

NAZARENE WORLD WEEK OF PRAYER

February 24 – March 2, 2019

Daily Focus

**As you pray throughout this week, remember that God is present and active!
Many of the praises you will see are proof of that.
Our prayer requests simply encourage us to join Him
in His redemptive purposes in the world.
Pray faithfully! Pray passionately!**

Sunday, 24 February, 2019

General Prayers in Challenging Times

Monday, 25 February, 2019

Political Challenges (Praises and Prayers from all regions)

Tuesday, 26 February, 2019

Economic Challenges (Praises and Prayers from all regions)

Wednesday, 27 February, 2019

Social Challenges (Praises and Prayers from all regions)

Thursday, 28 February, 2019

Religious Challenges (Praises and Prayers from all regions)

Friday, 1 March, 2019

Praises and Prayers for Creative Access and Secure Areas

Saturday, 2 March, 2019

A Covenant of Prayer for the Year Ahead



NAZARENE WORLD WEEK OF PRAYER

February 24 – March 2, 2019

Prayers for Missionaries in Challenging Times and Places

Eph. 2:12

***“Remember, when you...
having no hope, and without God in this world.”***

Too often, when we pass through troubled and challenging times, we forget all that we have enjoyed by God’s good grace, and turn our focus inward, thinking only of our own present trials. When facing your troubled or uncertain times, turn your focus to others who “have no hope, and are without God in this world,” and those who are seeking to bring hope, and point to the God of hope and peace.

Remember your missionaries and the work of your church throughout the year in prayer. Many are often facing challenging times in the places in which they serve. They seek to be peacemakers and agents of transformation. They need your support through intercession. **[NOTE: Due to the significant security issues facing the church, and many who serve as missionaries in troubled areas, we are not at liberty to provide names, and often it will appear as though we are failing to explain situations in detail. God knows the details, and is at work! We must protect those who serve, and lack of information is not an oversight, but an imperative.]**

The following are sample prayers you might offer on their behalf at the beginning of each day during this week of prayer, and as the year unfolds. These are merely suggestions, and may be adapted to suit in troubled, challenging, or uncertain times.

Throughout this Nazarene World Week of Prayer, you will notice a mixture of *praises* and prayer requests. *Praises are offered in italics, and remind us that God is always present and active in the contexts and situations for which we pray. God is before us, and is in the process of responding to the needs of our missionaries and churches.* We, his people, pray in order that those who are suffering or are under particular stresses on the frontlines of missions may know that they are not alone in bearing the burden of the day. We also join him in hastening his Kingdom. We are partners together with God through prayer!

General Prayers in Challenging Times

Sunday, 24 February, 2019

Praise and General Prayers

Lord, we praise you for the Church of the Nazarene, and for the message of Scriptural Holiness entrusted to the church. We pray that we may be faithful to live out this message in our daily lives, and that the Church of the Nazarene may be found faithful in its mission to spread the message of holiness and peace in the world.

We praise you for those whom you have called to leadership in the church, and for every person called, whether clergy or laity, to be a holy presence in an unholy world. Empower and encourage each in their place of service, and grant wisdom, courage, insight, and grace to lead with integrity the people of God entrusted to their ministries.

We praise you for the mission to which you have called the church, and for each who has answered a specific call to 'go and serve' in places, and among people, where grace is needed and where lives are broken. Breathe peace in the world, by your Holy Spirit, and through your faithful servants.

We praise you for those who this week will be commissioned missionaries through the Church of the Nazarene, to go and make Christlike disciples in the nations. Bless the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene, in all of its deliberations. Give wisdom and keen insight into your will for the church for the year ahead.

As we pray in the days ahead, remind us that your people everywhere face challenges in political, economic, social and religious domains, all of which remind us that while we may be citizens of your righteous Kingdom, the full realization of your Kingdom on earth is not yet experienced. We wait upon you, and we bear the burden for those who labor to see your Kingdom come. *We praise you, that nothing we pray will be 'news to you'. You are already at work. You are already aware. You are already there, comforting your people, and establishing your Kingdom of grace and righteousness. God be praised!*

Monday, 25 February, 2019

Political Challenges:

Lord, you know the political turmoil of our world. Protect our missionaries who serve in politically unstable areas, where tension is high and prejudice rampant. May they be shining lights in those dark places, reflecting your kingdom in earthly contexts. Challenge us, by your Holy Spirit, to be in all places, at all times, model citizens for your glory. Amen.

