

NOVEMBER

30 Days of Prayer

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HOW TO USE THIS PRAYER GUIDE

These devotions with prayer prompts are intended to assist our church family as we seek Christ personally in our daily time with Him and corporately during our monthly family prayer service.

It is vital that we pursue the Lord in prayer with a humble heart and depend on His guidance and leadership. Our previous prayer guides were designed to build on one another, to prepare our hearts and minds to deliberately and continuously follow the will of God for our church.

ALL PREVIOUS **PRAYER GUIDES**
ARE LOCATED ON OUR WEBSITE AT

WWW.RICHLANDCREEK.COM

Day 1 - Introduction to Missions

Key Scripture: *Isaiah 49:6, He (the LORD) says, "It is too small a thing that you should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light to the nations so that My salvation may reach the end of the earth."*

When it comes to "Missions," we should first stop and ask, "What mission?" The progressive redemptive drive of Scripture shows us that the salvation of mankind and the eventual renewal of creation is the "mission" of both the Old and New Testaments.

As Christopher Wright states, "The whole Bible renders to us the story of God's mission through God's people in their engagement with God's world for the sake of the whole of God's creation." As Christians, Jesus' salvific work has narrowed the message of this mission to His Gospel, or "Good News."

Jesus has come to fulfill Isaiah 49:6. Therefore, our prayer and our response should be, LORD come and use me!

Prayer Prompts:

- God, we pray for Your mission, Your Kingdom, and Your Gospel to advance both here and around the world through our mission partners and the Global Church.
- God, help us at Richland Creek to imitate Jesus by sharing Your Gospel to the nations so that Your salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.
- God, show us where we are failing to take advantage of the opportunities You give us to share Your Gospel.

Day 2 - Vision for RCCC Missions

Key Scripture: *Malachi 1:11 For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts.*

Did you know 84% of Short-Term Mission trips go to 1/3 of the world's population that already have the most access to the Gospel? At Richland Creek, our vision is to flip that statistic by sending 80% of our teams to the least reached people groups, both here and around the world. We do this by creating partnerships focused on Evangelism, Discipleship, Church Planting, and Pastoral Equipping with church planters and missionaries who share our "Creek DNA" for the uncompromised teaching of God's Word and the uncompromised proclamation of the Gospel all around the world.

Read again Malachi 1:11 as it encapsulates our vision for Richland Creek Missions: *For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts.*

Prayer Prompts:

- God, remove the scales from our eyes to see the greatness of Your name.
- God, stir within us a burning desire to make Your name great among the nations.
- God, give us a burden for the least reached people groups, both here and around the world.
- God, compel us through Your Spirit to take action in supporting our missions efforts and partnerships by praying for their efforts and our teams, giving financially to support Your mission, and going to the ends of the earth with the Gospel.

Day 3 - Our Plans for RCCC Missions in 2021

Key Scripture: *Isaiah 55:6-8, Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, declares the LORD.*

I (Pastor Nathan) remember when I was interning at my first church in Arkansas, my pastor told me one of the greatest skills of a pastor was learning to be flexible. It is easy to get so stuck on what we think God is trying to do that we actually miss out on participating in the Spirit's movement because it isn't what we "planned for." As we consider Missions in 2021, the key word is going to be flexible!

Looking into 2021, many of our partners who returned from the field this year or have scaled back aspects of their ministry due to funding or COVID, will be redoubling their efforts and returning to the field. As I think of Isaiah 55:6-8, I am grateful that God already knows His plans for 2021, and we merely need to be flexible.

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for our partners as many do not know when or where they will return when COVID is "over."
- Pray for our partners who are still on the field as they try to plan for 2021.
- Pray that God would raise up church members to passionately accomplish His mission through our Short-Term and Mid-Term trips.
- Pray that God would call families within our church to Long-Term Missions.
- Pray for our Missions Pastor as he seeks to minister to our missionary partners and to continue the process of shaping our Missions Ministry and mobilizing our church.

Day 4 - Jesus' Plan for Missions

Key Scripture: *1 Peter 2:9-10, But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God, you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

The Church is Jesus' plan for missions. That may seem like a simple statement. However, if Christ's intent is for missions to be the natural overflow and response of every believer's daily walk with Christ, then the Church is Jesus' plan for missions.

