



21
DAYS OF IMPACTFUL PRAYER
21

**MOVING
FORWARD**

PRAYER THAT
WILL IMPACT YOUR
RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD,
YOUR CHURCH,
YOUR COMMUNITY
AND THE WORLD

Adapted from Converge's 2020 Moving Forward: 21 days of prayer that will impact your relationship with God, your church, your community and the world.

Scripture reference: Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are from the New International Version.

START

Every people group and community should have the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel. That is why WACC is a missionally minded church with the vision to bring Jesus to people and people to Jesus. Over the next five days, take some time to pray that God would show us how we can be people who are reaching out to our surrounding communities so more people have the opportunity to experience the love of Jesus and see their lives changed by Christ's love and truth.



Day 1: Busy, But Distracted

³⁸As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" ⁴¹"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴²but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:38-42.)

Reflections

In his book *The Screwtape Letters*, C.S. Lewis thoroughly describes distraction and a hectic lifestyle, saying they are tools of demonic forces, used to weaken the Christian's devotion to God. Is it possible we can get so busy doing ministry that we forget about our first love, Jesus? In the Luke passage, we see Martha busy scurrying around trying to serve all the guests while Mary sits at the feet of Jesus. Martha even takes time to share her frustration concerning Mary to Jesus, to which Jesus gives a simple but pointed reply: "Martha, you are worried about details. There is only one worth being concerned about, and Mary has discovered it."

Challenge

Our friends, family, and surrounding communities need us to be people who sit at the feet of Jesus. They need us to draw near, to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and pray accordingly for them. Your prayers are indispensable in the work that God is doing. It is easy for us to get so distracted with the pace of life, doing ministry, etc., that we neglect taking time with our first love. Take time to pray that God would give you a vision of how you can join in his mission in bringing Jesus to people and people to Jesus.

Prayer

My Father, thank you for the call you have placed on our lives. We consider it a great privilege to be gifted and commissioned into your service in so many different ways. I pray that you would give me a heart for the things that matter to you. I ask that you allow me to see how I can join you in the work you are doing in the lives of the people around me. Open doors for the gospel to go forward. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

[illegible]



Day 2: Connected

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵I 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. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete (John 15:1-11).

Reflections

Life is full of distractions. Some are good because they take our mind away from the stressors of our day or season for even a short time, giving us room to rest. At other times, distractions get us into trouble. They keep us from doing what needs to be done or from becoming the person we can/should become. Even ministry demands can become unnecessary and destructive distractions in our lives. The passage in John reminds us of the importance of staying connected to our life source. Be cautious of allowing demands or distractions to break your connection.

It is easy to become anxious and concerned about the many things competing for our attention, and, as a result, we can miss the best things. God desires us to be in close relationship with him every step of the way. He knows the best and safest place for us to exist is under his authority. Apart from him, we can do nothing, the church can do nothing.

Challenge

Pray that our church would stay connected to the vine. Pray for oneness and unity as we work toward the mission God has called us to accomplish. Are you living in a close relationship with God? What needs to be added and what do you believe God desires to prune to maintain a strong connection?

Prayer

As your word reminds us, “apart from you, we can do nothing.” Father, I pray for our church. Help us stay focused and connected to you as our lifeline. Bring us together in great unity that will have a lasting impact on our surrounding communities. Let nothing distract us from the mission to which you have called us. In the name of Jesus I pray! Amen.

Prayer Journal

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.



Day 3: Courage

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ¹⁹Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should (Ephesians 6:18-20).

Reflections

Martin Luther once said, "Preach as if Jesus was crucified yesterday, rose from the dead today and is returning tomorrow." In other words, live courageously, knowing our time is limited. In our post-Christian world, it is easy for believers to retreat rather than engage the culture with the gospel. Often, our retreat isn't due to the lack of opportunity or even lack of training — it's due to a lack of courage.

Fear within can keep us from living out the calling God has placed on our lives. This is no different in our lives.

Challenge

Pray that you, as an individual, and we, as a church, would know the opportunities that exist in front of us and would have the courage to walk the path before us. Pray that every time you open your mouth, you would speak the message of Jesus with boldness.

Prayer

Dear Lord, open doors that are seemingly closed. Give great favor to our church and ministry teams as we venture into the unknown. Encourage us in the midst of our circumstances, and give us supernatural courage to take the steps we need to take and have the conversations we need to have. May we be bold in the proclamation of the gospel. Amen.

