

# The Ultimate Gift

**H**AVE YOU EVER READ A BOOK that captured your attention and forever changed the way you look at life? You could see that book unfold like watching a movie, but when you try to communicate the story to others, they just don't grasp it the way you do. They can't visualize it because they don't have all the details necessary to make the story come to life for them.

February is the month our thoughts turn to love stories and searching for the perfect gifts for the special people in our lives. Join me as we explore the greatest love story ever written. It's the story of God's love for us and how He expressed His love through the gift of His Son, Jesus. Let's give our love for God an opportunity to grow day by day and watch for ways to communicate His message of love to others.

## PRAYER CALENDAR IDEA:

- Enlist four people to read one verse each of the song "Tell the Good News."
- Explain the words of all four verses to substantiate this month's theme—the importance for missionaries and 21st-century Christians to tell the total gospel story when sharing with someone, not just one part of the gospel.
- Quote Martin Luther who called John 3:16 "the gospel in miniature."
- Print clip art of an open Bible with the words to John 3:16 across the front.
- Write the name of one featured missionary on the back of each Bible picture. Distribute one prayer reminder to each woman.
- Read aloud John 3:16.
- Direct the group members to pray aloud or silently for their missionary.
- Close the prayertime by asking God to give each missionary an opportunity to share the gospel fully with someone wherever he or she is serving.

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Prayer Patterns is a monthly devotional guide highlighting prayer for missionaries on their birthdays.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

**Passage:** Habakkuk 2:1–5

**Focus:** Habakkuk 2:2

**G**od's message wasn't complicated. The land of Judah was filled with violence and lawlessness (Hab. 1:3). The prophet, Habakkuk, had prayed for the people, but he didn't like God's answer. God planned to use the ungodly nation of Babylon to bring judgment on His people. Habakkuk complained to God. God told Habakkuk to write down His answer and make it plain. If change was going to come, people had to understand God's Word to them. God wanted His people to turn their hearts back to Him and be faithful.

God has given us an incredible message of love to share. But, if we want to see people come to know God and see their lives changed, then we must communicate that message with plain words like God told Habakkuk to do. We speak our own language at church. We use words from the Bible, but people who don't go to church may not understand what we mean. Let's pray God will show us how to make His message easy to understand as we share it with others.

**PRAYER FOCUS—SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:** Great Commission Christian missionaries who partner with IMB missionaries to reach the Fulani (*fo-LAH-nee*) of Western Niger have produced many radio broadcasts over the

years. These programs reach far into rural areas where there is no Christian witness. Many Fulani who don't even know a believer are able to hear the Bible being taught in their own language. Praise God for the collaboration of different organizations.

## PRAY NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

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**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

**Passage:** John 1:9–18

**Focus:** John 1:18

The Book of Genesis tells us the first step in the creation of heaven and earth was a word spoken by God: “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness” (Gen. 1:3–4).

The Apostle John says light came into the world, but the world didn’t recognize it. God sent His Son, Jesus, to live among His people and teach them His ways. Jesus was not just a man or a good teacher as some religions claim. Jesus was the Son of God, and Jesus was God. He was the Word, and He was Light.

The message of Jesus is too wonderful to keep to ourselves, but if we want to share that message, we must first know Him. Who is Jesus to you? This month, write your personal faith stories and begin with a description of Who Jesus is to you. Be sure to include when and where you asked Him to become part of your life.

**PRAYER FOCUS-EAST ASIAN PEOPLES:**  
Pray the Chinese living in Botswana will not trust in what they have done, but in what God has done for them. Ask that Chinese churches in this southern African nation will develop mature leaders who will reach out to the Chinese living there.

**PRAY NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

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William Midkiff

**RETIRED IMB:** Martha Beal, Diane Combs,  
Ida Mae Hays, Julie Parker, Dick Price,  
Elba Womack, RL

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**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

See feature on page 32.

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**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

**Passage:** Genesis 3:8–24

**Focus:** Genesis 3:22

Why did God send Jesus into this world? It started with the first love story recorded in the Bible. God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden. He told them they could eat fruit from any tree in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 3:3).

Along came the serpent and convinced them to taste that lovely fruit. He told them they would be like God. We know the results of their disobedience. God banished them from the garden, and sin and death entered this world. The Bible says we are all sinners (Rom. 5:12). Sin separates us from God (Isa. 59:2).

Before I knew Jesus, I never considered myself a sinner, and I wasn’t “lost,” as we say at church. I knew where I was and where I was going. I made my own decisions. I was being my own god. That’s what sin is to me. How would you describe sin? Record your thoughts about sin and add them to your story.

**PRAYER FOCUS-SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:** “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed . . . It starts small and becomes big. The kingdom of heaven is like yeast . . . It starts here and goes everywhere.” A missionary in Democratic Republic of Congo is praising God that she can teach this parable in the language of Lingala. Pray for Kathy to learn more Lingala to be able to share from God’s Word.

**PRAY**

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**Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples:** JS

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**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

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Emmanuel McCall, Peggy Pillow, James Redding

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James Lee, Irma O’Neal, Gwyn Page, JB

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**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

**Passage:** Hebrews 9:1–10

**Focus:** Hebrews 9:9

After serving four hundred years as slaves (Gen. 15:13), Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt. They camped at Mount Sinai, and on top of that mountain, God gave Moses the Law to help them know how to live godly lives. He also gave Moses instructions for building a tabernacle so God could live among them (Ex. 25:8).

God’s presence resided in the tabernacle behind a curtain in a space called the Most Holy Place. Only the high priest could go behind that curtain. Sacrifices for the people’s sins had to be offered every year, but those sacrifices did not restore their relationship with God. It was only a temporary solution.

No matter how good we are, sin still separates us from the Lord. God desires a personal relationship with us, but how can we overcome sin and restore our relationship once and for all? What kind of relationship do you have with the Lord? Do you know Him personally? Who do you know who doesn’t know Him? Let’s make a commitment to spend time with the Lord every day and pray earnestly for those who don’t know Him.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

**Sheri Moran**

Deaf Peoples

Email: [storytellingKISS@gmail.com](mailto:storytellingKISS@gmail.com)

Passage: Isaiah 42:1-7

Focus: Isaiah 42:6

Sheri Moran, Deaf since birth, understands from John 9:1-3 that her deafness did not take God by surprise. He wished to use her for His glory to tell Deaf people about Jesus. For two years Sheri and her husband have been fulfilling that mission in West Africa.



West Africa's Deaf population is 1.5 million. "Often hearing family members will keep Deaf children from school and force them into farm work or leave household chores solely to them," reports Sheri. Unlike Deaf Americans who have access to good education and the solid foundation of American Sign Language, many hearing African teachers do not know sign language to teach Deaf children at school. So Deaf Africans struggle.

