, how we react to our loved ones, and how we perceive God. Our hearts are the source of the lives we lead, reflecting what we've allowed to influence us. Therefore, let us be watchful about what we permit to enter our hearts and, if necessary, take time for some "heart housekeeping."

Prayer:

Help us to be diligent in the guarding of our hearts, so that what flows out may be pleasing to the Lord. Please help us to search our hearts and do the hard but necessary cleansing. Please show us what displeases you so that we can remove it from our hearts. Amen.

Action:

Take some time to be still and ask God what he would like for you to remove from or add to your life. Ask God to search you and reveal what he finds.

Quote:

"The neglected heart will soon be a heart overrun with worldly thoughts; the neglected life will soon become a moral chaos." - A.W. Tozer





Created for Good Works

Scripture:

"For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them." Ephesians 2:10 NRSV

Devotion:

This passage reminds us that we are more than mere accidents of fate; we are intricately crafted by the Creator, each of us designed with intention and purpose. We are not only made, but fashioned with care, each detail of our lives perfectly designed. Ephesians 2:10 should instill a sense of value and worth, knowing that we are created by God for God. We see that God has prepared good works for us to walk in. God has created us for a specific purpose, filled with opportunities for positive contributions to the world around us. Each day presents an opening to live out this calling, whether through acts of kindness, service, generosity, or simply being present for others. Ephesians 2:10 serves as a powerful reminder to embrace our unique gifts and the specific roles we play in God's plan. Let us strive to find joy in our identity as God's handiwork.

Prayer:

Father, whether small or large, help us to embrace every opportunity to live out our life in the role for which we were created. Amen.

Action:

As you meditate on this verse, ask yourself: How can I embody the good works that God has prepared for me? What specific talents or opportunities can I embrace to make a positive impact?

Quote:

"It is no accident that you are who you are. It is no accident that you live when you live. It is no accident that you live where you do" - H.B. Charles Jr.





Forgive the Iniquities of the People

Scripture:

"Forgive the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have pardoned this people, from Egypt even until now." Numbers 14:19 NRSV

Devotion:

In Numbers 14:19, Moses intercedes for the Israelites, asking the Lord to forgive their iniquities. Highlighting the profound themes of forgiveness, grace, and God's steadfast love. Moses' plea for the people embodies the heart of intercession. Rather than seeking immediate judgment for their rebellion, he appeals to God's mercy. This reminds us of our calling to stand in the gap for others. Just as Moses implored God, we too can pray for forgiveness for our community, our loved ones, and even ourselves, recognizing that we all fall short and require grace. The context of this verse is significant; the Israelites had just expressed their desire to return to Egypt after witnessing God's miraculous deliverance from Egypt. They were disobedient and afraid, yet Moses reminded God of His unwavering love and prayed for their forgiveness. As we move forward in our Next Step 2030 campaign, let's remember to pray for those who come seeking relief.

Prayer:

Father, you see the faces of those who come seeking relief from the burdens of life. We pray, Lord, that you will call each of them by name that they may know you and receive you. Amen.

Action:

Let's not wait until the year 2030 to take action. Consider volunteering one day a month in the food pantry and the Amazing Grace Ministries clothing closet.

Quote:

"You have one business on earth – to save souls." - John Wesley





Hear the Voice of God

Scripture:

"Then he said: 'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear His own voice.'" Acts 22:14 NRSV

Devotion:

This verse is part of Paul's testimony, where he recounts his calling and the divine appointment he received. It serves as a powerful reminder of God's sovereignty and purpose in our lives. Just as Paul was chosen to share God's message, we too are called to engage with His will and to be vessels of His truth. God has a purpose for each of us, and when we seek to understand His will, we can experience profound transformation. Consider the implications of being called by God. It invites us to cultivate a relationship where we actively listen to His voice. In prayer and in scripture, we are given the opportunity to 'see the Righteous One' more clearly and to allow His words to guide our actions.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for choosing us to know Your will and to be part of Your plan. Help us to truly hear Your words and to see You in our lives. May we be bold in sharing the truth of the Gospel with others, just as Paul did. Amen.

Action:

Take some time this week to reflect on your own calling. Write down moments where you have felt God's leading and look for opportunities to share your story or the truths you've learned. Trust that you are chosen, just as Paul was.

Quote:

"When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer





His Servants Shall Serve Him

Scripture:

"...His bondservants shall serve Him; and they shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads." Revelation 22:3,4 NASB 95

Devotion:

In this scripture, we discover three aspects of what life in heaven will be like: First, there will be service. Our worship of God will be expressed through our service, and it will come as naturally as a bee collecting pollen or a bird building its nest. There will be no strain, and we will not grow weary in our service to the Lord.