Asia-Pacific:

- *Praise God for a US Ambassador and wife connecting with one of our Nazarene churches.*
- Pray that visas, which are becoming more of a challenge, will be given to those that we want to bring to the field.
- Pray for unity between North & South Korea; and between the ruling and the opposition parties.
- *Multiple governments on our fields are very supportive of what the church does and therefore partner with us.*
- Pray for the challenging and unpredictable visa/work permit processes and timing, that often frustrate abilities to schedule traveling of new or returning missionaries and ongoing planning.
- Pray that the Lord would thwart the levels of corruption, especially around election times, that result in significant violence and danger.
- Pray for 2019 elections for Senate and Congress in the Philippines, that people will be wise in choosing those for whom they will vote. Pray that those who will be elected will serve well and put the interests of the country ahead of their own interests.
- Pray that the top leaders in the countries of Asia-Pacific will come to know the Lord, and that through their transformed, surrendered lives, they may trust and obey him.
- *Praise God for an open and stable government in Myanmar.*
- *Give praise for more freedom of movement between countries in Southeast Asia.*
- As elections for president in Indonesia take place in 2019, pray for a president who will continue the policy of tolerance towards believers and churches.
- Across the region, prayer is requested for necessary visas and work permits to be granted. This is an ongoing area of concern in all areas.

Africa:

- *Praise God for the very blessed visits of workers to Equatorial Guinea after almost 3 years.*
- *Praise God for the visas granted for those ministering in Angola.*
- Pray for the upcoming election period in Guinea Bissau.
- Please pray for the political situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Elections have been delayed for the last two years and the patience of citizens is running thin. Pray that there would be peace in the country, that elections would not be postponed, and that the Church of the Nazarene could continue to be a light to this nation. Pray for the English-

speaking portion of Cameroon in which there has been violence related to requests to secede from the rest of the country.

- Pray that the recent general elections in countries like Madagascar will prove to open doors for further ministries there.
- Many countries of the Africa East Field have seen changes in visa application processes. These changes require advanced applications before entry, and while this may prove positive, it can also affect plans and schedules of those who must travel in and out of these countries. Pray that the Lord will give grace and patience to those who must work within new guidelines.
- Ethiopia has elected its first woman president. *Praise God for signs of development in many areas, where regardless of political challenges, God's work continues. Give thanks for the ways in which nationals step in to help the missionaries in times of need, and for the patience and perseverance evident for the sake of the gospel.*
- The Africa West Field requests prayer for those Christians who often must worship alone, that they will meet other believers. Ask God to protect Christians who gather in areas where laws are strict, and pray He will provide places to worship in countries where Christians are in the minority.
- Pray with and for persecuted believers in Africa, that they will stand strong and bear witness with faithfulness.
- *Praise God for political stability in many areas, which makes it possible for the Gospel to be preached without hindrance.* Pray for the elections in Malawi, where President, members of parliament and counsellors will come into office. Pray that these elections will be peaceful, free and fair.
- *Praise God for peaceful elections in Eswatini, and the appointment of a new prime minister, who is a committed Christian.*
- In South Africa, changing laws on immigration and the issuing of visas and work permits are proving quite challenging.

Eurasia:

- Please pray for missionaries applying for visas, some of whom have been waiting for years. Praise God for each one that is granted.
- Give thanks that both the church and NCM are registered and approved in the country of Georgia.
- Pray for the successful registration of church properties in Italy and Portugal.
- Pray for the church in France, seeking to acquire property in a culture that is not open to Evangelicals.
- Please pray for brothers and sisters in Bangladesh, and for the increased social unrest, and outbursts of violence that rises during and after elections there. Pray for protection, and also that the church may demonstrate great grace and resilience in this time.
- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

USA/Canada:

- Pray for a Christlike resolution to a variety of immigration issues facing the U.S. and Canada in the coming days. Pray, too, that a greater spirit of cooperation may be seen following the mid-term elections in the US Congress and in state governments.

Mesoamerica:

- Pray that the Lord will guide and direct political leaders in Haiti, and that a general peace will prevail in which the church may function and bring holy influence.
- Please pray for American visas to be granted to superintendents.
- Praise God for political stability in the Caribbean. Often in the past, in some countries, times of national elections brought much turmoil, but this appears to have significantly reduced.
- Changes of government in countries like Mexico often bring new realities in the country's economy. Pray that God will meet the needs of God's people.
- Pray for the people of Nicaragua, whose political and social situation has been unstable, that it may soon be resolved. Many young people have had to leave their country. Pray for a new spirit of reconciliation and peace to prevail.

South America:

- Pray for the peace process being implemented in Colombia, that it may come to a successful conclusion.
- Please pray that the Lord will give wisdom, love and resources to the churches in Colombia who are seeking to minister to many people from Venezuela.
- Pray for peace and stability in many of the countries in South America.
- Pray for the governments of many South American countries, that they will be sensitive to their people, full of compassion and wisdom.
- Pray for those secularized societies that begin to show signs of opposition to the gospel.

Tuesday, 26 February, 2019

Economic Challenges:

Lord, the world's economies are shaken, and the gap between wealth and poverty widens. Often our missionaries seek to stand in that gap, generous channels of your blessings to those who have so little. Encourage them in their ministries of compassion, and grant them courage to stand above the biases that separate. Challenge us, by your Holy Spirit, to flee from greed, and extend your grace and generosity to those in need, remembering your words: "Freely you have received. Now, freely give!" Amen.