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10 again. In this incredible nugget of biblical truth, we see who we were, what we have received, who we now are, and the purpose for which the previous three have taken place. So, what is that purpose? That we may proclaim His excellencies! We have not received grace upon grace and mercy upon mercy to hoard it within ourselves, but to proclaim it to those around us. Yet a question remains: why don't all Christians fulfill their call to live a transformed life for His purpose in missions? There are two reasons why.

1. We haven't actually placed our faith in Christ. We may go to church and serve in the children's ministry; but simply going to church does not make us a part of the church. We have to place our faith in Christ.
2. We are afraid to share. Sometimes we are afraid of people, which results in shying away from and engaging with them. Other times, we are like the rich young ruler who is unwilling to actually submit everything before the throne of Christ and to find identity and purpose in the Gospel.

Therefore, in both scenarios, we need to ask, "Am I really who I say I am?" Our lives must match the faith we claim if we are going to participate in the blessing Christ has extended.

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray that you would fully realize who you were, what you have received through Christ, who you now are in Christ.
- Pray that God would give you opportunities to proclaim His excellencies to those who are still in darkness.
- Pray that Richland Creek would live to advance His mission.

Day 5 - Missions is the Responsibility for Every Believer

Key Scripture: *1 Corinthians 9:19-23, For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more. To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.*

If Jesus' plan for missions is built upon the Church, and the Church is made up of those who have been transformed through faith in Christ, then missions is the obligation and privilege of every believer. Moreover, missions is the natural response for every believer.

Paul exemplifies this obligation and honor in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 as he displays an intentionality around his identity in Christ that is very lacking in churches today. We are either too busy, too distracted, or just plain lost to be bothered by re-prioritizing everything in our lives around the Gospel that we may echo Paul's words in our daily lives, "I do all things for the sake of the gospel . . ." In quiet moments we have to ask, "What have I really sacrificed lately for the Gospel and to be conformed into the image of Christ?"

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray that God would stir within RCCC members a greater desire to participate in His mission.
- Pray that each member of our church would grow in their participation in His mission.
- Pray that missions and mobilization would become a primary part of our ethos—our way of life—as a church.

Day 6 - Praying for Missionaries

David Platt, former President of the SBC International Mission Board

Acts 13 and 14 communicate one of the most pivotal stories in all of missions history. They relay the first recorded sending of missionaries by a local church in Scripture. Paul and Barnabas were commissioned for their particular task in a worship service, complete with singing, prayer, fasting, and the laying on of hands.

Pastor John Piper claimed of this passage, "This moment of prayer and fasting resulted in a missions movement that would make Christianity the dominant religion of the Roman Empire within two-and-a-half centuries and would yield 1.3 billion adherents of the Christian religion today with a Christian witness in virtually every country of the world."

The people in that room in Antioch were together for a particular reason. They were not all the same, but they found themselves agreeing on a common purpose: they were united by the gospel of God, enthralled in the worship of God, and intensely focused on the mission of God. In that moment, the Spirit called out two men to be sent out, and the church responded with immediate obedience. The synergy between the call of the Spirit and the prayerful response of the church resulted in a supernatural spread of the gospel that continues to this day.

The Spirit and the church sent Paul and Barnabas—the whole church, not simply a few people. The church demonstrated a commitment to upholding those they sent out, even when separated by time and distance. Essentially, the church said to the missionaries, "We are with you." Remarkably, the primary manner they did so was through Spirit-empowered prayer.

Today, our prayers remain the greatest way we can support those we are sending out, invoking the very power of God to intervene in ways that are beyond our human limitations to save the lost. So, I'd like to lay out sixteen ways over the next two days what I see in this passage of Scripture to pray for our missionaries continually.

Prayer Prompts:

- Lord, give me a heart to pray for the nations and those servants You have sent to be a light for the Gospel.
- Pray that I can take part by praying for them, supporting them, and serving them.

Day 7 - 16 Ways to Pray for Missionaries - Part 1

1. Pray that they would be confident in God's Word (Acts 13:4–5).

Missionaries are sent not just to learn culture or do humanitarian relief but to confidently proclaim the Word of God.

2. Pray that they would be filled with God's Spirit (Acts 13:6–9).

Believers already have the Holy Spirit in them, but at times the Spirit fills someone in a special way to enable him or her to proclaim God's Word.