Secondly, there will be vision; we will see God face to face and experience Him in all of His glory. Here on this earth, we can only get an indication of God through His word and in prayer. It is as if we are peering through a deep fog and can only make out His shadow. When we arrive in heaven, we will see Him in all of His splendor, and he will never vanish from our sight. Thirdly, there will be a transformation; His name will be on their foreheads, indicating we will be like Him. We will no longer be broken; we shall be made whole and completely restored. Oh, how we long for that day to come!

Prayer:

Lord, lead us as we prepare for the day when we will serve you in heaven, when we will see you face to face, and when we will be completely transformed. Teach us to use our time here to become more like you every day. Amen.

Action:

Let us prepare ourselves. Let us serve Him by serving others. Let us provide for the needs of those around us and share the good news of Jesus. Let us find a vision of God in heaven and keep our focus on the eternal things of God. Let us be transformed through reading scripture and prayer, thereby renewing our minds. And lastly, let us be gentle and merciful in serving others.

Quote:

"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say I used everything You gave me."
- Erma Bombeck





Always Ready to Give an Account

Scripture:

"Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you." 1 Peter 3:15 NRSV

Devotion:

Recently, a coworker asked me, "Why are you always so calm?" I smiled, knowing it was Christ that they saw in me. I could have mumbled something about keeping my cool, but instead I shared my faith and explained my peace comes from my hope in Jesus. Peter reminds us that witnessing is for all believers, not just for those in formal ministry. It's about living a life that reflects faith in Christ. The majority of our opportunities to share our faith occur when we are involved in ministries that develop relationships. As we reach out to our community through acts of kindness, our faith comes alive, and our witness is visible.

Prayer:

Lord, help us to develop relationships within our community that will provide opportunities to share our faith. Amen.

Action:

Evaluate your readiness to share your faith. Seek the Lord's guidance in preparation.

Quote:

"Only one life, soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last" - C.T. Studd, British missionary





Blessed Assurance

Scripture:

"And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith." Philippians 3:9 NIV

Devotion:

Tune composer Phoebe Palmer Knapp (1839-1908) played a melody to Fanny Crosby and asked, "What does the melody say to you?" Crosby replied that the tune said, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!". Fanny Crosby (1820-1915), blind at the age of six weeks, was a lifelong Methodist who began composing hymns at age six. An author of more than 8,000 gospel hymn texts, she drew her inspiration from her own faith. Crosby's hymns have historically been among the most popular songs sung by Methodists. Crosby captured the poetic essence of the Wesleyan understanding of Christian perfection in the phrase, "O what a foretaste of glory divine!" The entire hymn is focused on heaven, a place where "perfect submission" and "perfect delight" will take place. The earthly existence is one of "watching and waiting, looking above." As we submit ourselves to Christ and are "filled with his goodness" and "lost in his love", we are remade in Christ's image and are moving toward Christian perfection.

Prayer:

Lord God, it is through faith in Jesus that we find the righteousness of God and thereby are assured of our salvation, yes, that blessed assurance that Jesus is mine. Amen.

Action:

Pick up a hymnal and slowly read the lyrics of "Blessed Assurance," meditating on this wonderful hymn.

Quote:

"God cannot be explained, but He can be experienced. I know in whom I place my trust." - M.L. Jones





Bind Us Together

Scripture:

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." Colossians 3:14 NIV

Devotion:

Colossians 3:14 serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of love in our relationships with one another and with God. Just as clothing protects us and reflects our identity, love should be the garment we put on each day. When Paul speaks of clothing ourselves in love, he emphasizes that this love is not merely an emotion, but an active choice. It requires diligence, especially in moments of conflict or misunderstanding. God's love, which we are called to embody, is patient, kind, and forgiving. It is the love that Christ demonstrated through His sacrifice, always seeking the good of others, regardless of the circumstance.

This scripture also reminds us of the unifying power of love. In a world that often highlights division and strife, love acts as a thread that weaves hearts and lives together in perfect harmony. When we choose to love, we are actively participating in God's plan for community and connection. We become vessels of His grace, reflecting His character to those around us.

Prayer:

Lord, clothe us in your love, a love that never fails and that binds us together. A forgiving, patient, redeeming love that surpasses all that we can imagine. Amen.

Action:

Just as we make a point of putting on the Armor of God, let us be sure to clothe ourselves in His love every day.