Asia-Pacific:

- *Praise God for a favourable exchange rate for two years.*
- Pray for sustainable development in our countries.
- Pray for growth of productivity and harmony between labor and management.
- Pray that those in our cashless societies would be able to celebrate the giving of their produce and labour as much as cash offerings are celebrated in other places.
- *Praise God for Chuuk church and Kolonia Church in the Federated States of Micronesia. These churches have been dependent financially upon the district and mission. But, their giving is growing and there is increased contributions to the district and to World Evangelism Fund.*
- Inflation in the Philippines has doubled during the past two years, as the Philippine Peso grows weaker against the US Dollar. Prices of basic commodities are increasing and many in the poor and middle classes are suffering. Pray that the situation would improve.
- Pray for the economic growth of Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, that poverty would be reduced and more opportunities will be available for those in need.
- The Indonesia Rupiah is weakening, causing economic difficulties for many people. Pray for a more stable economy in Indonesia.
- Many of our brothers and sisters in East Timor are suffering due to severe economic decline.

Africa:

- *Praise God for the first signs of economic improvement in Angola. Pray for Sao Tomé & Principe presently struggling with the devaluation of the national currency.*
- *Praise the Lord for partners which have helped to build a district center in Kinshasa. These district centers provide for staging outreach to surrounding areas and other countries of Africa Central Field.*
- Every year the cost of living goes up on the East Africa Field, while budgets are often not able to keep up. This shift in economic stability can jeopardize God's work. For example, in Kenya the rise in fuel cost and V.A.T (Value Added Tax) makes it difficult to meet the challenges of transport and the provision of basics to many families.
- *Give thanks that in spite of many financial challenges, the church continues to proclaim the Good News. Pray that the mission of the Church of the Nazarene to make Christlike disciples in the nations, fulfilling both the Great Commission and the Great Commandment to love 'neighbors' may continue to yield fruit.*

- *Praise God that some of the local churches in the Africa West Field are becoming financially stable, due to the income-generating projects going on in several local churches and districts across the field.*
- Pray that more districts and local churches will find appropriate income-generating projects in order to be financially stable.
- Across the Africa South East Field, many are experiencing power cuts and blackouts, causing business to slow down. Wisdom is needed by those who are seeking to address these problems. Pray for your brothers and sisters who are suffering under crippling inflation, that they may prove faithful as they continue to raise money for missions and Alabaster.
- Pray for those who struggle due to the constant weakening of the South African Rand (South African currency), which affects not only South Africa but many other countries whose currencies are linked to the Rand.

Eurasia:

- Please pray for the challenges awaiting many churches and families on the CIS Field as winter approaches and temperatures drop. The cost of keeping church buildings and homes heated is still prohibitive for many.
- *Praise the Lord that the financial situation of the districts of the Western Mediterranean Field are becoming more stable, thanks to the current national leadership.*
- Pray that as districts move toward self-support, that the development would be transformational and lasting.

USA/Canada:

- *Praise God for areas of strength in both U.S. and Canadian economies.* Pray that this financial strength in U.S. and Canadian churches will continue during transitional and challenging times.

Mesoamerica:

- Pray that inflation will decrease in Haiti, and that God may take control of the economy.
- Due to the numerous catastrophes that the region has faced in the last two years, giving to World Evangelism Fund has reduced; however, offerings to Nazarene Compassionate Ministries have greatly increased in support of the needs of countries struggling with those disasters. Pray that God will supply the needs of those most effected, and also that this will produce in them the joy of giving.
- Guatemala, as with many other countries, struggles with corruption, which affects the economic situation of citizens. Pray that God would use His people to demonstrate a better way, a more equitable way, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

South America:

- Pray that agreements may be reached that foster peace, increase security, and promote the economic well-being of citizens.

Wednesday, 27 February, 2019

Social Challenges:

Lord, everywhere we look we see the results of societies turned from you; the failure of humankind to treat others as we would desire to be treated. Our missionaries must at times stand as strong witnesses to your grace for ALL, your passionate desire to see those who are far drawn near; those who are out brought in; and those who are down lifted up. You laid down your life to build a bridge that would forever give us access to hope. Challenge us, by your Holy Spirit, to build bridges of grace across every social divide, bringing hope to our world. Amen.

Asia-Pacific:

- Praise God that He is helping local churches to reach out to immigrants by providing much needed assistance of food, clothing and Christian counsel.
- Praise God for the generosity of Nazarenes on the Australia/New Zealand Field, for those in trauma as a result of natural disasters.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in connecting immigrant Nazarenes, and those from other Christian communities from the Middle East, with the field.
- In 2018, Japan was hit with a record high number of earthquakes, typhoons, heavy rains, and a heat wave that left many homeless and weakened. Please pray for the crisis relief works there.
- Pray for balance and harmony between those who lead in conservative and liberal parties.
- In several contexts of Asia, the high cost of living is causing greater poverty. The number of homeless people has increased greatly. Pray for those on the streets, and for those who seek to minister to them with grace and love.
- Societal changes are being experienced where new laws allowing same sex marriage are impacting issues like child adoption and education. Pray for wisdom and insight, that our responses will be grace-filled and holy.
- Pray for tribal and domestic violence fuelled by tribalism and polygamy in the Melanesia South Pacific Field.
- Praise God for the launching of Shechem Children's Home in the Philippines. This is the first Assessment Center with an exclusive focus on children rescued from cyber trafficking. This center is owned and operated by the Church of the Nazarene.
- While many countries have a decline in HIV-AIDS cases, the Philippines still has a very high number of cases, which continue to increase. Pray for the church, that it may find ways to minister to those who struggle with HIV-AIDS, and be grace to their communities in this crisis.
- Give praise that the problem of human trafficking in South East Asia is being addressed at multiple levels in society, government and the church.