3. Pray for their victory in spiritual warfare (Acts 13:10–12).

When our brothers and sisters take the gospel into the nations, they are going into a war. The devil is dead set on destroying souls and diverting mission.

4. Pray for their success in gospel witness (Acts 13:12).

Pray that many would come to know Christ in all walks of life from the faithful witness of our missionaries.

5. Pray for peace with other believers (Acts 13:13).

Satan attacks from all angles, both inside and outside. Pray for peace within families, in marriages, with children, and with companions and ministry partners.

6. Pray for favor with unbelievers (Acts 13:14–15).

Nonbelievers are blind to the gospel, and many are violently opposed to its message. Pray that missionaries would find favorable opportunities to share the gospel with them.

7. Pray that the gospel will be clear through them (Acts 13:16–47).

Although cross-cultural communication is difficult, pray that missionaries, by grace, would clearly communicate the character of God, the sinfulness of man, the sufficiency of Christ, the necessity of faith, and the urgency of eternity.

8. Pray that God will open hearts around them (Acts 13:48).

God alone draws people to himself. Pray that he will open hearts and minds to believe and be drawn to eternal life with Christ.

Day 8 - 16 Ways to Pray for Missionaries - Part 2

9. Pray for their joy in the midst of suffering (Acts 14:1–2).

Missionaries often face various forms and levels of suffering in their work. Pray that they would experience the joy of intimacy with Christ in the midst of it.

10. Pray for their kindness in the midst of slander (Acts 14:1–2).

Though missionaries face suffering and difficulty, pray that the character of Christ and the power of his Spirit enable them to respond with grace.

11. Pray for supernatural power to accompany them (Acts 14:3).

Pray that missionaries would speak the Word with boldness and that supernatural power would accompany its proclamation.

12. Pray for Christlike humility to characterize them (Acts 14:4–18).

Pray that missionaries would overcome the temptation to be prideful in their work by the power of the Spirit.

13. Pray for their patience (Acts 14:8–18).

Missionaries face ups and downs and wins and losses in their work. Pray that they might respond with longsuffering.

14. Pray for their perseverance (Acts 14:19–20).

In 2 Corinthians 4:8–9 Paul wrote, “We are . . . struck down but not destroyed.” Pray for missionaries to persevere through setback after setback, beatdown after beatdown, and struggle after struggle.

15. Pray that God would use them to make disciples (Acts 14:21–23).

Pray that missionaries would see fruit in their ministries as they seek to make disciples among the nations.

16. Pray that God would use them to multiply churches (Acts 14:24–28).

Pray for the multiplication of churches filled with people who know the Word led by pastors who teach the Word.

Day 9 - Missionary Prayer Spotlight



The Neiser Family - Ben • Lindsey • Ella • Clara

Serving the people of Provo, Utah

Personal Prayer Requests:

- Pray for Ben as he continually needs wisdom and discernment in vision and shepherding this family of believers.
- Pray for our believers. Spiritual warfare is real here; and when God is on the move, the enemy is not too far behind.
- Pray for the unbelievers. Pray that they would come to faith in Christ. Pray for continued opportunities for the gospel to be presented in this community.
- Pray the Spirit would continue to pour out His power and effects in us as we desire to transform this city with the gospel.

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. - 1 Corinthians 2:2

Day 10 - Missionary Prayer Spotlight



The Price Family - Troy • Gwyn

Serving the people of Port Au Prince, Haiti

Personal Prayer Requests:

- Pray for our daughters, Meredith and Makayla, who are both in the States for Nursing school.
- Pray for the Lord's continued provision for the increases that have taken place throughout Haiti and safety as there is still much unrest.
- Pray for the translation of curriculum for our discipleship classes and that the Lord would guide all who are involved with that process.
- Pray for the logistics involved in training people at the new clinic and for provision for the costs of the new clinic (Malnutrition and Wound Care Clinic).
- Pray for physical strength and rest for both Troy and Gwyn.

Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring the obedience of faith for the sake of His name among all the nations. - Romans 1:4b-5

Day 11 - Missionary Prayer Spotlight



The White Family

Gerald • Morna • Noah • James • Faith

Serving the people of Edinburgh, Scotland

Personal Prayer Requests:

- Pray for unity in a Covid world that comes thick and fast at us and that we can make the best decisions possible.
- Pray for protection over the church family. Pray that they would walk with Jesus and flee from sin.
- Pray for Gerald as he prepares his sermons. Pray that he would be faithful and rely on the Spirit to guide him.
- Pray for more mature believers to commit to us in the future and for souls to be saved in our community.
- Pray for our family, that Gerald and Morna would lead and love each other well.

For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth." - Acts 13:47

Day 12 - Missionary Prayer Spotlight



The Bunch Family

Jimmy • Natalie • Theodore • William

Serving the people of Prague, Czech Republic

Personal Prayer Requests:

- Pray for complete healing of our two-year-old son, Liam, who has had recurring fevers about every month since December. Pray for wisdom and discernment in this situation.
- Pray that both our sons, Theo (4) and Liam (2), will grow to know and love the Lord and serve Him with their every breath.
- Pray for the ministry here as we love the people and share the gospel with those in our community. Pray for the salvation of lost individuals with whom we have continued to share.
- Pray for our family to have a growing and deepening relationship with God and to be protected from the evil one and his tactics to discourage us.

Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you. - 2 Thessalonians 3:1

Day 13 - Missionary Prayer Spotlight



Protective Region

David • Becca • Sophia • Jackson • Harper

Serving the people of Northern Europe

Personal Prayer Requests:

- Pray that the Spirit would go before us and prepare the hearts of the people to hear the gospel and believe.
- Pray for European believers to put the gospel above all. Pray that their hope for the salvation of refugees would be bigger than their hope for refugees to integrate into society.
- Pray for us as we work with European church partners. Pray that we would be an encouragement, and that God would use us to call more laborers to the task of reaching the unreached people.
- Pray for our kids, that they would be saved and that they would find their refuge in Christ as we navigate life in another new country.
- Pray that we would be obedient to abide in the Father, above all.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. - 1 John 1:7

Day 14 - Missionary Prayer Spotlight



The Kelley Family

Shannon • Alyse • Eryn • Coral • Isaac

Serving the people of Denver, Colorado

Personal Prayer Requests:

- Pray for wisdom and direction as we minister to the people of True Point Church. Pray for the church family to have a life devoted to pursuing Jesus.
- Pray for the hearts of those we encounter to be softened to the message of the gospel.
- Pray for our family to have direction on where we should live or continue living as a family (renting vs. buying a home in the same area).
- Pray for a growing faith that God will provide, even in these challenging times of discouragement and to keep focused on the mission of the gospel.

Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." - John 15:5

Day 15 - Missionary Prayer Spotlight



The Reiner Family

Timon • Dana • Baby Phin

Serving the people of Southeast Asia

Personal Prayer Requests:

- Please pray for our national partners as they go out and share in the city amidst the Covid conditions. Pray for their health and also encouragement.
- Pray for a daily awakening to the power and fullness of the Holy Spirit in our life and ministry. Pray that our daily walk with the Lord would be strengthened.
- Pray for Dana and baby Phin for their health. Pray for us as new parents and strength in the months to come. Pray for our family as we grow and trust in the Lord for His daily provision.
- Pray for the Father to raise up Southeast Asians to follow Him and partner with our team.

Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. - Matthew 9:38

Day 16 - Missionary Prayer Spotlight



The Angell Family

Robby • Rachel

Serving the people of South Asia

Personal Prayer Requests:

- Pray for our country as it is not open for international travel at this time. We are continuing to be notified on a monthly basis whether we will go back the following month.
- Pray for us as we continue to take language classes and are praying for opportunities to connect and partner well with other churches as we represent our organization.
- Pray as we connect with our support groups and for the Lord to continue to provide for the needs of the ministry.
- Pray for our local brothers and sisters in South Asia that continue to engage the lost and grow disciples for Christ.

Continue steadfastly in prayer; being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word - Colossians 4:2-3a

Day 17 - Missionary Prayer Spotlight



The Smith Family

Noah • Vicki • Teddy

Serving the people of Solomon Islands (Bible Translators)

Personal Prayer Requests:

- Pray for wisdom and energy as we start training classes. Pray for provision of a full team of partners.
- Pray for us as we are attending a new church. Pray for relationships to be built and that we can find a way to serve.
- Pray for the hearts of the people in the Solomon Islands that God would start preparing them for the gospel in their own tongue.
- Pray for our fundraising efforts and that people would come alongside us on this mission financially and as prayer partners.
- Pray for all those who do not have a Bible in their own language and for the Lord to provide Bible translators.