Quote:

"Love is the highest gift of God... the heaven of heavens is love. There is nothing higher in religion; there is, in effect, nothing else." - John Wesley





Comfort Those in Trouble

Scripture:

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble, with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." 2 Corinthians NIV 95

Devotion:

In our scripture reading for today, we are reminded that God is our great comfort, especially in times of trouble. Knowing that we will face challenging moments in life, we can take great comfort in understanding that God promises us His reassurance and comfort. We are also reminded of God's nature: we are comforted so that we may comfort others. This is an essential part of who God is, and we are expected to live our lives similarly by extending comfort to those who are hurting. We have a vision for the new Christian Neighbors Center. A place that will offer comfort amid the difficulties of the world. It will be a place where people can receive assistance while maintaining their dignity. A place where the love of God will not only be discussed but lived out, and a place where people experience firsthand the love, mercy, grace, and comfort of God.

Prayer:

May we offer the same measure of comfort and grace to those in dire straits as we have received from the Lord our God. May the comfort we provide to others be as significant as the comfort which we have received. Amen.

Action:

Take time to consider not only how you might contribute to the building of the new Christian Neighbors Center, but also how you can get involved in the lives of our neighbors within the community. How can you be a comfort to others?

Quote:

"I take great comfort in the shadow of the cross, a symbol of destruction and death, but the fruit it bears is the sweetest I have ever known." - Author Unknown





Count Your Blessings

Scripture:

"Many, Lord my God, are the wonders You have done, the things You planned for us. None can compare with You; were I to speak and tell of Your deeds, they would be too many to declare." Psalm 40:5 NIV

Devotion:

Let us approach God with the same sense of awe and gratitude that David displays in this wonderful Psalm. As we meditate on this verse, let's consider the countless wonders God has performed in the life of our church. Each day brings its own blessings, from the simple joys to profound miracles. So many joys and miracles like grains of sand on the beach, we couldn't begin to count them. In acknowledging God's wonders, we also recognize His faithfulness in planning for our lives. These plans are not always immediately visible to us, but we can trust that they are woven with purpose and love. We can cling to the assurance that God is actively working in our lives, piling up testimonies of His greatness. God's hand is truly resting upon our church as he leads us through this wonderful journey.

Prayer:

Lord, Thank You for the wonders You have done and for the plans You have for us. Help us to remember Your faithfulness, even when we can't see the full picture. Guide us to share Your goodness with others and to celebrate the many ways You bless our lives. Amen.

Action:

Take a moment to stand on the grass where the new Christian Neighbors Center will be constructed and thank God for all those whose lives will be positively impacted. Pray that many will come to Christ as a result of God's calling and generosity.

Quote:

"Did you ever stop to think that God is going to be as pleased to have you with Him in Heaven as you are to be there?" - A.W. Tozer





Come and Rest

Scripture:

*"Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28 RSV*

Devotion:

In this verse, Jesus invites us to come to Him when we find ourselves weary and weighed down. This invitation is not just a suggestion; it is a promise of solace and rejuvenation. Jesus recognizes our struggles, and He offers us a way out of our exhaustion. The rest He speaks of is not merely a physical reprieve but a deep spiritual renewal. It's an invitation to lay down our worries and burdens at His feet, trusting that He will provide us with the peace we seek. For most of us this time of rest and regeneration can occur in any place we find to relax and spend time with God but there are many in our community who don't have the promise of God's rest. It is not available to them because they do not know God as their Lord and Savior. Our church is a place where people can come and find rest in the Lord.

Prayer:

Lord, we thank You for Your promise of rest. Teach us to come to You with our burdens and to trust in Your ability to lighten our load. Teach us to seek You in our daily lives, so we may experience the peace and rest that only You can provide. Amen.

Action:

Take a moment today to reflect on what burdens you may be carrying. Are there worries, fears, or responsibilities that feel too heavy? Bring those concerns to Jesus in prayer and find rest.

Quote:

"Nothing can calm our souls more or better prepare us for life's challenges than time spent alone with God." - Billy Graham





A Cup of Cold Water

Scripture:

"And whoever gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he shall not lose his reward." Matthew 10:42 (RSV)

Devotion:

Even the smallest acts of kindness have a profound impact. Jesus emphasizes the importance of caring for those who are often overlooked, particularly the vulnerable and the needy. The phrase "a cup of cold water" symbolizes simplicity and accessibility, signifying that even the most modest gestures of compassion can hold great significance in the eyes of God. We should consider the value of humility in our service. It challenges us to seek opportunities to bless others, especially those who may be suffering, marginalized, or in need of support. Our Next Step 2030 will provide those opportunities to build relationships and meet the needs of our neighbors in our day-to-day interactions, within our community.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, Thank You for reminding us of the power of small acts of kindness. Help us to recognize the needs around us and equip us with the courage to respond. May our lives reflect Your love, and may we find joy in serving others. Thank You for Your promise that even the smallest contributions do not go unnoticed. Amen.