Africa:

- *Praise God for the consistent support of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries for Cabo Verde, which has faced a very difficult period due to lack of rainfall.*
- Pray for Northern Mozambique, which is facing social upheaval.
- Pray for the work of the Church of the Nazarene through agricultural initiatives which are adding to food availability and security in several locations.
- *Praise the Lord for the 100 schools in the Central Africa Field, which are providing education in some of the highest risk communities.*
- Pray for a new coordinator for the Street Kids Center in Madagascar.
- There is political unrest in South Sudan, with many people in camps, while others are refugees in neighboring countries like Kenya and Uganda.
- Pray for missionaries and national workers who face very challenging situations in East Africa, but who continue to reach the unreached with hope and a message of grace and peace. *Regardless of restrictions, the Good News is shared.*
- Pray for all missionaries and all those who are involved in church planting in West Africa.
- Pray that the Lord would open the ears of those to whom the missionaries speak, and that the Word of Life might find receptive hearts for God's glory.
- *Praise God for the local church that is growing in one of the refugee camps in South East Africa. The gospel is being preached, and many are finding hope in Jesus Christ. Thus far, there is no increase in violence in these settings, which makes it easier for the church to reach out to these camps. To God be the glory!*
- Pray that the needs of our brothers and sisters in the refugee camps will be met, and that those who apply to stay in host countries may be granted the necessary papers by the authorities.
- Where districts are comprised of various ethnic groups, please pray that genuine love, forgiveness, reconciliation, acceptance of one another, and peaceful co-existence may be evidenced to God's glory.

Eurasia:

- Please pray for the normalization of relationships between Russia and Ukraine. The strife continues to make the gathering of Ukrainian and Russian leaders a challenge.
- Pray for protection and safety as unrest continues to increase in Spain and France, and that the church may find ways to speak peace in these troubled times.
- *Praise the Lord for national leadership in the Western Mediterranean Field that is transforming the face of the church.*
- Pray for tranquillity and patience to overcome the high levels of stress that our brothers and sisters live with in South Asia. Under such conditions, many in ministry suffer in their health.
- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

USA/Canada:

- Pray for those who are seeking to address refugee issues on the US/Mexico border, that a peaceful, Christlike resolution may be found.
- *Praise God for the work of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, and many churches, who have been ministering to those seeking relief after various natural disasters.*

Mesoamerica:

- Pray for the emigration crises faced in many South and Central American countries. Many are denied legal papers for travel, and suffer desperate circumstances as persons without a country. Pray that Christ may be with them and draw them to Himself.
- Pray for increased security in troubled areas of Haiti.
- Consistently, the Caribbean area is affected by natural disasters: hurricanes, floods and earthquakes. These events affect people's lives in incredible ways. There is the destruction of homes, churches and places of employment, and as a direct result, economic difficulties follow. It usually takes years for people and churches to recover from the devastation. Pray that people will see the hand of God moving even in these difficult situations. *Many are being ministered to with love and grace.*
- Pray for Mexico as it continues to deal with numerous 'caravans of immigrants' from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. Pray that the church will give a good testimony of compassion and that our hearts will be moved to help others. (Exodus 22:21)
- Pray for Genesis missionaries who are at risk in high-violence areas of Mexico.
- Due to high unemployment and growing fear, many Hondurans are on the move across countries to their north. Pray for the churches that seek to give them help by providing food and shelter, that the love of Christ will be evident and received.

South America:

- Pray that the Lord would grant wisdom, love and needed resources to the churches in Ecuador that are receiving many crossing their borders from Venezuela.
- *Praise God for the help received through Nazarene Compassionate Ministries to help those affected by unusual coastal climate phenomena (torrential rains, overflowing rivers) that are negatively impacting the cities of northern of Peru (Trujillo, Chiclayo, Piura and Tumbes).*

Thursday, 28 February, 2019

Religious Challenges:

Lord, so often we, who claim to be people of faith, hide behind religious bias, and fail to demonstrate the love you call us to share with ALL those around us. In this world of religious diversity, keep us grounded not in a life of empty religion, but in a life of vibrant, gracious faith. Bless our missionaries around the world, who must navigate sensitive and often dangerous religious encounters and relationships. May they always represent you well, as One Who desires that ALL might come to know you. Amen.