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Day 4: Health and Protection

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one (Ephesians 6:10-16).

Reflections

As the church, we are on the front lines of a very real battle. The church is under nonstop attacks from the enemy. Jesus said about himself, "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered" (Matthew 26:31). This is true of a local flock as well.

We all have heard stories of or even personally known someone taken down and out of ministry by the enemy. These should cause us to pause and reflect on the spiritual battle waging all around us and within our churches. The enemy uses every opportunity, good and bad, to weaken the people who are God's messengers.

Challenge

Find a ministry leader (volunteer, staff member, or Global Partner at WACC) and pray over them and their family. Ask God to protect and strengthen them. Prayer is our wartime walkie-talkie to God, and it is time we call in reinforcements to come to the aid of our brothers and sisters fighting on the front lines.

Prayer

Dear Lord, distraction, discouragement and despair can be the enemy's tools to sidetrack your workers. We ask that you supernaturally intervene in the lives of ministry leaders in our church. Bring healing where needed. Allow them to stand firm on the front lines. Grant them rest when needed and surround them with an army of encouragers. Provide financially exactly what is needed, and may we together celebrate the life changes that take place because of these new works.

[illegible]



Day 5: Endurance

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:9-10).

Reflections

Joop Zoetemelk won the Tour de France in 1980. The Tour de France is the pinnacle of competitive cycling. It is also the most grueling bicycle race in the world. What most people don't know about Joop is that he started and finished the Tour 16 times. He finished in second place five times before finally bringing home the trophy. That is perseverance and endurance combined.

How many people lost out on the opportunity to achieve success simply because they gave up too soon? This happens in every area of life: family, education, friendships, work, ministry. Endurance is necessary.

Many pastors deal with issues that bind them and keep them from making the progress they hope to see in their community. Unseen issues are often present and have a way of showing up in health crises, false accusations, financial problems and emotional, marital and even physical challenges.

Challenge

Pray our church will have the endurance to continue on, to press forward and experience God's miraculous power as we carry out the mission God has assigned us.

Prayer

Dear Lord, it is easy to get tired and, in our tiredness, feel we are all alone. Seasons can go by when we feel we are making little or no difference. I pray today that our church will be stubborn for the work you have called us to. Provide men and women to lift up your warriors' arms in the midst of their weariness, just as Aaron and Hur lifted Moses' arms. May our hope be the driver that inspires us all until we see you face to face. Amen.

Prayer Journal

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 horizontal blue or grey lines spaced evenly apart, typical of notebook paper. The lines extend across the entire width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical lines, text, or other markings on the page.

STRENGTHEN

Healthy churches are led by healthy leaders, and they play important roles in advancing the gospel. It is crucial that ministry leaders are able to maintain their spiritual, emotional and physical health so that their ministry and personal life thrive. Over the next five days, pray for your pastor's and other ministry leaders' health so they can increase their ministry impact and reach more people for Jesus.



Day 6: Pray for Your Leaders

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives (Colossians 1:9).

Reflections

The last two years have been challenging for everyone. High levels of sickness, unforeseen deaths, self-isolation, political tension, and the everyday challenges of life remain burdens that many have faced over this last year. These have been hard on everyone, and your church leadership is no exception. The realities of the last couple of years have demanded that ministry leaders learn to lead church differently to meet the unique needs of our church family and community.

Challenge

Scriptures teach us: Pray for your leaders. Continually pray God fills them “with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives.”

Prayer

Holy God, I pray for our church leaders. I pray they will have wisdom in their decision making and courage to do what they believe is your will. I also pray for their health — spiritually, mentally and emotionally. Father, hold them in your arms and keep them encouraged. Lastly, I pray we as a congregation will love our leaders as they make vital decisions for our church.

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Day 7: Prayer for Your Community

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should (Colossians 4:2-4).

Reflections

You probably have heard a thousand times, or have even said, “The church is not a building. It is the people.” We like our buildings — nothing wrong with that. But we know Christianity is not just a religion. Rather, it is the people of God. It is time to start talking about how we, as a church, can reach our communities in a fresh way. Never have we had a better time to have a missional mindset. Your neighbors might be hurting, lost, confused and lonely. While everyone is experiencing this to an extent, can you imagine going through the last couple of years without Christ? Now more than ever is a time your surrounding community is open to the life-changing truth of the gospel. Ask the Lord how you can show the love of Christ to your neighbor.

