

Daily Prayer Focus

for Focus on WMU

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Passage: Exodus 35:30–35

Focus: Exodus 35:31

I confess that for many years I've unwisely compartmentalized the many layers of who I am. I've considered some aspects of my identity to be "spiritual" and of interest to God, and other aspects of me I've written off as frivolous and secondary. Through great patience from the Lord and with some much appreciated guidance from mentors in my life, I've begun to realize that my heart and mind can stay fresh and vibrant through trying new things that I once considered frivolous. Things like cooking new recipes, sketching, and even gardening are not only not frivolous but also the very things God could use in my life to keep my mind refreshed, my heart rested, and my creativity flowing.

God grants gifts and talents with a divine purpose in mind. Are you reaching your full potential in creativity? When was the last time you tried a new creative outlet? Fresh creativity can make you a stronger, more vibrant servant for the Lord, and there's nothing trivial about that.

PRAYER FOCUS-ILLINOIS: Gwenn Worshill is a missionary serving as an emergency services, law enforcement, and disaster-relief chaplain. "One of the

members of our ministry, Ed, is suffering from some serious medical issues. He needs much prayer. I am also having some potentially serious medical symptoms that may need attention. Please pray for healing for Ed and me so we can continue to serve Jesus and the saints."

PRAY

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Passage: Isaiah 42:10–17

Focus: Isaiah 42:10

Just for fun, sometimes I "go musical" to spice up the communication with my children. They roll their eyes,

but they love it. It's the easiest way to entertain them: whatever the words I need to say, instead of speaking them, I sing them. My children not only get the message but also feel flattered that I cared enough to put extra effort into my message to them.

Have you ever wondered why God wants us to sing praises to Him? Couldn't we just as easily articulate our praise in words without melody? No human could say for certain why God loves to hear our voices raised in songs of praise, but one thing's for sure: God created and enjoys the creative expression of mankind.

Isaiah 42:10 instructs God's people to sing a new song to the Lord. Not just any song, mind you, but one you've never sung before. God is encouraging you to find new ways to express your love for Him.

PRAYER FOCUS-ILLINOIS: Ric Worshill is a missionary serving as senior emergency services and law enforcement chaplain in Illinois. "In November, I retired from my police patrol duties after 31 years of service as a police officer. I continue to serve in police chaplaincy for four agencies. I also serve as president of the Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship. This is a Jewish, ethnic outreach of the SBC Executive Committee's Convention

Advancement Advisory Council. Our ministry responsibilities have increased, and we are looking to the Lord for His provision and protection. Pray for our ministry function and our continued ability to serve the kingdom.”

PRAY

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Passage: Hebrews 10:19–25

Focus: Hebrews 10:24

Because God is encouraging us to stir up love and good works in others, it stands to reason that we should also be open to let others stir up love and good works in us! I love how God brings new people into my life, and each person connects to my heart in new and different ways to inspire something beautiful.

Meet my friend “Jane.” As our relationship has grown, God used my passion for missions to ignite a strong interest in Jane for missions to South Asia, and eventually God called us to go on a missions trip together. This

experience strengthened our friendship, and it was amazing to watch God do this new thing in her life. In turn, God has used Jane to teach me to value girlfriend time, and she also is my accountability partner for health and exercise, a new discipline God is teaching me. Ask God to use others to ignite new passion and growth in you.

PRAYER FOCUS-WYOMING: Steve Johnson is a church-planter apprentice serving in Wyoming. He says, “Please pray for my teenage daughter, Mia. She has wandered away from the Lord. Pray that if she is saved, God would do whatever it takes to get her to put Jesus first in her life—that she would be completely sold out to Jesus. Pray that if she is not saved, God would save her. Please pray He would change her, sooner than later.”

PRAY

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Passage: 1 Kings 19:19–21

Focus: 1 Kings 19:21

When God invited Elisha to a new life as Elijah’s servant, Elisha said an irreversible good-bye to his old life by slaughtering the oxen and burning his plowing equipment. What an admirable beginning to his new life. And what a blessing from God that this development in Elisha’s life came with a traveling companion, a mentor to guide Elisha through the lifestyle of a prophet.

Trying something new, or even becoming aware of the possibilities of what new things are available to us, can open up powerfully with the right people in our lives to guide us. Elisha was tethered to Elijah for the example and instruction he would need for his soon-to-be new calling as a prophet. Think about something new you would like to do or try and the people who can help you be successful in your efforts. Ask God to grant you a humble spirit to approach the people who can mentor you in the areas where God is directing you.

PRAYER FOCUS-CALIFORNIA: Brian Shepard is a church planter serving in California. “Pray for us as we continue to connect with people and local nonprofits focusing on the Amos 5 Priority, which targets social justice concerns, as a way to partner with and serve our neighborhoods in San Francisco. Pray for Melissa and me as we are still trying to find jobs in the neighborhoods where we are volunteering. Pray for more financial and prayer partnerships so we can stay in the city as urban missionaries.”