Asia-Pacific:

- *Praise God for cross-generational efforts to reach post-moderns with the gospel.*
- Pray that much fruit would result from churches endeavouring to reach post-modern people in post-Christian settings.
- Pray for revival in Japan where church leadership is aging and young leaders are rare. Pray for a gracious turning of this situation.
- Pray for revival across Korea, and that the church and its ministries will awaken to God's heart and will.
- Pray for the countries of Asia-Pacific where idol worship, heresy, and false religions are prevalent, that through repentance, faith in Christ may grow.
- *Give praise for consistent increases in sacrificial offerings towards World Evangelism Fund, and the international work it supports, from some of the least wealthy areas.*
- *Praise God for breakthroughs into areas of former religious resistance across the Melanesia South Pacific Field.*
- Pray that the tribalism which sometimes enters the church, and is reflected in un-Christlike behaviour, may be overcome by the presence of the Living Lord.
- *The Church of the Nazarene in the Philippines remains an active member of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches, actively participating and contributing to church multiplication in the country. The Church of the Nazarene is one of the top-ten, growing denominations in the country. Formal partnership with other faith-based organisations for evangelism, discipleship, church multiplication, Bible distribution, and compassionate ministries is increasing.*
- Pray for those who live under the fear of terrorism, and extremism in the southern part of the Philippines, that the God of peace will prevail.
- Pray for the effective implementation of the Course of Study in Micronesia, and that many more lay persons will respond to God's call to leadership and ministry.
- Pray for your brothers and sisters who live in countries where Christianity is suppressed. Pray that basic freedom of movement and speech may be granted.
- Pray for new learning centers for the Course of Study in the Sealands Field.
- Pray for church planters across the Sealands Field.

Africa:

- *Praise God for peace in central Mozambique, and more widely in the country. Pray for those who share the gospel in Niassa and Cabo Delgado.*
- *Praise the Lord for inroads being made into new areas and countries of the Africa Central Field. Please continue to pray that teams would be equipped and sent out to plant and guide new churches in Central African Republic, Gabon and Cameroon.*
- Pray for those who have been sent into Madagascar to start new works, and for those going to pioneer work in Mauritius.
- Pray for those who will make an exploratory trip to Seychelles to make contacts to enter and start the work of the Church of the Nazarene in that country.
- Pray for the restart of the work in the island country of Reunion.
- Pray for all who have committed to serve in areas of high risk in East Africa for the sake of Christ.
- Many areas on the Africa West Field face the threat of physical injury, loss of property, land and livelihood. Christians in many areas are discriminated against, and face persecution for their faith. While religious freedoms are declared, they are not always experienced. Pray that your brothers and sisters will find sufficient grace to stand in the midst of these challenges and represent the freedom that comes through faith in Christ.
- Pray for open doors for the gospel in West Africa.
- Pray God will raise the young to be a powerful and faithful generation who will fear Him and do His will.
- *Praise God for the numerical growth that has been witnessed in the Africa South East Field. Many good reports have been shared at district assemblies, indicating steady church growth, and that many are coming to the Lord.*
- *Praise God for God's blessings during a recent National Holiness Conference in Malawi.*
- Please pray for unity in the church in Lesotho, and for a smooth leadership transition there.
- Pray for a movement of revival and renewed interest in missions in the districts of South Africa.
- Pray for an upcoming Centennial Celebration of the Church of the Nazarene in South Africa in 2019.

Eurasia:

- Please, pray for God to give wisdom and courage to churches in Russia and Central Asia as they try to accomplish their mission in spite of the restrictive religious laws in place in those countries. Many local churches feel entrapped and paralyzed.
- *Praise the Lord that, in spite of restrictive religious laws, He has allowed for ministry to children in a former Soviet republic to take place in a government-owned building!*
- Pray that God would place a missionary call upon Europeans to minister in Greece. As fellow members of the European Union, visas can easily be acquired, whereas non-EU citizens are essentially barred from a resident visa.

- After many years of mission status across the Western Mediterranean Field, pray that pastors and leaders will be trained and equipped to plant new churches across the field.
- Pray for the salvation of our missionaries' families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and fellow students in countries across Central Europe.
- *Praise God for His continued blessing and protection of our mission teams in South Asia, particularly during travels for meetings with leaders.*
- Pray for spiritual maturity in pastors and leaders of churches and districts in South Asia, and that all local church leaders will experience the deep love of God. Pray that God's love would fuel our churches with a passion for souls, and that a growing love for the church and the message of scriptural holiness will be evidenced in the life of every leader.
- Pray for abundant harvest across South Asia, and that a spirit of celebration will glorify God as more people come to know the Lord.
- Pray for the evangelistic and discipleship vision that was recently launched in South Asia under the theme: Loving, Caring and Serving. The goal is to motivate the church to embrace the vision of winning one million souls for the Lord in the next five years. The harvest is great, but the workers are few!
- *Praise God for the new generation of leaders that God is raising in Armenia, and for those who have been consecrated to God, that they will become new leaders and pastors of the church.*
- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