Action:

Consider how you can offer a "cup of cold water" to someone in your life this week. It could be as simple as lending a listening ear to a friend, helping a neighbor with their groceries, or volunteering your time in the food pantry. These acts, though seemingly small, carry immense weight in the Kingdom of God.

Quote:

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving." - Mother Teresa





Saved by Grace

Scripture:

"For the grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."
Ephesians 2:8-9

Devotion:

It is not for works which I have wrought
Not for gifts that I have brought
Not for the blessing that I have sought
That I have been accepted.
Not for the tears that I have shed
Not for the prayers that I have said
Not for fear and not for dread
That I have been accepted
From these, I turn my eyes to him
Who bore the judgement due for sin
And by Christ's blood I entered in. -Author Unknown

Prayer:

Father, as we offer our helping hands to those in need, remind us of the reason for our work and encourage us to share the good news of Jesus, who is the Christ. Amen.

Action:

Take the time to share the good news of Christ with someone today.

Quote:

"God's plan for enlarging his kingdom is so simple, one person telling another about the Savior. Yet we're busy and full of excuses. Just remember, someone's eternal destiny is at stake. The joy you'll have when you meet that person in heaven will far exceed any discomfort you felt in sharing the gospel." - Charles Stanley





Behold the Lamb of God

Scripture:

"...John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world." John 1:29 CSB

Devotion:

John the Baptist introduced Jesus as the Lamb of God, emphasizing His role in taking away the sins of the world. A powerful statement that underscores the foundation of our faith in Christ. As we embark on our building campaign, it's essential to reflect on the reason we're building. Let's not just focus on bricks and mortar, but on faith and purpose. Let's focus on the Lamb of God, the very foundation of our faith. It is vital that we build our new Christian Neighbors Center with the same firm foundation. Our project goes beyond a physical structure; it signifies our collective commitment to honoring God and advancing His Kingdom. This building will be a place where lives are transformed, where faith is nurtured, and where hope is renewed, a place where people can encounter the Lamb of God and have their sins taken away. I hope this inspires us to give, to serve, and to pray with tremendous faith, knowing that the impact goes far beyond food and clothing. Our foundation is secure in Jesus.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank You for being our redeemer, our advocate, and our provider. As we embark on the Next Step 2030 campaign, guide us in our efforts, provide for our needs, and may every brick laid reflect Your love and grace. May this place serve as a beacon of hope for all who enter. Amen.

Action:

Take a moment to stand in the grass where the Christian Neighbors Center will be built and reflect on Jesus as the Lamb of God. Reflect on the knowledge that souls will be saved on the ground where you are standing.

Quote:

"There is only one secure foundation: a genuine, deep relationship with Jesus Christ, which will carry you through any and all turmoil. No matter what storms are raging all around, you'll stand firm if you stand on His love." - Charles Stanley





SOME CLOSING THOUGHTS

Finding the right words to wrap up this devotional was a challenge. I wanted to convey a message of encouragement, yet nothing seemed to fit. When I heard those inspiring words from Bishop Greenway on a Sunday night: "BE BOLD." In that instant, it clicked, this captured everything that needed to be expressed.

As we look ahead to the year 2030, we are taking a significant leap of faith. We're setting out on a bold mission to raise over \$6 million dollars over the next three years for a building project that will truly meet the needs of our community.

While many churches may focus on creating lavish spaces that prioritize comfort over purpose, we're choosing a different path. Our focus is on our community, prioritizing those who are facing their own struggles each week. We believe in valuing people above experiences, and we're committed to the narrow road, working out our faith by showing love and support to those who may feel lost or hopeless.

With courage and faith, we're moving forward to bring hope and restoration into our community through our Christian Neighbors Center. So, remember those powerful words from Bishop Greenway: "BE BOLD." Let that be our guiding principle as we embark on this journey together.





Kingdom

Prayer Ministry

☀️ *Do You Need Prayer? We Can Help!* ☀️

Discover the support you need—don't hesitate to reach out! We offer private confidential prayers for healing, family matters, freedom from addiction, salvation, and guidance. Plus, join us in our uplifting community prayer events! Let us connect you with a recovery group and supportive accountability partners.

Join us for our Monday Night Prayer Group at 6 PM in the church chapel,
led by Frank and Linda Mangun. Everyone is welcome!

For personal ministry, contact Mathew Jones

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Let's pray together! 💖