PRAY

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Jim Collins ←

11076 Mount Hunter Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89179
Birthday: February 19
Passage: Isaiah 42:1-9
Focus: Isaiah 42:9



Mike listened to Jim Collins share about Jesus' death and resurrection before he interrupted with a question.

"How much of this do I need to choke down?" he asked Jim, who is a Southern Baptist church planter in Las Vegas.

Jim asked Mike to explain his question, and Mike said, "Just paint me a picture."

Jim then spent the next hour sharing the gospel and answering Mike's questions. They agreed to continue meeting, and Mike's girlfriend eventually joined the discussions.

"I watched God save them both!" Jim exclaims.

Jim serves as the planting pastor of Discovery Church and as a church-planting catalyst for southern Nevada. He coaches other church planters and assists them with their church plants.

"One of the challenges in my context is developing leaders," Jim says. "Because so many of our church members are first generation Christians, we have to be very patient as we develop leaders."

Jim describes Las Vegas as a dark city held in a stronghold of addiction.

"Many in our city deal with addiction of some sort, and a strong percentage of our church members are recovering from addiction," he says. "It's so rewarding to see the dramatic life change that happens when people are saved into a relationship with Jesus."

Please pray God continues to establish Discovery Church and that He raises up more laborers for the harvest. Pray, too, that God establishes more churches in Las Vegas.

PRAY**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

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Georgia: Dexter Hardy
Michigan: Shea Prisk
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Passage: Genesis 39:1-23

Focus: Genesis 39:23

Joseph's young adult life was defined with constant change and adjustments. He went from enjoying a cushioned life as his father's favorite son, to a new life as a slave, then yet another new lifestyle as a prisoner. "New" was never easy for Joseph, but God had a purpose for every stop along Joseph's path to second in command to Pharaoh. Whether serving in Potiphar's house as chief servant or taking leadership as a prisoner in Egypt's dungeons, Joseph was learning new life skills and experiencing character-building moments that prepared him for his future.

Sometimes when God puts us in a place of unwelcomed change, we are tempted to resent what seems to be "forced" upon us by God. But we can see through the life story of Joseph that God always is purposeful about His movement in our lives. Search your heart carefully. Is there any resentment toward God over changes made outside of your control? Pray with an open heart, ready to hear the truth.

PRAYER FOCUS—NEW YORK: Danny Torres serves as lead planter of Swerve Church in Bushwick, Brooklyn. "Please pray for a new venue. We're praying for a location that would be more visible. Please pray for laborers to join us in sowing the gospel in our community. Please pray for fruit from our outreaches. Lastly,

would you please pray for our family? Thank you for praying for us and the ministry in Bushwick."

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- NAMB:** Stewart Pickle
- IMB:** Pat Bellinger, Evelyn Hill, Kay Madaris, Jay Smith, Lois Taylor, Mrs. James Ware, Lee Zwink, YF

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

See feature on page 38.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Passage: Luke 1:26–38

Focus: Luke 1:38

A friend of mine was recently diagnosed with diabetes. I've watched his metamorphosis take place before my eyes. He immediately changed his eating habits and began to exercise with intentionality. He slimmed down, became healthy, and now manages his sugar intake. He accepted that his life was changed and he embraced his new lifestyle. Diabetes runs in my family, and I've wondered as I've watched my friend if I could gracefully accept something new in my life if one day that new thing is a diagnosis like diabetes.

My friend didn't have to try something new with his diagnosis. He could have stubbornly refused to accept the

situation and kept on with his old habits to his own demise. Because he accepted the change, he was able to experience victories through the Lord of making wise choices and managing his life.

Similarly, Mary didn't have to embrace Gabriel's news. She could have gone into denial, or even refused to accept God's plan. Will you accept the new?

PRAYER FOCUS—CHUABO (SHWAH-BOH)

OF MOZAMBIQUE: Children all around the city of Quelimane, Mozambique, struggle with reading and math. Pray for those involved in a reading ministry missionary Wanne Dina has in one neighborhood. The children have heard the gospel many times, so ask that they will make a decision to follow Christ as their Savior and Lord.

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Southeast Asian Peoples: AS, JD

Sub-Saharan African Peoples: DR

Chaplains • Volunteers

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- NAMB:** Lucille Crowe, Bill Hays, Norma McMurry, Hugh Minefee, Weldon Stevens
- IMB:** Benjamin Bedford, Janet Walker

Want to keep praying for missionaries every day?

Check out Prayer Patterns, a monthly devotional guide highlighting prayer for

missionaries on their birthdays, in each issue of *Missions Mosaic*.

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