USA/Canada:

- *Praise and prayers for ongoing emphases upon evangelism and church planting throughout the region: and that the recent M19 conference will bless churches throughout the region with a growing enthusiasm for evangelism.*

Mesoamerica:

- *Praise the Lord for the changes that are taking place within the churches, especially when it comes to a growing passion for discipleship.*
- *Praise God that local church ministries are growing, and that inter-district teams are being organized.*
- Pray for those students preparing for the ministry through residential programs, that the Lord will provide needed scholarships.
- Pray for the communication projects that seek to reach those who live in remote areas with holy doctrine and vital discipleship.
- *Praise God for the those ministry teams who are kept from danger in many of the places to which they must travel.*
- Pray for wisdom and unity in the work of the region.
- Pray for the districts of Panama and the Dominican Republic as they review district health this year.
- Pray for the ongoing restoration of churches in Puerto Rico following last year's catastrophic hurricanes.

- Continue to pray for the children of Cuban pastors, and for the churches that lost their pastors and district leaders in the air crash last year.
- Pray for the church in Costa Rica, that it may have the capacity to reach areas of the country where there are no churches.
- *Praise the Lord for the growth of the church in Haiti, and that all 12 superintendents were able to attend a recent retreat of superintendents in Panama.*
- Pray for the many Work & Witness projects in Haiti, and for the construction and repair of many parsonages and churches following recent earthquakes there.
- Across the Caribbean, there is growing influence from non-Christian world religions. Pray that Nazarenes will face these challenges with grace and effective evangelism.
- Although there is freedom of preaching in many Mexican states, there are also areas where the Word of God is not welcomed. Pray for the Lord's protection of His servants who seek to share His Word in these areas.
- Pray that the Lord will call many new pastors and leaders for the work across Mesoamerica.
- Pray that the Lord will bless the goal of 100,000 new Nazarenes by the year 2030.

South America:

- *Praise God for all the growth He has given to the church in Colombia in the last decade.*
- Pray that the Lord would raise up a new generation of leaders, calling many young people into pastoral ministries.
- Pray for numerous church planting projects in the cities of Barranquilla and Cartagena in Columbia.
- Pray that the Lord would pour out his Holy Spirit, and that revival may be experienced throughout the countries of South America.
- Pray for a strong movement of church planting in the 6 districts of Ecuador.
- Pray for the South American Nazarene Theological Seminary, located in Quito, Ecuador. SANTS is the key institution for the education of ministers in the three countries of the Andean North Field: Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela.
- Pray for the unity of the church in Venezuela, as it seeks to respond effectively to the needs of surrounding communities.
- *Give thanks for the commitment of the national church in Venezuela, the region, and the global church to support those in need during this difficult time.*
- Pray that a church planting movement may be generated in large cities such as Caracas, Valencia, Maracaibo, Barquisimeto, among others.
- *Praise God for the organization of a second church in the North Pacific District with a new approach to Church Planting. Without any subsidy, and using available houses that in Piura are called "Casas de Esperanza" (Hope Houses), Sunday services take place. This new church was organized on October, 2018 with 53 members in full communion.*
- *Give thanks for a recent National Retreat of Pastoral Care, held in Peru. Over 600 pastors attended this unprecedented event.*

- *Praise God for His faithfulness following the loss of a church due to an El Niño effect along the north coast of Peru. Though the area was declared non-habitable, new opportunities to establish the church on higher ground there have come through collaborative efforts.*
- *Pray for the continued implementation of new church planting strategies in all districts of Peru and Bolivia as they seek to fulfill the Vision 20/20 (a church growth plan on the region). These strategies are not dependent upon the purchase of land, or the construction of buildings; rather the use of houses and public auditoriums and schools.*
- *Praise God for the advance, consolidation and extension of the Church of the Nazarene in the countries of the South Cone Field.*
- *Give thanks for the new generation of leaders that is emerging.*
- *Praise the Lord for the opening of churches in large metropolises, such as Córdoba, Salta, and Catamarca (Argentina) and Antofagasta (Chile).*
- *Praise God for the celebration of 100 years of the Church of the Nazarene in Argentina, in 2019.*
- *Pray for a revival of godliness in our secularized societies, and that God would speak His love and grace into these societies.*
- *Pray for the successful consolidation of more than 200 missions and preaching points now in progress on the South Cone Field.*
- *Pray for the families of pastors, missionaries, and leaders, that they will know the Lord's presence and peace in the midst of challenging ministry roles.*
- *Pray that the Lord will draw new believers into the church.*

Friday, 1 March, 2019

Prayer for Creative Access and Secure Areas

Lord, today we pray for places we cannot name, and for people we cannot identify. They are known to you. In those places, your people are seeking to live with integrity the tenets of the gospel and as citizens of your kingdom. The stresses of political, economic, social and religious challenges shape the environment, an environment into which you want to bring holy influence. Though unnamed, we pray that your grace would prevail, that your peace would reign, and that your presence would be real in the lives of our missionaries and your people with whom they serve. Amen.