I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. - 1 Corinthians 9:22

Day 18 - Missionary Prayer Spotlight



The Ward Family - Ron • Kelly

Serving the people of Central Asia

Personal Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the families (effects on marriage, parenting, language, culture) in many Covid-related adjustments to life/ministry.
- Pray for wisdom as we help leaders as they encourage balance in keeping their teams healthy in this longer-than-expected season.
- Pray for provision of good community for singles and families who feel more isolated during the pandemic.
- Pray for our children, Amy and Kyle as they prepare for overseas ministry. Pray for Cole as he makes plans for next summer and for Drew to have wisdom as he chooses a college to attend.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. - 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Day 19 - Missionary Prayer Spotlight



The Capo Family

Tony • Tola • Trevi • Matias • Tessa Rose • Benjamin Art

Serving the people of Europe

Personal Prayer Requests:

- Pray for God's wisdom as we want to make disciples and as we share the gospel with young professionals in the midst of the pandemic.
- Pray against discouragement as we will not be able to have large outreaches as in the past.
- Pray that God will multiply our efforts as we take the initiative in the power of the Holy Spirit to share the gospel boldly in creative ways and leave the results to God.
- Pray for both our parents that God will open their hearts for the gospel, especially for Tola's father who is going through treatment for cancer.
- Pray for our family according to Proverbs 3:5-6. We thank God for His providence and care in the midst of challenges.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. - Proverbs 3:5-6

Day 20 - Missionary Prayer Spotlight



The Wells Family

Trey • Laura • James • John

Serving at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas

Personal Prayer Requests:

- Pray that the relationships we build would lead to gospel conversations.
- Pray for Trey as his area of responsibility and amount of persons for whom he is Chaplain is increasing. Pray that he would be a good steward of scheduling his time.
- Pray for our two boys to have godly friends and that we can be a positive influence for the gospel to our community.
- Pray for our marriage and the marriages on the military base to be strengthened under the Word of God.

And also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel. - Ephesians 6:19

Day 21 - Missionary Prayer Spotlight



The Postell Family

Seth • Ling • Yael • Nadav • Yoav

Serving the people of the Middle East

Personal Prayer Requests:

- Pray for wisdom to lead under the challenges of the pandemic.
- Pray for spiritual renewal. We are feeling the wear and tear of the constantly changing rules and restrictions of Covid-19.
- Pray for God's protection over the church where we are serving during this time when we are not permitted to gather together (except via online).
- Pray for spiritual revival. Pray that the people group we serve will seek after truth during this time and that many will come to know Jesus Christ as Messiah.
- Pray for the spiritual health of our children in an environment where they are the only believers in their entire school.

Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. Romans 10:1-2

Day 22 - Haiti Women's Conference: February, 2020

Key Scripture: *Colossians 1:28, He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.*

During the week of February 18-22, 2020, Pastor Jim Gillespie, Eleanor Waterman and I (Claudine Snyder) traveled to Port Au Prince, Haiti, to participate in a discipleship conference at the home of Troy and Gwyn Price. The Price family, RCCC members, are full-time missionaries in Haiti since 2016.

Pastor Jim met with the male leaders and Eleanor and I met with the female leaders from the Price's local church where Troy and Gwen have been faithfully attending. These leaders were chosen so that they would take all that they have learned and begin to meet with other men and women for the purpose of raising up disciples. During our conference we discussed fundamental spiritual disciplines for any growing relationship with the Lord. We were able to teach and discuss Bible study, prayer, worship, and evangelism. Our goal over the course of three days was to not only teach and model the disciplines but also to offer practical wisdom on living out the life of a disciple. Haitian believers live in a challenging environment filled with poverty, unemployment, witchcraft, syncretism, and poor health care. Part of our discipling efforts focused on how believers in Christ can live in such a way as to glorify God in the midst of difficult circumstances.

The heart of RCCC Missions is,

"Partnering with church planters and missionaries, who share our 'Creek DNA' for the uncompromised teaching of God's Word and uncompromised proclamation of the Gospel."