"The biggest challenge of [our] work here is to clear up Who Jesus really is and what He has done for us since [the] majority religion is Muslim or traditional African religion. Most Deaf here believe both Muslims and Christians will enter heaven because of their belief in the same God and good works." Simply put, Sheri says, "They see Jesus as a good teacher."

However, the Morans know one Deaf believer who has been telling Deaf students about Jesus at a Deaf residential school before they came. Another older Deaf student decided to follow Christ knowing that his decision might carry the high price of being disowned, harmed, or worse. He witnesses to his family and friends despite the threats and persecution he encounters.

Pray for Sheri and her husband to be bold and not grow weary in sowing the truth. Ask God to help them "remain faithful in making disciples so that the Deaf can, in turn, tell others about Jesus and plant Deaf churches in West Africa."

**PRAY NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD****California:** David Whitehead**Louisiana:** Randall Gill**Maryland:** James Caldwell**Texas:** Donna Forsythe**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD****American Peoples:** Joseph Patterson**Central Asian Peoples:** SB**Deaf Peoples:** Sheri Moran**East Asian Peoples:** KP**European Peoples:** Stephen James,

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**PRAYER FOCUS-SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:** A missionary family who recently moved from rural Zambia to Botswana's capital city love living in a city with lots of malls and grocery stores, but they need your prayer support: "Pray for teachable hearts and patience as we learn a different culture and way of daily living and figure out what/where our family ministry will be in Gaborone."

**PRAY NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD****Kansas:** Craig Freerksen**Kentucky:** Arlene Miller**Ontario:** Piotr Starzeba**Pennsylvania:** Briana Underhill**Rhode Island:** Travis Rymer**Utah:** Javan Payne**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD****American Peoples:** David McNeill, Cameron Olson**Central Asian Peoples:** MM, SB**Deaf Peoples:** Kaori James**European Peoples:** Sommer Buss**Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples:** BH**Southeast Asian Peoples:** JG, LC**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS****RETIRED IMB:** Duane Falk, Dottie Gilbert, Norman Lytle, Gil Santhon, Pamela Warton

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Passage: Jeremiah 29:4-13

Focus: Jeremiah 29:11

After the Israelites settled in their promised land, they fell into a pattern. They served God, but they also worshiped the false gods of their neighbors. Then God allowed their enemies to defeat them and rule over them. They would pray, and God would send them a deliverer.

This pattern continued until God's Word to Habakkuk was fulfilled. The Babylonian army defeated the Israelites and took almost everyone to Babylon. Jeremiah had tried to warn them. They would be in captivity a long time. So, Jeremiah told them to settle down and build their lives there. This was not a word they wanted to hear.

Just as the Israelites became captives in a foreign land, sin enslaves us,

but God wants us to build our lives on His Word. From the time Adam and Eve were cast out of His presence, God never intended for our separation from Him to be permanent. God had a plan—a plan to give us hope. Let’s pray and watch for opportunities to share that hope with others.

**PRAYER FOCUS—SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:** From missionaries in Zambia: “We often meet people who insist that they must be ‘good’ before being saved. Ask the Father to break through any language barriers and make the gospel clear to those who are trying to be ‘good.’ Ask Him to show them through His Word that salvation only comes in faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.”

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- Deaf Peoples:** MH
- East Asian Peoples:** Esther Park
- Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples:** SH
- South Asian Peoples:** DB
- Southeast Asian Peoples:** JB
- Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** Erin Sprankle

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**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

**Passage:** Matthew 1:18–24  
**Focus:** Matthew 1:21

Mary was young and didn’t understand how it could happen, but she accepted God’s plan for her life. She was betrothed to Joseph, a man faithful to God’s law. In Bible days a betrothal was as binding as marriage, but expecting a baby before marriage was a shameful thing. Joseph decided to get a quiet divorce because he didn’t want Mary to face public disgrace.

God assured Joseph that Mary’s baby was part of His perfect plan to give us hope and restore our relationship with Him. Jesus didn’t come as a king wearing royal robes. He was born in a stable with a manger for His bed. Every year, we celebrate His birth by giving gifts to our loved ones. God gave us the gift of His Son, Jesus. Jesus was God, and He came to earth to live among people and set us free from sin. Mary and Joseph were willing to be part of God’s plan regardless of what it cost them. Let’s pray God will show us and our missionaries His plan for our lives.

**PRAYER FOCUS—SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:**

“Pray they will learn to read so they can read the Bible.” This is the heart cry of a missionary who spends hours each day homeschooling. Her heart cry is not for her son but for the children she has begun teaching who cannot attend schools, as they care for younger siblings while their parents work in the tea fields.

**PRAY NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

- Kansas:** Carin Cochran, Bradley Simmons
- Louisiana:** Larry Hood
- Tennessee:** Modena Kagay

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- East Asian Peoples:** EP, FH
- European Peoples:** Sarah Waller
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- South Asian Peoples:** NF, SG
- Southeast Asian Peoples:** ME
- Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** Gail Davis

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

- RETIRED NAMB:** James Sok
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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

**Passage:** John 1:43–51  
**Focus:** John 1:45

“We’ve found him!” Philip had to tell somebody, but Nathanael was skeptical. They were waiting and watching for fulfillment of the prophets’ predictions. They believed a king would come and set them free from

their Roman rulers. After all, God had worked that way for hundreds of years. That’s what people expected, but God wanted to do more than deliver them from their Roman oppressors.

After Nathanael talked with Jesus, he believed Jesus was the one they were expecting. These men became Jesus’ followers, or disciples. The word *disciple* means “one who learns,” and it was a life-changing decision. Disciples did more than just listen and learn. They followed their teachers everywhere they went.

We all have expectations for our lives and try to fulfill our dreams. My dreams didn’t line up with God’s plan for my life. What seemed like left turns, taking me to places I never expected to go, was God pointing me in His direction. Let’s record some of the life-changing steps we took after we became Jesus’ followers.

**PRAYER FOCUS—SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:**

Praise from Durban, South Africa: “After a wonderful time worshipping and fellowshiping with Rwandan believers, our blood pressure didn’t even spike when we left church and saw that all our vehicle’s hubcaps were missing. Thank the Lord for His protection and for His reminder that in His eternal perspective, these ‘little’ things aren’t as important as our obedience to Him.”