- *Recently, six national members of our team in a highly restrictive area attended the annual holiness gathering and leadership training, joining about 40 others from all over the nation. This restrictive area recently forced all foreign passport holders out. These six people are significant to maintaining a holiness presence in a very difficult area of the country. Pray for them, that the encouragement they received in conference will enable them to stand true.*
- Many areas are now under increased governmental scrutiny, which includes investigations, arrests, and expulsions of many foreign workers. *We have remained safe from major scrutiny. Praise God for His protection and care!*
- Continual changes in visa laws and investigations have raised concerns for several of our team. Pray for wisdom and grace during times of threat of the loss or change in visa status, and that our team will be able to stay in the country.
- As a result of governmental crackdown on local minority groups, we have had to close the work in a large area of our field. Foreign passport holders are not getting visas. Please pray for this situation, as many in this area of the field are yet unreached.
- In many of creative access and restricted countries, prayer is requested for good and godly political leadership.
- *Despite growing political tensions between several countries of service and the United States, many of our teams continue to feel welcomed by most of the host nations' people.*
- Pray for those who face the constant challenge of intrusive surveillance of social media communications. Digital lifestyle opens many doors, but sometimes puts personnel at risk, and threatens those we serve. Pray that wisdom may be found to know the right kinds of social media presence, while balancing meaningful personal relationships, always vigilant of security strictures. Prayer for protection would be greatly appreciated.
- As local leaders are trained and given larger roles in ministries, challenges as to financial support increase. Pray for those who are seeking to find appropriate ways to establish self-supporting platforms, while at the same time desiring to give themselves fully to the ministry. Balance is often difficult to achieve.

- As districts in restricted areas are established, one challenge is the movement of people from one area to another, often losing contact where communication is limited. There is a keen desire to maintain contact with those who move to remote areas. Pray for wisdom as leaders seek creative ways to communicate and keep strong ties with those whose faith is fragile under such circumstances. More workers are needed who are trained and equipped to work discretely with those whose faith needs to be deepened and whose connections need to be strengthened.
- One country of service reports that believers and organized groups are facing persecution. The levels of this persecution may often ebb and flow, but we are currently entering a higher level of persecution, with new laws and stricter enforcement. *We praise God that in the face of this we have witnessed a strengthening of faith and resolve in the local fellowships.* Nonetheless, pray for those who are facing spiritual warfare or political persecution, that they may grow in their resolve and faithfulness.
- Creative access areas are very challenging, because the Word must to be preached, but not openly. Pray for those who seek to declare the good news, that they may have wisdom, strength, courage, and a sense of God's presence in their endeavours.
- Pray for the new believers who are coming from majority background. Pray for their protection as they seek baptism, which is such a significant sign of their belief in Jesus as Savior. Pray that God's favor will be upon them and the churches who are serving them.
- Often in creative access areas, the church is challenged by behaviors that linger in the lives of those who would lead. Pray that the Lord will do a mighty work in the lives of those who come into the church from other backgrounds, that they may lead with integrity and become strong witnesses to holy life and love in contexts so desperate for Christ.
- Pray that God will send workers who are mature enough in their faith to take responsibility and demonstrate readiness to serve in Jesus name.
- Pray for discernment as leaders seek to move within God's will. Wisdom is needed in regards to the buying and selling of properties, in order for the church to be poised in the right places at the right times to establish a strong holiness witness in difficult contexts.

Saturday, 2 March, 2019

A Covenant of Prayer for the Year Ahead

Prayer:

Prayer is intimate dialogue with God, and flows out of a living, vital relationship with Him. It is not a program or a plan. As with all dialogue, its dynamic is a blend of listening and speaking. Too often, we feel that we must fill our prayers with words, when silence may be where we discover wisdom, guidance, and peace.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, was once interviewed by Dan Rather, a noted US television journalist and interviewer. The interview went like this:

Mother Teresa on Prayer

(From an interview with Dan Rather)

DR: "You say that you pray all the time. What do you say to God?"

MT: "I don't say anything...I listen."

The response somewhat put Dan Rather off his footing, and after he re-grouped his thoughts, he said:

DR: "Well, then what does He say to you?"

MT: "He doesn't say anything...He listens..."

There was a fairly long pause, after which Mother Teresa said...

MT: "...and if you can't understand that, I cannot explain it to you."

We should not be afraid of silence in prayer. Are we really listening to God? Much of our frenzied fear and frustration might be reduced if we were truly attentive to God's 'still small voice', saying... "This is the way, walk in it."

Covenant to change the mood and mode of your prayer life this year. Establish a new rhythm of prayer in your life, that concerns you with more than your own interests and needs, but also with the interests and needs of others. Commit to quieting your spirit, to allow the Spirit of God to guide and prompt you into a dynamic prayer life that joins God in his redemptive work in the world.