Once partnered with churches in other parts of the world, RCCC comes alongside them to equip and strengthen the church leaders. Pastor Jim, Eleanor and I live in Wake Forest, NC. We are unable to travel to Haiti on a regular basis discipling men and women. BUT, if we can nurture faithful servants, already living in Haiti, to become disciples who make disciples, then we do not need to be on the ground in Haiti. Haiti will already have its own disciples—who pour into other believers for the glory of God our Father.

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for the leaders of local churches in Haiti and elsewhere to proclaim, admonish and teach others so as to present their brothers and sisters in Christ fully mature.

Day 23 - Richland Creek Missions 2020: Utah

Key Scripture: *Psalm 18:27-28 For you save a humble people, but the haughty eyes you bring down. For it is you who light my lamp; the Lord my God lightens my darkness.*

When we talk about missions, and specifically unreached people, we often think about far away places and distinctive cultures. We don't always consider the suburbs of a state capital. But that's the reality for Provo, Utah. It's a parched land physically, but even more so spiritually without the true gospel. Provo is home base for the Latter Day Saints, a religion embracing a false gospel that masquerades as an updated version of Christianity. LDS doctrine teaches that faith in Christ brings a person to a starting point of righteousness and justification, but that they must "finish the race" by their own good works. An unfortunate side effect can be self-righteous pride. When a person believes they have earned their position before God, then they are tempted to think they have bragging rights (Rom 4:2). However, David says in Psalm 18 that God saves the humble, yet brings down the haughty.

In Provo we seek out where the Lord is at work, cutting through the darkness. We do this several ways: prayer walking, listening for the guidance of the Holy Spirit; engaging people in street evangelism; and setting up gospel appointments to dialog more deeply about the gospel. It's our prayer that through our witness, members of the LDS Church would see the veil of false teaching over their eyes for what it really is--lies of Satan meant to lead to destruction. Likewise, we seek to show them the joy and peace that comes from a life of resting in God's grace. Pray with us for Provo and the whole Utah Valley that the Lord would light their lamp, and that the true gospel would capture a people so entrenched in a false Christ and a false salvation.

Questions to Consider:

Where else have you seen this spiritual self-righteousness? Are you tempted to have spiritual pride when things are going well? What does it mean to rest in God's grace?

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for spiritual humility.
- Pray that members of the LDS church would see how lacking their self-righteousness is in comparison to God's holiness.
- Pray that they see the depths of their own sin and their inability to earn God's favor.
- Pray that they see the joy and peace of God's people resting in His grace, and desire that kind of relationship with Jesus.

Day 24 - Richland Creek Missions 2020: Montana-

Key Scripture: *Isaiah 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send?” And who will go for us?” “And I said, Here am I, Send me!”*

Hello, Creek Family. My name is Kyle Sutherland, and I led a team of ten people from Richland Creek in early July to Thompson Falls, Montana. While in Montana, we came alongside First Baptist Church in Thompson Falls to help with the construction of their new worship center. Our projects consisted of installing the new permanent roof, building the stage and stairs, installing windows, and prepping the exterior for the stone veneer. As of Sunday, October 4, 2020, FBC Thompson Falls was able to hold their first church service in their new worship center.

My first mission trip was with a team to Casper, Wyoming. There, I learned about the bigger picture of mission work. We spent a week putting up sheet-rock on a new chapel at a youth summer camp. With a construction background, it was a natural fit for me to serve the Lord. I did not fully understand the impact we were having until I was able to go back to Casper in August 2019 with a team from RCCC to work on a Family Life Center for another church. During that week, I had the opportunity to visit the camp I had worked on seven years prior—a chapel filled with young campers worshiping Jesus. I was told that, for many of the kids, it was the first time they had been to camp, let alone spend a week filled with learning about Jesus.

These trips changed my understanding of missions. Missions can take many forms. It can be preparing the way for God to work, partnering with another church to encourage them in the ministry, as well as directly proclaiming the gospel face-to-face.

Questions to Consider:

Do you underestimate what God can do through you in missions? Many of Paul's letters encourage churches that were far away. Are you neglecting an opportunity to encourage other believers while on mission locally and overseas?

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for the opportunity in your schedule that you can serve in missions whether locally or overseas.
- Pray for the financial provision to make this trip possible.
- Pray for spiritual preparation and wisdom of the teams going.