**PRAY NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

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- Central Asian Peoples:** KV, LF
- Deaf Peoples:** LJ
- East Asian Peoples:** JY, KW
- European Peoples:** Janet Brownd
- Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples:** AG, SM
- South Asian Peoples:** HH
- Southeast Asian Peoples:** JA, KC, LG
- Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** Elizabeth Bundrick, JB

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

- RETIRED NAMB:** Leslie Dobbins, Donald Hughes, Conrad Peterson

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

**Becky Byerly**  
 260 Briarcliff Road  
 Dayton, Ohio 45415  
 Passage: Isaiah 53:1-10  
 Focus: Isaiah 53:5

The strip club is dark and dank. Neon lights glare from the walls and illuminate the smirks and stares of men who have come to watch women dance. Becky and other volunteers walk through the club carrying trays heavy with food and head for the dancers' dressing room. There they serve the women, talk with them, and hand them gift bags with scented lotions and candles. Security guards and cameras monitor the volunteers, so they know they must be careful about what they say. Still, they communicate God's love through the way they treat the women.



"Our motto is 'You Are Loved,' " says Becky Byerly, a Southern Baptist missionary who is part of One Heart, a ministry to women in the sex industry. "We offer them assistance and connect them with local resources, provide free counseling, sponsor GED testing, and assist with getting documents like birth certificates."

Most of the women have been hurt by Christians who magnify the women's sins but fail to see the person behind the actions.

"Most of the ladies we meet do not want to be there, but for those with felonies it may be their only resource to eat, keep a roof over their head, or feed their children," Becky says.

Pray for continued open doors to minister to the dancers, bouncers, DJs, and bartenders. "No one cares about them, so we want to show them His love," Becky says.

**PRAY NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

- Arkansas:** Samuel Anderson
- Kentucky:** Jamie Reynolds
- Ontario:** Peter Blackaby
- Pennsylvania:** Ken Cordray
- Washington:** Jonathan Nguyen

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- Central Asian Peoples:** BB
- European Peoples:** Carolyn Miller,

- Robin Pinkston
- Southeast Asian Peoples:** Kim North, Carlene Ross, JH

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- RETIRED IMB:** Anne Dent, Jeni Hester, Esther Lee, Nadine Lovan, Lonnie Reynolds, Bettie Tomlinson

**RETIRED IMB:** Wanda Clark, Don Davis, Florence Griggs, Don Mines, Anita Thorne

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

**Passage: John 10:14-18**  
**Focus: John 10:18**

When God sent Moses to Egypt to rescue the Israelites, His plan included plagues and signs and wonders performed by Moses (Acts 7:36). The final plague was death to the firstborn son of every household. God told the Israelites to kill a lamb without any defects and put the blood of that lamb on the doorframes of their houses. The blood was a sign for death to pass over that house. Every year the Israelites celebrated this event.

Jesus and His disciples traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. The Passover meal became their last supper together. Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane after He finished praying. He was tried, sentenced, and nailed to a cross. Crucifixion was an agonizing and humiliating method the Romans used to execute criminals.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, became our sacrificial Lamb. When Jesus died on that cross, He took our sins on Himself. He died for our sins and paved the way for the restoration of our relationship with God. Let's give thanks for Jesus' sacrifice for us.

**PRAYER FOCUS-SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:** The most rural and forgotten area of western Zambia is home to the Lozi people, fishers and farmers along the Zambezi River. Many who say they are Christians continue to worship ancestors and fear the powerful charms and curses of the witch doctors. Ask the Lord to send workers, both near culture and far, to share the gospel with the Lozi.

**PRAY NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

- Indiana:** Julie Runner
- Louisiana:** George Ross
- Ohio:** Jeffrey Bodziony

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

- European Peoples:** MD, WW
- Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples:** JG

**Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** Nate Godby, SC

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

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**RETIRED IMB:** Gail Holman, Sai-Soo Huen, Mary Swedenburg, JB

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**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

See feature on page 34.

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**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

**Passage:** Luke 24:1–12

**Focus:** Luke 24:7

Jesus tried to prepare His disciples for His death on the cross, but they didn't understand because that's not what they expected. They believed their Messiah would set them free from the Romans and be their king. The word *Messiah* means "anointed one" and refers to a person who's been anointed with oil for a high position such as the Old Testament kings.

Jesus died on Friday before the Sabbath began at sunset. Because work was forbidden on the Sabbath, some women who had been Jesus' followers arrived at the tomb early Sunday morning to prepare His body for burial. Jesus was not there. He had risen from the dead on the third day, just as He had promised His disciples. Jesus' resurrection left His disciples confused and wondering what to make of these events.

Jesus didn't come to be an earthly king. He came to be our living God. Jesus is alive! What does His resurrection mean for us? Let's pray for understanding as we examine the gifts we have received from our living Lord.

**PRAYER FOCUS-NEW YORK:** Danny Torres is a lead church planter serving in Brooklyn. "Please join us in praying that our new service time and location will be a tool to reach more people for the sake of the gospel, for laborers to join our core group and live on mission in Bushwick, and for continual spiritual growth in the church."

**PRAY**

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**Maryland:** Richard Brown  
**Saskatchewan:** Marinus Tenkink  
**Texas:** Sherry Axton  
**Washington:** Kairui Zhang  
**Wyoming:** Rosilyn Fish

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

**Central Asian Peoples:** AS, AS  
**European Peoples:** JH  
**Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples:** BH, BP, LG  
**South Asian Peoples:** MD  
**Southeast Asian Peoples:** GB  
**Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** Meggie Hixon

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Joe Jones  
**RETIRED IMB:** Diana Clark, Pat Howard, Brian Proctor, Craig Steele, JH, SH

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**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

**Passage:** Luke 24:36–49

**Focus:** Luke 24:49

Jesus continued to appear to His disciples and tell them about God's kingdom. He urged them to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the gift God had promised to send. They followed Jesus' directions, but they didn't sit around and worry about whether they were going to be arrested because they had followed Jesus. Together with other believers, they prayed continually and waited for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit rested on individuals to give them power to do the work God called them to do. Now the Holy Spirit lives in all who believe in Jesus (Eph. 1:13). The Holy Spirit living in us is how we experience Jesus' presence in our lives (John 14:23). The Spirit empowers us to live godly lives. He teaches, strengthens, and encourages us, and He gives us spiritual gifts to use in our churches. What are your spiritual gifts? Make a list of ways you can use your gifts in your church and to share Jesus' message with others.

**PRAYER FOCUS-INDIANA:** Nathan Shaver is a church planter serving in Indianapolis. "Pray I may have a vibrant and growing love for the Lord Jesus

and His people. Pray I may prioritize my relationship and devotion to my wife and children. Pray for efforts in evangelism and for the development of discipleship relationships."