Challenge

Colossians 4 asks us to pray “that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ.” Look for doors opened by the Lord and ask him how you might respond.

Prayer

Holy God, I pray for my neighbors. I cannot imagine what they are going through without having you in their lives. Show me the open doors. Give me the boldness to love my neighbors. Give me the wisdom to show them your love and salvation.

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Day 8: Pray for Your Neighboring Church

Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. ²On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. ³Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me (1 Corinthians 16: 1-4).

Reflections

We have spent the last week praying a lot for our church. However, it is also healthy for a church to look for ways to serve their neighboring churches. We want to have a Kingdom mindset, encouraging and praying for other churches in our surrounding communities. Pray God will show your church leadership another church to serve. Perhaps it could be one of a different culture for the added benefit of learning from them in the relationship.

Challenge

Ask God to reveal to you neighboring churches you can serve in relationship and resources. As the apostle Paul once challenged, "Do the same thing I told the Galatian churches to do... put aside money as you have been blessed...I will send whomever you approve to take your gift to Jerusalem." We operate at our best when we are moving together. Let's put that into practice in how we serve other churches.

Prayer

God, I pray for the churches in our area. Some are crying out to you for help, and you may be calling our church to be the hands and feet of Jesus for them. Open our eyes so that even during our trying times we may be an instrument of your blessing.

Prayer Journal

[illegible]



Day 9: Pray for Our Kids, Students, and Young Adults

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity (1 Timothy 4:12).

Reflections

Our children, students, and young adults continue to face challenges of their own. People of all generations, including our kids and students are overloaded with news and opinions on social media. Over the last year, kids and students have been learning to live in a “new normal.” Our tendency as adults is to want to pray for their protection and to shield them from the world. The apostle Paul challenges youth to serve in a powerful way, “to be an example to the believers with your words, your actions, your love, your faith and your pure life.”

Challenge

Pray for the children and young adults in your church. Pray they will be inspired to be used by God in a mighty way. Pray they will seek God's thoughts rather than those of social media or others. Pray God will use you to be a mentor to one or more of the youth in your life. Pray as you are guiding them that you too are filtering your thoughts through the word of God.

Prayer

God, I pray for _____ (fill in the names of young adults/children you know). I pray you will guide their steps and help them to filter their decisions through you. I pray you will give them boldness to stand for truth and your love. I pray you will show me who you are calling me to spiritually mentor and grant me godly wisdom for the task.

[illegible]



Day 10: Pray for Healthy Systems

...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6).

Reflections

What is the church's purpose? What is our church's calling? These are questions we should be asking all the time. Think back to 2020. During that time, it was like the rug was ripped out from under us. Our Sunday gatherings came to a halt. Many of our cherished ministries also came to a halt. The unimaginable happened, yet our church made it through these challenges. Perhaps this season was a gift? Perhaps as we are putting the pieces back together, it's time to reexamine ministries and systems and ask, "What have we learned during this difficult season?" Again, what is the church's purpose? What is OUR church's calling?

Challenge

Have we turned some programs once meant for good into something sacred? It is time to really reexamine why we exist as a church and if each ministry truly supports our calling. Is it scary to take an honest look at what was once so familiar and seemingly sacred and to decide if it truly is holding up to God's word? Absolutely! Let us not forget, though, that "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Prayer

Father, forgive us for taking good ministries you gave us and making them sacred and untouchable. The only thing sacred is you and your word. Help us to reexamine all the parts of our church to see if they truly are the best system to live out our calling. Thank you for the gift of changing times, which help us to realize the only thing consistent and unchanging is you. Remind us that everything else should be regularly examined to determine if it is truly in alignment with your calling for us.

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BIBLICAL DIVERSITY

People of all colors, cultures and classes are important to God. During a day and age when discord and dissension are plentiful, building relationships with our neighbors and uniting around the cross allow us to move forward together. Over the next five days, pray for your relationships — first with God, then with others.



Day 11: Times of Testing

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything (James 1:2-4).