As in the Lord's prayer, when He taught His disciples how to pray, Jesus was trying to say "My prayers are consistent with my life...I live this prayer!" Prayer, as dialogue, flows out of honesty that is marked with:

Adoration
Confession
Thanksgiving
Petition
Intercession, and
Dedication

A Directed Prayer: allow the Spirit to direct you through this prayer.

Adoration: Consider the God who is always there for you, acting to protect and bless you, and you were not aware of it. Understand that He is always with those who look to him in need; those of the household of faith, and those who are yet to be welcomed in. Adore the God who was, and is, and will ever be with you, with ALL, even though you and they may not have immediately recognized Him there.

Confession: Confession has two dimensions: the positive that acknowledges faith and confidence in God, who never disappoints; and the negative that acknowledges your own weakness, failure, or sin. Begin by confessing your faith in God, whose mercy, love and patience is extended to you. Just rest in the quiet of His grace, His mercy, His love, and His patience. Know that God, through Christ, is ever ready to hear your honest expressions of repentance, which bring forgiveness. Now, confess any tendency you may have to forget or acknowledge that mercy, love, and patience. Pray that those who do not yet know Him, may come to honest confession of need and faith.

Thanksgiving: Give thanks to Him that "His patience is the salvation of men." This patience is for ALL...those who have wronged you, and those you have wronged. You cannot move forward with resentment and bitterness in your heart. Give thanks to God that He is able and ready to remove all resentment and bitterness in order for you to move deeper into His blessed peace. Peace cannot exist where resentment and bitterness reside. God is ready to give you peace. Are you ready to give up those attitudes which prevent His peace from ruling your heart? Give thanks that, in spite of the tragic times in which we live, the God of peace is ever present, everywhere, to remove the bitterness and enmity that separates humankind...and bring peace.

Petition: Pray for wisdom for your relationships with all whom you love and serve. Pray for courage to face the future with God, alone if needs be. Pray for grace to be an instrument of His peace. Pray for wisdom to make the right decisions, knowing that others are impacted by those decisions. Pray for peace to settle in on your heart, and for that peace to be so evident,

that whatever storms you face, there is a deep place of peace where you can find rest. Pray for abounding love, even for those who let you down, who abuse or betray you, or who are looking to you for a smile. Petition helps us discern the mind and heart of God, for through petition that is confessional and open, God is able to respond to the specifics of our deepest need. What you pray for yourself, pray for others: missionaries who serve in resistant and sometimes hostile areas of the world, for your brothers and sisters who live in need of this wisdom and courage to make the right decisions that will impact their world with grace.

Philippians 4:4-8 (NASB) "Be anxious for nothing...let your requests be made known to God."

4 "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren,

- whatever is true, (Don't be deceived by half-truths...focus on the truths of God's Word and Character. There are no 'shadows of truth' in God's economy...only Truth!)
- whatever is honorable, (Remember that something is 'honorable' in Scripture IF it is fulfilling its created purpose.)
- whatever is right, (We learn as children, right from wrong, but this is not 'fixed' by human opinion...it is secure in the nature of God, and is defined by that which can stand before Him.)
- whatever is pure, (Purity is related to that which is without blemish, above scrutiny, and possessing a 'singular, fine-tuned focus' on God.)
- whatever is lovely, (Loveliness is connected to innocence...to that which has not been corrupted by doubt, abuse, debasement, or cynicism. In some ways, to focus on this, one must return to the innocence of childhood, and believe the best is possible in every person, and in every situation.)
- whatever is of good repute, (Good reputation seems often beyond us, as human beings, but one of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to "convict the world of sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged." (John 16:5-11)

if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."

Covenant to 'being' a person known by these markers: true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, and of good repute.

Intercession: Lift to the Father those who need your selfless prayers. Pray around the world. Use the guidelines of this past week to prompt you to keep our missionaries and missions in your heart, whispering prayers on their behalf when the Spirit prompts. Intercession implies joining others in their places and times of need, even at the risk of inconveniencing yourself. Intercession costs you something.

Dedication: Now, dedicate yourself anew to the work of 'ministry' that you are offering to God as an act of worship...a life laid down to His glory. Dedication is at one moment the easiest thing...and the hardest. Dedication means surrender. Dedication means you abandon all the tattered rags of your life and past, to step into the white robe of His righteousness, to walk into your future...His. Dedication means selfless commitment to His will and ways, and a responsive promise to lead others into His will and ways. It is time to lay the past to rest, and to take up the charge of God for your future. Walk into that future, which is in fact, found in the heart of God Himself. He is all you need. He is ever near. He is calling you unto and into Himself...the Great I Am, in Whom there is no lack of any good thing. You are dedicating yourself to One Who loves you, and Who calls you into intimate relationship with Him. Fret not! He Who knows you best, loves you most! His love is perfect...and His perfect love casts out all fear. You know these words, but it is time to know their reality. God is love, and God's love is abundant for all who call upon Him for filling. Empty yourself of yourself, and be filled with God's love.

Silence yourself and determine...confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...even of the situations that brought you to this moment, and those yet to come...and dedicate yourself "to the glory of God the Father."

"AMEN"