**PRAY**

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

**California:** Jeffrey Jimerson, Rodolfo Martinez  
**Georgia:** Robert Rittenhouse  
**Maine:** Brandon Dyer  
**Ohio:** Mark Cox, Gregory Haisley

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

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**Central Asian Peoples:** FS, HV, LH, ZW  
**East Asian Peoples:** ML  
**Southeast Asian Peoples:** Ruth Lapos, WC

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**RETIRED NAMB:** David Campos  
**RETIRED IMB:** Pat Boone, Curtis Bridges, Joyce Clark, Sandy Davis, Connie Flagg, Caroline Jones, Inyoung Kim, Tracey Lewis, Bill Richardson, DS

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**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

**Passage:** Acts 2:29–41

**Focus:** Acts 2:38

Jerusalem was in an uproar. It was the day of Pentecost, and people had come to present offerings of the first fruits of their wheat harvest to God in the Temple. Pentecost was celebrated 50 days after Passover, and Jerusalem was filled with people from many nations (Acts 2:5). When they heard Jesus' disciples speaking in their own languages, they were astonished and confused. How could this be happening?

Pentecost was the day God chose to send the gift of the Holy Spirit to His disciples. The Holy Spirit filled them with the presence of God and gave them the ability to speak to the people gathered in Jerusalem from other nations so they could understand God's message.

Peter stood up and declared Who Jesus was. Jesus had been crucified, but He was alive. Jesus was Messiah and Lord. Three thousand people accepted Jesus as Lord that day and carried the message of Jesus back home with them. Let's pray for our missionaries to be bold witnesses as they carry God's message around the world.

**PRAYER FOCUS-TENNESSEE:** Richard Holloman is a missionary serving as executive director of Sight Ministry in Tennessee. Sight Ministry exists to reach out in a compassionate, redemptive way to individuals who have been impacted by homosexuality without compromising the authority of Scripture. "Pray for our new website that many will be able to view it and learn of our existence as a resource for them. Pray as we begin a new semester of small groups. We have a group for men, for women, for parents, for wives, and for individuals who are in ministry and who secretly struggle. Pray as we are working with four new churches to assist them in offering help to people in their faith communities. Pray for us as we are confronted with hatred and hostility from some who call themselves Christians but who condemn us for our efforts. Pray also as we are confronted by some of the gay community who believe we are expressing hatred. Pray about letting your church leaders know about our ministry with the hope that we can serve as a resource in your area."

**PRAYER NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**  
**North Carolina:** William Morrison  
**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**  
**Central Asian Peoples:** DL, MR  
**East Asian Peoples:** BC  
**Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples:** CD  
**South Asian Peoples:** JR  
**Southeast Asian Peoples:** JR, LY  
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**RETIRED NAMB:** Virginia Winstead  
**RETIRED IMB:** Clarence Allison, Sarah Duvall, Max Furr, Phyllis Hefner, Bill Meredith, Marcus Reed, Annette Wheeler

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Passage: Romans 10:9-15

Focus: Romans 10:9

Hearts and flowers symbolize our love for the special people in our lives. We associate the heart with emotions, but it also encompasses the mind and the will. It influences how we think and the choices we make.

Some people use these "Romans Road" passages to share Christ's message of salvation. If you speak with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and you "believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead," you will be saved. The word *salvation* means "rescue." It's like rescuing someone from a hopeless situation. Or throwing a life preserver to a drowning person.

Paul said everybody who calls on the Lord will be saved. But, before others can believe in Jesus, they have to hear about Him. The only way they are going to hear is for someone to go and tell them Who Jesus is. Let's make a list of "lost" family and friends and pray daily for them. Instead of hearts and flowers, let's show our love for them by sharing God's message of love and salvation.

**PRAYER FOCUS-OHIO:** Sunil Prasad is a church-planting intern in Ohio. "I would like to request prayers for our church as we serve the Indian community in West Chester. I would like to request prayer for protection and penetration of the gospel among the non-Christians as well. Pray for a strong core group of at least seven families so we can launch our church in April 2018. Please pray for my family, my finances, and my health as well, so I can be more active in laboring for the Lord and doing what the Lord commanded me to do."

**PRAYER NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**  
**Kentucky:** Kathryn Henson, Joel Nickell  
**Utah:** Michael Cooper  
**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**  
**Central Asian Peoples:** JN, ZD  
**European Peoples:** FC  
**Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples:** ET, HG, MC, NS  
**South Asian Peoples:** KB, SK  
**Southeast Asian Peoples:** Marc Corradino, Cheri Crook

### CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS

**RETIRED NAMB:** Walter Agnor, Martha Atkinson, Carolyn Davis, Jay Humphreys, Thomas Ray  
**RETIRED IMB:** Fonda Boyd, Betty Carpenter, Paul Eaton, Ken Ellison, Debby Fricke, Elma Ignacio, Joyce Magyar, Pamela Warton

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Passage: Romans 5:6-17

Focus: Romans 5:17

Like every married couple, my husband and I had our share of disagreements. Two people can't live in the same house and always agree on everything, but every time we reconciled our differences, our love grew stronger.

*Trespass* is an Old Testament word with the same meaning as sin. It means "to miss the mark or fail." When Jesus died on the cross, He restored the relationship with God that Adam's trespass in the Garden of Eden destroyed. When we place our faith in Jesus, we receive justification and righteousness. That means our sins are forgiven. Our relationship with God has been set right, and He sees us as blameless. It's not something we do; it's God gift to us.

That doesn't mean we won't mess up and make wrong choices. Like wayward children, we may face God's discipline, but every time that happens, we learn more about Jesus and grow in our relationship with Him. What a powerful demonstration of God's love. Record in your story what God's gift of righteousness means to you.

**PRAYER FOCUS-LOUISIANA:** Jonathan Sayles is the lead church planter of Mission Community Church in New Orleans. "Please pray that the lost would come to Christ through our church plant in this very lost and unchurched community of New Orleans East."

**PRAYER NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**  
**California:** R. Walker  
**Connecticut:** Duane Crossman  
**Florida:** Jeffery Powell  
**Michigan:** Winford Williams  
**Pennsylvania:** Roger Talampas  
**Vermont:** William Smith

### INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

**Central Asian Peoples:** DL, EN, RB  
**East Asian Peoples:** DS, SP  
**European Peoples:** JK  
**Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples:** MI  
**South Asian Peoples:** DA, DM  
**Southeast Asian Peoples:** DM

### CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS

**RETIRED NAMB:** Clinton Ashley, Jose

Castro Boria, Patricia Dier, Martha Oakes, Huron Polnac, Aguedo Sanchez, Osa Wittenmyer

**RETIRED IMB:** Jimmy Boyd, Fan Cobb, Mark Lozuk, Bill McCall, Don McNeill, Courtney Street, Carolyn Tobias

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## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

**Passage: Romans 6:1–14**

**Focus: Romans 6:4**

When Jesus came into my heart, I knew I was a different person. So, I had to make some changes in my life. One of the first things I wanted to do was to find a church and be baptized. After salvation, baptism is the next step in our faith experience.