Reflections

Did you know a person's true greatness is seen in adversity? Our failures, disappointments, sufferings and setbacks are the earthly tests that come to reveal who we really are. Prosperity and success are not always good for us. The highest honor or the greatest achievement we can attain on earth is to be in a right relationship and enjoy fellowship with God. The best season to achieve this honor is during a time of adversity. When everything is going well with us, we can be tempted to deceive ourselves and believe we're spiritual giants. It's only during a season of adversity that we are most likely to seek God's face and to rely on his strength for security. The true strength of our faith, our hope, our patience and our humility can only be measured in times of testing.

Challenge

The challenge is to offer and submit ourselves to God without hesitation or reservation, no matter what comes our way. We should strive to bury our self-interests and self-seeking in the will of God and accept adversity as a spiritual process that develops and cultivates our souls.

Prayer

Most gracious and loving God, throughout this day when I am challenged to face temptations and adversities, I know it will be for my own good. Lord, you know what's best for me. Grant me your wisdom and understanding to accept and embrace my adversities, knowing that my trials and tests only come to make me strong and draw me closer to you. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

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Day 12: Judging My Neighbor

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ²For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

³"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye', when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye (Matthew 7:1-5)."

Reflections

Each of us must strive to be patient and understanding with our neighbors' shortcomings, just as God is patient with ours. If we fail to recognize our own faults, how can we expect others to recognize theirs? In our desire to see our neighbors change, we must be willing to contend just as hard to change ourselves. It is not fair or godly to demand others change and then resent it when we are challenged to change. It is not fair or godly to demand others live and behave a certain way, and yet our anger is aroused when our behavior is challenged. In judging our neighbors, we should always use the same love and understanding we use to judge ourselves or that we desire them to use when judging us.

Challenge

Just as we seek forgiveness and patience as we deal with our faults, we must treat and judge our neighbors with the same forgiveness and patience as they work on their faults. We must be quick to love and not to judge.

Prayer

Most gracious and loving God, teach me today to think well of and treat my neighbors with patience and understanding without judging their faults and failures. Remind me often of my own faults and limitations, so that I may include myself in the prayers I pray for my neighbors. It is my desire to show my love and gratefulness for you through my loving treatment of my neighbors. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Prayer Journal

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Day 13: Understanding True Friendship

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you (John 15:12-15).

Reflections

How many friends do we have who will stand by us when we really need them? How many friends do we have who sacrifice their time to support us? One of the greatest comforts that we have is that no matter how many friends we feel like we have (whether many or few), during the middle of the darkest nights of our lives we have a true friend in Jesus, and he has promised never to leave us or forsake us.

Challenge

All friendships must be predicated upon our love, loyalty and commitment to Jesus Christ and his anointing. A true friend will encourage and admonish his or her friends to grow in relationship with God and to set an example for others.

Prayer

Most gracious and loving God, as I go about this day, grant me your grace to honor Jesus as my best and holy friend. No one can be a better friend to me than Jesus. Help me to depend on Jesus. Use me daily to represent your holiness before my friends, and remind me the best gift I can offer my friends is a relationship with Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer Journal

[illegible]



Day 14: Keeping a Clean Conscience

...holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith (1 Timothy 1:19).

Reflections

Our conscience can serve as a spiritual alarm from God, and we should seek to understand if it is a prompting from the Holy Spirit. We should strive daily to keep our conscience clear and clean from things that pull us and others away from God. A contaminated conscience is always fearful and suffers from spiritual distractions. On the other hand, a clear and clean conscience experiences perfect peace even in the midst of trials. We should count it all joy when our conscience is clear.

Challenge

Our conscience is a divine gift from God to alert us to always do what is right. When our conscience warns us about sin, we should never reject it. Rejecting it will only desensitize us to future promptings of the Holy Spirit. A person with a dull conscience will soon shipwreck his or her life.

Prayer

Most gracious and loving God, grant me your favor and strength to maintain a clean conscience. It is my desire to live each hour of each day in total obedience to your word and your way. I ask that the Holy Spirit would convict me when I deviate from your holiness. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

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Day 15: Helping Others

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. ²Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves (Galatians 6:1-3).

Reflections

When we serve and help others, we should always do so for the sake of God and his glory. We are commanded to be good and to do good to everyone. If we are not interested in helping others, we are not interested in God. We should always reach out to help others as much as we can. If the person we are helping insists on continuing in the error of his or her ways, we are to pray for them and leave them to God.