Day 25- Richland Creek Missions 2020: Florida

Key Scripture: *Acts 17:23 “For as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you.”*

Daytona Bike Week is one of the craziest times for a mission trip. There are many lost people and they all worship something without even realizing it. I (Chris Siemers) personally talked to a non-profit worker whose sole purpose was to proclaim how they help suicidal veterans. He explained the programs they implement to give veterans hope—fishing, hunting, hobbies, group counseling, etc. Every idea was a way to reach veterans that allowed them to have a purpose in life. After listening to his excitement, I asked him if I could share what I do. We had a conversation about the hope of the gospel and how it gives people a purpose and passion that has an eternal impact. He started getting uncomfortable when I asked him if he had a relationship with Jesus. I gave him a tract, asked him to read it, and call me if he had any questions.

There is always an opportunity to share the gospel somewhere with someone who needs to hear the redemptive story of Jesus. Listening to people gives you the opportunity to take a glimpse into their lives in order to share the gospel in a way that connects with their circumstances. Paul did the same thing when he saw the altar “To the UNKNOWN GOD.” Knowing the culture of where you are going on mission—whether it is Daytona Bike Week, Provo, Utah, or the ends of the earth—gives you insight on how to have conversations with people so that you are able to present Christ. Know the culture, get to know the person, but most importantly, know Jesus. He will guide your steps.

Questions to Consider:

Are you a good listener? What areas do you need to improve to know more about Jesus, to be able to effectively share the gospel?

Prayer Prompts:

- Ask God to show you where to go and share Christ.
- Pray that you can be a good listener when being a witness for Jesus.
- Pray for our Richland Creek Riders, who will be returning to Daytona Bike Week, March 2021.

Day 26 - Constitution Review Team

Key Scripture: *Luke 19:26, “I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”*

In the parable of the ten minas, from which the verse above is drawn, Jesus teaches His disciples about proper stewardship in light of His promised return. Until Jesus comes back, He expects us to bear spiritual fruit, individually and corporately, for His glory. As strange as this reasoning may sound, bearing fruit for the glory of God is the goal of a good church constitution. The constitution gives parameters for how we will use our resources, what we believe about our mission, and how the church will conduct its business. The constitution may seem boring, but it is vital if we are to remain good stewards until Jesus returns!

The Constitution Review Work Group is examining our constitution to ensure that it is up-to-date, accurate, fair, and flexible as we make disciples for God’s glory. We are working through the existing constitution, noting what needs to be changed or updated, and then bringing any changes or updates to the pastors and elders before bringing it to the church body.

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray that the team would remain strong in their worship and relationship with God, and that their work on this team would flow from that well of spiritual strength.
- Pray for endurance—constitutions can be long and tedious—and also to see the big picture of church effectiveness.
- Pray that the team would be unified and kind with each other as they debate issues of importance.
- Pray that God's hand would guide all proposed changes to the constitution.

As you pray for the team, considering praying this verse for them: “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” (Phil. 4:8).

Day 27 - Deacon Ministry Review Team

Key Scripture: *Acts 6:3, Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of Good Reputation, Full of the Spirit and of Wisdom whom we may put in charge of this task.*

Right now, our deacon ministry review team is working with our deacons to review and update that ministry to better equip the deacons as servant leaders and for mobilization in ministry throughout our church. As this happens, we are constantly reminded of the original call of deacons in Acts 6.

The call was not for men who could simply serve food well, liked working with widows, or could settle disputes easily; it was for men of Good Reputation, Full of the Spirit and of Wisdom. Without these characteristics, even these simple servant-hearted tasks run the risk of losing the Gospel intentionality behind them.

Moreover, we look to the story of Stephen in Acts 6 and 7 as the example of a deacon par excellence. Stephen was "of Good Reputation, Full of the Spirit and of Wisdom," and the only deacon in the Bible with an entire chapter devoted to his life and testimony.

Prayer Prompts:

- Lord, we pray that our deacons would be men of Good Reputation, Full of the Spirit and of Wisdom.
- We pray for effective changes to our deacon ministry, in conjunction with our deacon body, that would produce a healthier Body of Christ at Richland Creek.
- We pray that any and all changes would be in a spirit of unity for His glory and His Kingdom.