Baptism is a beautiful outward expression of the way we have been changed on the inside by God's grace. *Grace* is defined as "unmerited favor." Grace is a gift from God. It's not a debt we have to repay. We don't have to work for it. It's free.

Baptism is also how we join the church. We become members of the church that baptizes us and part of God's faith family. It is important to gather with other believers to worship and serve the Lord, as this helps us to grow in our knowledge of God and stay grounded in our faith. Let's pray for people we know who have fallen away from church that the Lord will restore their desire to come and worship Him.

**PRAYER FOCUS—RHODE ISLAND:** Matt and Alis Henderson are collegiate missionaries who are making disciples at the University of Rhode Island. "Please pray that students will recognize their need for Christ and submit their lives to Him. Pray also that believing students in our ministry [Rhody Christian Fellowship] will be bold in sharing their faith with their friends and classmates."

### PRAYER NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

**Alaska:** Tammy Hoke

**Georgia:** Toni Branyon

**Kentucky:** Linda Webb

**Louisiana:** Larry Johnson, Randall Osborn

**Oklahoma:** Isaias Vargas

### INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

**American Peoples:** David Boyter, Alisha Holt

**Central Asian Peoples:** ON, TL

**East Asian Peoples:** HC

**European Peoples:** RR, SM

**South Asian Peoples:** BF, CC, JP

**Southeast Asian Peoples:** JP, JS, KB, MS

**Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** Greg Sharpe, CM

### CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS

**RETIRED NAMB:** Joann Bledsoe, Edward Copeland, Ted Haws, Mary Lyon, Harold Manahan

**RETIRED IMB:** Doris Hancox, Vic Johnston, Cynthia Melvin, Buck Smith, Gene Verner, MB

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## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

See feature on page 38.

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## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

**Passage: Romans 6:15–23**

**Focus: Romans 6:22**

Paul used the example of slavery to show us the power of sin. In Bible times people were often forced into slavery when they couldn't pay their debts (2 Kings 4:1). Slaves had to obey their masters or face the consequences. While we don't know what it's like to be slaves, we can understand financial pressures. When the economy goes down, unemployment goes up, and debts can be hard to pay. When my husband and I paid off all our debts and were able to live a debt-free life, we felt like a weight was lifted off our shoulders. It was a great feeling.

Through Jesus' death we are no longer slaves to sin because our sin debt has been forgiven, but Jesus' resurrection gave us an even greater gift—the gift of eternal life. That word should fill us with indescribable joy. Let's think about the magnitude of this incredible gift of God. Add your thoughts to your story, and pray for opportunities to share God's message of eternal life with others.

### PRAYER FOCUS—PEOPLES OF NORTHEAST

**BRAZIL:** In the state of Rio Grande do Norte, a campaign has been launched called "Missions 40." The goal is to plant 10 new works every year for the next four years. Pray Baptists in this state will adopt the plan and work to put churches in areas where no Baptist work exists.

## PRAYER

### NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

**Florida:** Bokman Han

**Georgia:** Robert Lunceford

**Maine:** Barry Murry

**North Carolina:** William Viel

**Ohio:** Kale Booher

**Oklahoma:** Russell Fincher

**Utah:** Gary McKean

### INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

**American Peoples:** Dirce Cooper

**Central Asian Peoples:** BG, CF

**East Asian Peoples:** RG

**European Peoples:** CM

**Northern African and Middle Eastern**

**Peoples:** JC, KS

**South Asian Peoples:** EB

**Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** Carrie Lewis

### CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS

**RETIRED NAMB:** John Everett, Lewis Holloway

**RETIRED IMB:** Dwayne Brown, Roy Burson, Mary Johnson, Terry Lassiter, Nancy Ollis, Sherry Sims, RH

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## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

**Passage: Matthew 28:16–20**

**Focus: Matthew 28:19**

Before Jesus was taken into heaven, He gave His disciples specific instructions. He told them to go; to make disciples of all nations; and to baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus told them to teach His followers to obey all of His commands. This is the Great Commission.

The disciples followed Jesus because they expected their Messiah to come. We must have the same expectation. Jesus is coming back again (Acts 1:11). If we belong to Jesus and possess an active growing relationship with Him, we have a powerful message to share.

Just like Jesus sent His disciples, now He is sending us. Jesus told His disciples to declare His message to the world, but they were to start where they were at the moment. Start where you live. Pay attention to the people around you. Don't be afraid to tell them what Jesus is doing in your life. We have the same responsibility to reach our generation as the disciples had to reach theirs.

**PRAYER FOCUS—KHARKOV (HAR-KOV), UKRAINE:** Distribution of food parcels

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

**David Boyter**

American Peoples

Birthday:

February 16

Passage: 1 Peter 4:7-11

Focus: 1 Peter 4:10

The state of Sinaloa, Mexico, dons the title of “Breadbasket of Mexico” and houses the largest canning facility in Latin America. David and Ann Boyter live in Culiacán, a city in Sinaloa, where they work among the indigenous people who flood into their area to work in this major agriculture industry. The Boyters have planted themselves in this agrarian region to share Christ and make disciples with the goal of the workers taking the gospel back to their homes and starting new churches.

David admits it is a challenge ministering among transient agricultural workers. “The people come to work here for between three and nine months every year, but they don’t always come back. [They] sometimes show up at a different camp. It can be difficult to keep up the discipleship and leadership training with them.”

While the work may be slow, David and Ann’s team has recently witnessed progress. Three people have recently come to faith. The Boyters count it a joy to witness a spiritual harvest among people who have listened to the gospel for years but have been a bit slower to respond.

Pray for David, Ann, and their team to be steadfast and encouraged even when the work appears to be slow. David asks prayer for many people to come to know Christ in a personal way in addition to specifically seeking prayer for the discipleship of new believers. David says, “Pray that God would lead us to the ones who will be faithful to learn and pass along what God teaches them.” If you’d like to become partners with them in prayer, write them at [adboyter@gmail.com](mailto:adboyter@gmail.com) and they’ll add you to their prayer partner list.



**PRAY** **NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**  
**California:** Somporn Kool  
**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**  
**Central Asian Peoples:** MM, WA  
**European Peoples:** Jim Whitley, AH  
**Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples:** MH, MM  
**Southeast Asian Peoples:** AB, AF

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Paul Brewer, Dorothy Kindel, John Meredith, William Pickle  
**RETIRED IMB:** Pat Bellinger, YoungOak Farmer, Evelyn Hill, Kay Madaris, Jay Smith, Lois Taylor, Mrs. James Ware, Lee Zwink

and clothing for many who continue to be displaced by war has once again started at Living Hope Church. While in the past multiple aide organizations provided much of the financial assistance necessary, those resources are not available at this time. Praise the Father for the help provided by Baptist Global Response to continue this outreach.