Challenge

Each of us has faults and burdens we must bear. We are commanded to bear one another's burdens, to help one another, to console one another and to warn one another of sin. God expects us to treat each other as he treats us and to serve one another as if we were serving him. When we do, we are representing his unconditional love.

Prayer

Most gracious and loving God, grant me your grace today to perfectly reflect your patience and to desire to reach out to help others. Lord, never let me think more of myself than I truly am. Never let me forsake serving or assisting a falling neighbor. May I be as merciful to them as you always are to me. And let my love for you be proven by my actions toward others. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

Prayer Journal

[illegible]

SEND

We are asking God to continue to show us how we can join him in his work in reaching every least-reached people group—in our generation. We are committed to bringing Jesus to people and people to Jesus globally. During the next five days, pray for those who would answer God's call to go and make disciples of all nations, and for those they would reach with the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ.



Day 16: Sending Matters

The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you” (John 20:20b-21).

Reflections

After Jesus’ startling resurrection, he appeared for the first time to his closest disciples. It is noteworthy that Jesus’ first statement to them, after settling them down a bit, was, “I am sending you in a similar way that my Father has sent me.” Sending was not only on Jesus’ mind but was critical to the task at hand. Of course, Jesus later added a goal to his sending strategy — that “this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14). Sending matters to God.

Challenge

Jesus certainly prioritized sending as critical to his plan to reach every people group with the gospel. WACC partners with individuals who are serving around our world. We call these individuals WACC’s Global Partners. These Global Partners work with nonprofits or agencies focused on sharing the gospel all around the world. Are we living with hearts focused on God’s mission to reach the world with the good news of Jesus?

Prayer

Father in heaven, we praise you for sending Jesus, the Promised One, to give his life as a ransom for many. In my hurried state and cluttered life, I want to be sure I live in alignment with your plan. Help me, Lord, to value sharing the gospel across the globe to the degree you do. Open my mind and my heart truly to understand your mind and heart in this. I want to value lost people as much as you do, whether they are here, near or far. Help me do what it takes to be a vital link in accomplishing your plan in our world. I pray this in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

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Day 17: Sending is Needed

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” (Romans 10:14-15)

Reflections

The logic of the above verses is clear and simple. Sending people to share the good news of Jesus is needed. Still, today 29% of the world’s population have no access to the gospel. They do not know a Christian, have no church near them and have no way to hear of Jesus, even if they wanted to. The world awaits messengers. People with the calling to be messengers need the church to send them. There is no Plan B. If we don’t tell unreached people about Jesus, how can they hear? And, by the way, among this 29% of the world’s population, 70,000 die daily never having heard about Jesus. Sending is needed — urgency is required!

Challenge

The task of reaching the world seems daunting, yet Jesus calls all of us to be faithful — individuals and churches. We each must do our part to see Romans 10:14-15 lived out beautifully. While we are wrestling with whether we will sacrificially send those compelled to go, they are laboring intensely to be where God is calling them to minister. As of this writing, WACC has more than 30 Global Partners. They are eager to reach those who so desperately need to hear the gospel of Jesus. What role can you play in WACC’s Global Engagement Ministry?

Prayer

Father in heaven, give me eyes to see lost people the way you see them. Help me to be broken by the fact that billions of people still have never heard about Jesus. I’m asking you to do a deep and holy work in my heart so that I love people the way you love them. Show me my part in sharing the gospel with the world and in supporting those who are called to serve globally. Help me to provide “beautiful feet” who bring the good news to those who need it most. I pray this humbly and in Jesus’ name. Amen.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Day 18: The Sending God

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Reflections

This familiar verse is packed with powerful truths. Don't let the depth of this well-known passage escape you. God's love for the world resulted in a profound action of sacrifice. He gave. The God of the universe sent his Son to become the Savior of mankind. In this very act, God presented himself as a missionary God — One who sends his Son into a completely cross-cultural setting to live among us and become one of us that we might have peace with God. The Creator God provides a template for us in his act of sending Jesus. He demonstrates that it must be done, that no price is too big, no pain too great, no people so unreachable and no actions too radical to see the world made right with God. We know and serve a sending God.