Day 28 - Policy & Procedure/Employee Handbook Team

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

The church-wide assessment showed that significant changes and updates needed to be made to church policies and procedures used by pastors, staff, and ministry leaders to run all church ministries. Since the existing policies and procedures manual was created, the church has undergone significant growth and change. This task is much needed and long overdue.

Considering the number and diversity of the ministries at RCCC, one quickly realizes that this is no small task. A well written policy and procedure manual provides clear step by step outlines for the safe and effective operation of all ministries, business procedures, and processes of the church.

It is the desire of the team of pastors serving on this work group to provide a clear and comprehensive document that will be an effective tool in the daily management of church ministries and business. But as the Scripture above says, “Unless the Lord builds the house [or writes the manual], those who build it [or write] labor in vain.” We desire and seek the Lord’s guidance and wisdom as we work on this important project.

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray that the group will work together in unity and with humility.
- Pray that the Lord would give understanding of the complexity and variety of ministries and business processes that currently exist in the day-to-day operation of the church.
- Pray that the finished manual will be clear, complete, and useful to pastors and staff in their service to the Lord and His people.

Heavenly Father, I lift up the Policies and Procedures work group, that you would bless them with understanding and wisdom as they produce a much-needed manual. Give them unity and humility as they work together and with other pastors and staff. Lead and guide them, Lord, so that the finished product will accurately and clearly reflect the operations of this church, but most importantly, You will be glorified through the effective stewardship of Your servants. Amen.

Day 29- New Member & Discipleship Team

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

The goal of the New Member/Discipleship team is to put into place opportunities, policies, procedures and programs that would allow anyone who has placed their faith in Jesus for salvation to have every opportunity to grow into Christ likeness.

These opportunities would include the following topics.

- » How to personally study the Bible.
- » How to pray.
- » How to worship every day.
- » How to identify your spiritual gift.
- » How to serve in the fullness of your ministry at RCCC.
- » How to share the good news of the finished work of salvation through Jesus to a lost and dying world.
- » How to be a sacrificial giver (with your time, talent and money).
- » How to become a member of a Word-centered community of believers where in love there is rejoicing, encouragement and accountability.
- » How to be engaged in the worldwide kingdom mission of God.

Prayer Prompts:

- Please be in prayer that Discipleship at the Creek is Word-centered and Christ-focused.
- Please be in prayer that Discipleship at the Creek remains person first and not program driven.
- Please be in prayer that God would send hundreds of people to Richland Creek Community Church worthy to be disciples who make disciples for the Glory of His Name.

Day 30 - Staff Structure and Ministry Alignment Team

Key Scripture: *Isaiah 43:18-19, Do not call to mind the former things, Or ponder things of the past. Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert.*

2020 has brought unprecedented changes to the lives of many Americans. For a church already in the midst of huge transition, COVID has forced even more change. We may be tempted to long for “the way things used to be,” but God has a new plan for our church family. As the Staff Structure and Ministry Alignment Team continues to work towards creating a new ministry and staff structure for our church that will best position us for the future, I am reminded of Isaiah 43:18-19.

The focus of this passage is to not think so hard on the past, that we forget that God is always at work, building something new in the future. Many of us have wonderful memories of ministry and fellowship together; and for that, we can and should be grateful. However, we should not ponder the past to the point that we are not ready and excited for what God wants to do at Richland Creek in the future.

Questions to Consider:

Am I spending too much time pondering how church used to be that it is leading me to sadness or discontentment? Am I praying with excitement for how God will use our church in the future?

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray that the Alignment team seeks God’s will and wisdom.
- Pray that the team stays focused on what will bring God the most glory, not necessarily the easiest path forward.

Father, please help us to ponder the truths of Isaiah 43:18-19 as we prepare our hearts and minds to embrace changes that will take place in the future as You make “something new” here at Richland Creek. Please guide and direct the Alignment team and all who will assist it to create a new ministry and staff structure that will best help our church to equip disciples to make disciples of all peoples by helping believers imitate Christ with their thoughts, motives, and behaviors, through Your redemptive power, the conviction and guidance of Your Holy Spirit, and the instruction of Your Word. Amen.

Thank You

We praise the Lord for all those who contributed to make this prayer guide possible. To God be the glory!

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

“But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.”

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