**PRAY** **NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**  
**Alabama:** Tammy Ikner  
**Nevada:** James Collins  
**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**  
**American Peoples:** Connie Rodgers  
**East Asian Peoples:** JY, RP  
**European Peoples:** Denise Shaw, Colleen Underwood  
**Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples:** AP, FT, VS  
**South Asian Peoples:** JG, KH, KS, RC  
**Southeast Asian Peoples:** AS, JD  
**Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** DR

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**RETIRED NAMB:** William Hays, Hugh Minefee, Paul Roaten, Weldon Stevens  
**RETIRED IMB:** Benjamin Bedford, Janet Walker

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Passage: John 3:14–21

Focus: John 3:18

God fed the Israelites with manna every morning while they traveled through the wilderness. They got tired of eating the same thing every day and complained to Moses. God gave them heavenly bread, but they called it “miserable food” (Num. 21:5). So the Lord sent poisonous snakes into their camp. Many people died. Moses prayed for them. God told him to make a bronze snake and put it on a pole so anyone bitten could look at it and be healed.

Jesus declared that, like the bronze snake, He was going to be lifted up and give eternal life to everyone who believed in Him. Some religions teach many paths to God exist. But the Bible is clear: Jesus is the only way to salvation. People who don’t believe in Jesus are already condemned. When we share Christ’s message, we are giving them an opportunity to choose life. This word

should give us a sense of urgency. Let's make a list of ways our faith stories can help us become intentional witnesses.

**PRAYER FOCUS—SAUDI ARABS OF SAUDI ARABIA:** Millions of Muslims made their annual pilgrimage to the holiest places for Islam. These holy cities are off limits to non-Muslims, so pray the Lord will breach physical and spiritual barriers to bring the gospel to the people in these cities, both residents and visitors. Ask that many Saudi Arabs will receive Jesus in this heartland of Islam.

**PRAY NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

- Georgia:** Moises Sanchez
- Indiana:** Todd Wells
- New Hampshire:** John Scoggins
- Tennessee:** Cheryl Conner
- Wyoming:** Aaron Bell

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

- Central Asian Peoples:** CE, EA, MV
- East Asian Peoples:** Bob Gellerstedt, SC
- European Peoples:** Wendy Meador, Sonia Pettersson Dzubuk, Elsa Wilson
- South Asian Peoples:** JG
- Southeast Asian Peoples:** Stan Smith
- Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** Chad Pumpelly

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**RETIRED IMB:** Alan Brown, Robert Gierhart, Betty Larimer, Arylis Milligan, Joe Powell

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**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

**Passage:** 1 Timothy 2:1–6  
**Focus:** 1 Timothy 2:1

Paul instructed his young disciple, Timothy, to pray for all people including people in positions of authority. Paul listed the different kinds of prayer: “petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving”; and he gave Timothy an important reason to pray—“that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”

We live in a violent and lawless world. We hope and pray for peace; however, unless God intervenes, it will not happen. God is the only one Who can bring change to this world, and it will only happen if people's hearts and lives are changed. If we want to reach people with God's message of love, we must begin with prayer.

Intercessory prayer should be a vital part of our outreach. We know that God desires all people be saved, but, unless He prepares their hearts, they may not be receptive to the message of Jesus. Let's use 1 Timothy 2:3 as a prayer for the lost people on our list and make it personal by inserting their names into this verse.

**PRAYER FOCUS—DEAF PEOPLES:** Willie and Bascom Brown\* will be returning to North Africa for another StoryOne Camp. It has been four years. Please ask the Lord to open doors, bring the ones He wants to be at this camp, and change lives through His stories in a way that only He can.

*\*Names changed.*

**PRAY NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

- Colorado:** Darrin Crow, Robert Pruet
- Ontario:** Sathyan Arulvarathan
- Texas:** George Snow
- Wisconsin:** Abraham Vang

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

- Central Asian Peoples:** PH
- East Asian Peoples:** JC
- Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples:** BW, JC, SS
- Southeast Asian Peoples:** JE, KM
- Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** Maridith Lane

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Lorraine Kaufman, Jorge Sedaca  
**RETIRED IMB:** Eileen Carr, Geneva Faw, Amelio Giannetta, Lahoma Greenwood, Mona Hewitt, Marie Jones, Rick Kuter, Maurice Marrow, Bob Sarles, Jim Tye, Lucy Wagner, Clara Williams

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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

**Passage:** 2 Corinthians 6:1–10  
**Focus:** 2 Corinthians 6:2

Politicians try to win elections by telling voters they understand their problems, but most politicians don't have a clue about the struggles ordinary people face every day. The Apostle Paul had a hard life when he decided to follow God. His letter to the Corinthian church listed his experiences. Through his struggles, Paul learned how to depend on God and keep going even when it appeared to be impossible.

Paul drew on all those experiences to make connections with the people he was trying to reach. He understood their day-to-day struggles. His list ended with words of encouragement. Although he had nothing, he “possessed everything.” Paul used his story to reach people for the Lord.

Does your faith story include hard times? Times you've tried and failed? Have you faced humiliation for your beliefs? The way God helps us through tough times may be just the story others need to hear to give their heart to Jesus. Review your story and think about how your story can help you make connections with others.

**PRAYER FOCUS—JAKARTA, INDONESIA:** Amy\*, a believing student at a local university, is open to studying the Word with some mature believers. They will begin a small group with her friends. Pray Amy and her friends will be challenged to spend time regularly in the Word and to share God's good news with those around them, the majority of whom are Muslim.

*\*Name changed.*

**PRAY NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

- Alaska:** Steve Kim
- INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**
- Central Asian Peoples:** SW, TM
- East Asian Peoples:** Dong Wuk Lim, Vanessa Lim, CV, ER

- European Peoples:** Jennifer Folker, Stanley Littleford, DT, JB
- Global Resource Team:** Stephanie Charming
- Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples:** JD
- Southeast Asian Peoples:** Holly Wright, GB
- Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** Jimmy Bledsoe

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Marshal Bundren, Alicia Perez, O'Neal Stevens  
**RETIRED IMB:** Donna Brown, Barbara Chance, Jay Cook, Bill Geiger, Patsy Hammett, Jimmy Huey, Betty Yoars

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**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

**Passage:** 2 Timothy 2:8–15  
**Focus:** 2 Timothy 2:15

One morning, when I was church secretary, a woman in the

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

**Kwame Frimpong** ←

62 Boulder Run  
Hiram, Georgia 30141  
Passage: Isaiah  
55:6-13  
Focus: Isaiah 55:11



A small group of children eagerly gathers around the grill and waits for the food to cook. Music plays in the background and adults mill around talking about the day and their struggles. Kwame walks from group to group and asks people how he and his church, Powerhouse International Church, can help.