Challenge

Stepping into unfamiliar terrain is scary, especially in the realm of relationships and reaching lost people. It is easier to do what we know. It is less stressful to stay in our lane. Yet, we are to live by faith, not by sight. The more we stretch ourselves, the more God's grace is poured into us to flow through us. Considering God's radical action, are you stretching yourself enough, especially in the discipline of global ministry? What is keeping you from engaging more fully in seeing the lost peoples of the world come to know Jesus?

Prayer

Father in heaven, I am deeply humbled by your sacrifice. Your radical love has transformed my life — your ongoing grace overwhelms me again and again. Thank you, Lord! May your boundless love so capture my soul, imagination and will that I will reflect your sending nature as I live my life here on earth. Please help me become conformed to the image of your Son, who was not only sent but determined to send others that the world may know the gospel. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

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Day 19: The Sending Church

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

³So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off (Acts 13:2-3).

Reflections

The church was young, inexperienced and growing. The Antioch church had things hopping and popping — many new believers, sound biblical teaching, passionate prayer, fasting and an eagerness to find God’s leading so that they could obey. As the church was lost in worship while seeking the Lord, God made a startling revelation to them: They were to send their very best! Not those they would hardly miss, but their strongest teacher and most enthusiastic encourager, which was an essential role in those days. Immediately, they prayed and fasted about this directive — and sent them off. A sending church is selfless, sacrificial and courageous.

Challenge

God’s ways are so different from our ways, aren’t they? We think holding on will get us ahead, while God says giving brings the greatest benefits. We think having control is the mark of true power, while God says serving unleashes our greatest influence. We think holding on — even to people — will give us the leverage to succeed, while God says letting go is the key to living in his will. Are there people in your life you can’t imagine sending off to another place of ministry? They may be the very ones God is waiting for you to send. Are you willing? Are you ready? Are you encouraging them to go?

Prayer

Holy God, I come before you today with a fresh recognition of my weakness. I’m too often caught in the carnal snares of keeping rather than releasing. Would you help me see who you have chosen to go so that I can eagerly encourage them and help send them? Allow me to plant the seeds of following your call in the strongest and most godly leaders around me. Whether they go to the people across the street or to those far away who need you, help me be a sending friend and a sending leader. I pray this in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

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Day 20: The Starting Point of Sending

“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field’” (Matthew 9:37-38).

Reflections

Jesus saw a ready harvest. According to his estimation, the size of our harvest will be directly proportionate to how many are sent into the harvest. However, Jesus doesn’t tell us to try harder, to strategize better, or to take more lessons on disciple-making or leadership. He tells us to pray earnestly. “Earnestly” means to engage in something with complete focus and attention, expending significant energy to see something happen. It all begins with our earnest prayer that God will send workers into the harvest.

Challenge

God-sized prayers are exciting, but often overlooked. Urgent needs and pressing situations most often get the bulk of our prayer times. Jesus challenges us to pray for what has captured the heart of God — to pray for more workers to be sent into the “fields” of lost people. God has made it quite simple. Just begin with prayer. Not casual or unfocused prayer. Earnest prayer. Do you earnestly pray God’s agenda regularly? Do you pray big things that align with God’s heart? Are you praying the Lord of the harvest will send workers into the harvest? Will you?

Prayer

Lord, I come before you earnestly. I don’t completely understand how this works, that the God of the universe longs for my prayers so that workers can be sent. By faith, I pray now. I ask you to raise up people I know, people in my church and circles of influence, to be radically gripped by you to step into your chosen harvest fields. Lord, I pray you will send many and, if it be your will, that you will even send me. I pray this in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.

Prayer Journal

[illegible]



Day 21: A Closing Prayer

Thank you for participating in our 21 Days of Prayer. We pray God has used this time to strengthen your heart for him, the church, your community and the world. We are convinced that during our time together, God has met us in his Word and given us wisdom and courage to navigate this next season. As we conclude we want to pray a fourfold prayer in line with WACC's vision for this next year.

Pray that we would be a church that...

- Equips people to go deeper in their faith.
- Expands our care for people who are marginalized or who have felt ostracized by the church.
- Evangelizes to our surrounding communities through inviting friends, families, and neighbors to join us in hearing the gospel on a Sunday at WACC.
- Encourages and supports each other in serving.

The world needs the gospel today more than ever. It needs the people of the church to carry out God's priorities in the character of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We close with the words of the Apostle Paul:

"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ — to the glory and praise of God" (Philippians 1:9-11).

Notes

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