“Our vision is to reach Africans, Caribbeans, and African Americans through love and discipleship,” says Kwame Frimpong, a Southern Baptist church planter in Powder Springs, Georgia. “We do that through block parties, house parties, and door-to-door evangelism.”

Kwame says it is a struggle to get people interested in attending a church plant. “About 90 percent of the people we meet do not have a heart to join a new church. They want to attend an established church.”

Still, God provides opportunities for Kwame and his church to impact lives. Recently, Kwame saw God move in the heart of a church member for whom he had prayed for several months.

“He is living with his girlfriend, and I’ve been praying for him to get it together,” Kwame says. “Two months into the prayer, the guy gave his life to Christ. Now I am doing one-on-one discipleship with him.”

Kwame says his greatest reward is seeing people get saved and baptized and watching a community come together in worship.

Pray for church planters and volunteers to come alongside Powerhouse International Church as they continue to make inroads in neighboring communities.

**PRAY** **NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**  
**Arizona:** Stephen Boldin  
**Kansas:** Carl Garrett  
**Virginia:** Brian Collison

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**  
**American Peoples:** Frank Harrison  
**Central Asian Peoples:** JH, SD  
**East Asian Peoples:** Mitchell Varnum, CR, IM, JD, MG  
**European Peoples:** Paul Babb, Brian Davis, Braylon Dole, Boyd Hatchel, Carol Smith, Scott Wood

**Southeast Asian Peoples:** JS  
**Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** AP, JG

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Stanley Albright, John Ross, Geneva Silverio  
**RETIRED IMB:** Pam Ammons, Dee Attix, Carolyn Smith

congregation popped into the office for a visit. During our conversation, she mentioned listening to a preacher on television. He had quoted a Scripture verse that spoke to her. She said, “I looked up the verse, and it didn’t say that. But everybody makes mistakes. I suppose even preachers can forget a Scripture.” Many good preachers teach God’s Word on television, but on the other hand many false teachers make their money by telling people what they want to hear.

We must be careful how we handle God’s Word when we communicate Jesus’ message. We don’t want to stray away from God’s truth, and we don’t want to lead anyone else astray. The way to recognize error when you hear it, and the way to avoid teaching error is to be diligent in the study of God’s Word. Let’s remember our commitment to read our Bibles daily. Before reading, let’s pray for wisdom and for God to lead us to the knowledge of His truth.

**PRAYER FOCUS—UZBEKS OF POST-SOVIET CENTRAL ASIA:** Ask the Lord to raise up godly leaders in the Uzbek church. Pray believers will have a desire to see the Great Commission fulfilled. May God provide many opportunities for the good news to be shared in post-Soviet Central Asia. Ask the Lord to soften the hearts of the Uzbeks so the gospel will not fall on deaf ears.

**PRAY** **NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**  
**Connecticut:** Samuel Yilma  
**Florida:** Misael Castillo  
**Indiana:** Chris Kellermeyer

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**  
**American Peoples:** Shelley Blacksten, Joyce Pittman  
**Central Asian Peoples:** MV  
**East Asian Peoples:** Robert Hale  
**European Peoples:** Nicholas Copland, KD  
**Global Resource Team:** KP  
**Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples:** HF, SS  
**Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** JH

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**  
**RETIRED NAMB:** Lincoln Bingham, Michael Carlisle, Sok Doeung, Linda Hokit,

Kenneth James, Larry Vickery, Sudie Whitlock

**RETIRED IMB:** John Hatton, Clyde Schulz

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## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

See feature on page 40.

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## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

**Passage:** 2 Timothy 4:1–5

**Focus:** 2 Timothy 4:2

Like young Timothy, I've always been shy and tried not to call attention to myself in groups. Several years ago an unusual thing happened. I found myself being asked to share testimonies without any time to prepare. *Testimony* is a word that brings to mind a courtroom scene. When someone is on trial, witnesses are called to take an oath and testify on the witness stand.

We are called to be God's witnesses. We must be ready at a moment's notice to share what God is doing in our lives. When God sent Moses to Egypt to rescue His people, He told Moses not to worry about speaking. When the time came, the Lord would give him the right words to say (Ex. 4:12).

The Lord gave me the words when I stood up to speak, and He will do the same for you. Spending time in prayer, Bible study, and writing our faith testimonies gets us ready for impromptu opportunities to share. Pray and watch for open doors to declare the message of Jesus.

**PRAYER FOCUS-OKLAHOMA:** Judi Page is an evangelism catalyst serving in Oklahoma. "Please pray for our International Encounters ministry as we try new ways of reaching our Hispanic students with the gospel. Most are steeped in Hispanic Catholicism. We currently use the Gospel of Mark to teach English grammar but are using Spanish New Testaments to help students gain better understanding of Scripture. Most of our students have no understanding of the Bible stories we grew up with and, to our surprise, didn't know what a Jew was or that

Jesus was Jewish. Please pray for open hearts and minds."

### PRAY NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

**Georgia:** William Collins

**Kentucky:** Joshua Boswell

**Missouri:** Heather Murray

**Rhode Island:** Hana Buob

**Washington:** Nathan McGlinchy

### INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

**American Peoples:** Regina White

**East Asian Peoples:** CP, MC

**European Peoples:** CK

**Northern African and Middle Eastern**

**Peoples:** JS

**Southeast Asian Peoples:** CM, ES, RS

### CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS

**RETIRED NAMB:** Annie Harris, Victor Orta, Betty Stevens, Roy Williams

**RETIRED IMB:** Gloria Glaze, Ray Hicks, Dennis Meilstrup, Kyle Perrin, Cleve Turner, Lana Witmore, Norman Wood

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## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

**Passage:** Acts 4:1–17

**Focus:** Acts 4:12

Peter and John performed a miracle in Jerusalem. They encountered a man, lame from birth, begging outside the Temple. Instead of a handout, they healed him (Acts 3:6–7). People flocked to them, but Temple officials were disturbed because they talked about Jesus. The Jewish priests and leaders believed theirs was the only true faith. When Jesus' disciples started spreading the message of Christ, they were determined to stop them. The disciples were beaten and thrown in jail.

Some religions encourage their believers to do good works and to be people of integrity. That sounds like a noble faith; however, good works do not save us. Many countries possess a national religion and don't tolerate anyone teaching different beliefs. These countries are closed.

Many missionaries share the message of Christ in closed countries. If they are discovered, they face imprisonment and death. Christians are being persecuted in these nations and dying for their faith. Let's pray for missionaries serving in closed countries, and let's

pray every nation will allow Christ's message to be proclaimed openly.

### PRAYER FOCUS-KARNATAKA STATE, INDIA:

The hospital's urban health center in a large Bangalore slum is in a tiny rented building where workers treat more than 1,000 patients per month. Please continue praying that an adequate building can be found. For most of the 75,000 people in that slum, this center is their only health-care facility. Pray for the center's physical and spiritual ministry.

### PRAY NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

**Arizona:** Deborah Bishop

**British Columbia:** Earl Grisaffe

**Illinois:** Daniel Chung

**Louisiana:** Craig Jenkins

**Ohio:** Oliver Hawkins

**Texas:** Sally Johnson

**Wisconsin:** Kenneth Boyd

### INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

**Central Asian Peoples:** KG

**East Asian Peoples:** KS

**European Peoples:** Nate Day, Tiffany Fontenot, Michael Harrington, Roger Rose

**South Asian Peoples:** Susan Binford, AB, DR, MC, MH

**Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** Sharon Arthur, Anthony Rivers

### CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS

**RETIRED NAMB:** Roy Desilvey, Marjorie Dutton, Martha Manahan, Andrew Viera

**RETIRED IMB:** Sue Benedict, Chris Wilkinson, RN

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## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

**Passage:** Acts 5:27–42

**Focus:** Acts 5:42

The disciples were warned, but they didn't stop. The Holy Spirit filled them with boldness. They kept on preaching, and people were putting their faith in Jesus. So, Peter and John were brought back to the Sanhedrin. The high priest accused them of filling Jerusalem with their teaching. Peter's reply infuriated the high council.

Then Gamaliel gave the council some wise advice. "Leave them alone," he said. He shared that if this is the disciples' plan, it will fail; however, if it's from God, nothing can stop it. Gamaliel's words carried a lot of weight. He was a distinguished

teacher of the law. The Apostle Paul was one of his students.

The priests' opposition was fueled by jealousy (Acts 5:17). When Peter and John were released, they didn't hide. They didn't go back into the upper room and shut the doors. They went to the temple courts every day and did not stop teaching and "proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah." Let's pray for boldness to keep sharing Christ's message and leave the results to God.

**PRAYER FOCUS—ALL MISSIONARIES:** Some missionaries serve in isolated areas without the fellowship of another missionary family. Pray for God to send some support in the form of another missionary family, fellow believer, or faithful friend.

**PRAY NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**  
**Alberta:** Wayne Snider  
**Arizona:** Trey Van Camp

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**  
**Central Asian Peoples:** LH  
**Deaf Peoples:** AH  
**East Asian Peoples:** CS, DV  
**European Peoples:** Shane Mikeska  
**Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples:** AH, AS  
**South Asian Peoples:** MG  
**Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** Lesley Vines

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**RETIRED NAMB:** H. Colbert, Alma McCleendon, Walter Tucker  
**RETIRED IMB:** Art Jackson, Rose McCain, Jim Miller, Bob Nash, Peggy Shepherd, Doug Simrell

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Passage: 2 Corinthians 4:1–7

Focus: 2 Corinthians 4:6

We are so accustomed to having light at the tip of our fingers we don't realize how terribly dark it is when those lights go out. God, the creator of light, sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be the light of the world. Jesus said, "Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

We have the light of Jesus shining in our hearts. We are like clay jars with a priceless treasure inside. That treasure is the "light of the gospel" and knowledge of the glory of God. The word *gospel* means "good news." Clay jars are fragile and easily broken, but our God is all-powerful.

When we share the good news of Jesus and that message is received, we can see the eyes of a lost person light up with the light of life. What an amazing experience! Let's not keep this message to ourselves. Let's use our faith stories to reflect the light of God's love into the dark world around us.

**PRAYER FOCUS—IN YOUR CHURCH:** Pray your church would see the need for missions education and involvement through Focus on WMU activities in your church.

**PRAY NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**  
**Alabama:** Aaron Nicholson  
**Louisiana:** Alan Pittman  
**Mississippi:** Halbert Selby  
**Wyoming:** Jason Reasor

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**  
**Central Asian Peoples:** HH  
**European Peoples:** Andrew Howell, Milton Magalhaes  
**Global Resource Team:** JD  
**Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples:** CM  
**Southeast Asian Peoples:** LG  
**Sub-Saharan African Peoples:** Matthew Espeland, Becky Harrell, BW, MH

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**RETIRED NAMB:** Dwain Boothe  
**RETIRED IMB:** Billie Allen, Linda Allen, Ruth Chao, Sally Cline, Gerald David, Kay Eaton, Pam Jenkins, Ross Thompson, Ruben Zorzoli

## FEBRUARY 29

**PRAY NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**  
**Indiana:** Steven Blanchard

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**  
**American Peoples:** Tim Lightsey  
**East Asian Peoples:** MC

**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**

**RETIRED IMB:** Betty Alexander, Vivian Boyle

## Prayer Calendar Information

Southern Baptist missionaries and their spouses who are serving for more than two years are listed on their birthdays. The list of names for the prayer calendar is provided by the mission boards and is not generated by WMU\*.

- **Chaplains** are endorsed by NAMB but are not listed because they do not receive financial or ministerial support through NAMB.
- **Volunteers** are individuals who are not funded through SBC mission boards; they are self-funded. They are not listed here because of the inability to compile a complete list of these people, but they do need your prayers daily. The exception to this policy is the listing of MSC missionaries.

### Missionary Funding

Money given through the Cooperative Program, to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering\* for International Missions, and to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering\* for North American Missions helps support SBC missionaries.

*International Mission Board:* All IMB missionaries listed on the prayer calendar receive their financial support from the IMB.

*North American Mission Board:* NAMB missionaries listed on the prayer calendar do not receive all their financial support from NAMB. Joint funding is carried out through partnerships between NAMB, state conventions, and Baptist associations. Amounts provided by each entity and amounts the missionaries actually receive vary according to their location and the type of service.

Self-funded MSC missionaries receive no financial support through NAMB or NAMB-generated partnerships as salary or to cover personal expenses. Some may receive partial financial support for ministry projects through partnerships.

### Contact Information

The North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board provide missionary names and related information for the missionary prayer calendar. Should an error or omission be discovered, please address your concerns to NAMB at [namb.net/contact](http://namb.net/contact) or 1-800-634-2462, or IMB at [imb.org/contact-us](http://imb.org/contact-us) or 1-800-999-3113.



SANDRA KNOX MILLER is thankful for the wonderful gifts we have received from the Lord and for the opportunity to use her gifts to serve Him at Sycamore Baptist Church in Sycamore, Alabama.



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