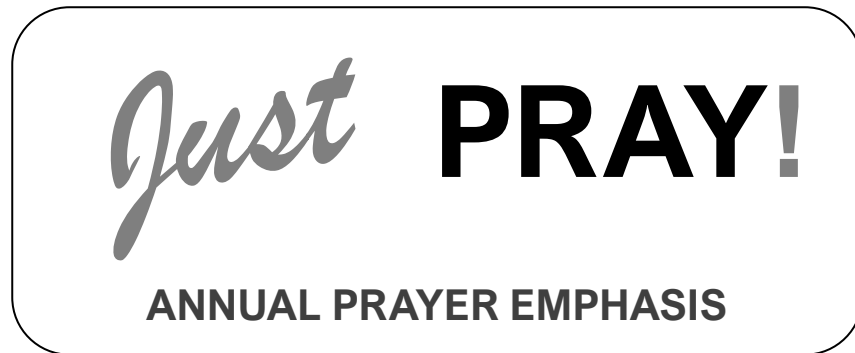


Just PRAY!
ANNUAL PRAYER EMPHASIS

Just PRAY! is a time for us as a church family to engage in extraordinary prayer, asking God to mature us spiritually, to lead us in ministry, and to empower our witness.



USE THIS BOOKLET LIKE A MENU

You couldn't possibly do everything in this booklet in a single prayer emphasis. However, you can pick what will most bless and help your church, each year.

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What is Just Pray! ?

Just PRAY! is a time for us as a church family to engage in extraordinary prayer, asking God to mature us spiritually, to lead us in ministry, and to empower our witness.

In **Just Pray!**, a congregation takes one week, two weeks, a month, 40 Days, (or whatever period of time they feel led to choose) to engage as a church in vigorous prayer.

This is about really praying. You could include some training in prayer, but the focus is on actually praying! And specific prayer at that! “General Hospital Prayer Meetings” where members spend twenty minutes listing health concerns of loved ones and two minutes actually praying for them is not the focus of this effort; we get that kind of prayer all the time. This prayer effort concentrates on the *spiritual* condition of your community.

This booklet provides your church ideas for ways to organize your praying in a way that fits your congregation. It also provides ideas for helping your members know what to say when they pray, without repeating phrases they’ve heard others say. Treat this booklet like a menu, selecting those items which will work best for you in the context of your church and which are most suited to meet the needs of your people.

There are multiple ways to mobilize your church to pray...

- Launch the emphasis with a Prayer Revival
- Help members “Soup up” their devotional times, getting their quiet times up to speed.
- PrayerWalk neighborhoods and/or schools
- Bus prayer tour for those who can’t walk long distances, visiting strategic locations in town
- Prayer Vigils in the church prayer room or sanctuary
- Have a week in which members sign up to pray and fast, so that every day of the month is covered.
- Special concentrated prayer emphases in midweek services
- All night prayer meeting
- Cottage prayer meetings
- Soup ‘n Prayer lunch prayer times
- Solemn assembly services for repentance and prayer in worship services
- Challenging members to spend a day (or half-day) alone with God
- Inviting members to take a lunch break alone with God (one or more days during the work-week)
- Spend a day in prayer & fasting—or abstain from watching television to pray

Sample Calendars are Shown on the Next Two Pages

Dates of Our Church Prayer Emphasis: _____

Month of Prayer

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 PM: Month of Prayer Kickoff Service	6	7	8	9	10	11
Cottage Prayer Meetings Will Be Held Throughout Month of Prayer, Starting This Week						
12	13	14 <i>Soup 'n Prayer</i> 11:30-12:30	15	16	17	18
Personal Time in the New Prayer Room (Sign-Up List in the Foyers)						
19	20	21 <i>Soup 'n Prayer</i> 11:30-12:30	22	23	24	25
Praying in the New Prayer Room: Praying Through Our Smart Phone Contacts (Sign-Up List in the Foyers)						
26	27	28 <i>Soup 'n Prayer</i> 11:30-12:30	29	30	31	Feb. 1
Praying in the New Prayer Room: Praying Through the Church Roll (Sign-Up List in the Foyers)						
Feb. 2 PrayerWalk Tallassee 3:00 PM	3	4	5	6	7	8

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
20	21 <i>MLK Day</i>	22 <i>Soup 'n Prayer</i> 11:30-12:30	23	24	25	26
Cottage Prayer Meetings						
27 AM: Re-New PM: Month of Prayer Kickoff Service	28	29 <i>Soup 'n Prayer</i> 11:30-12:30	30	31	Feb. 1	Feb. 2
Cottage Prayer Meetings	Personal Time in the Prayer Room: Sign-Up List in the Foyers					
3 <i>PrayerWalk</i> <i>Tallassee</i> 3:00 PM	4	5 <i>Soup 'n Prayer</i> 11:30-12:30	6	7	8	9
Our Group Praying... for Our Class, Deacons, Choir, Youth Group, Team, Ministry... and Our Church... at the Church						
10	11	12 <i>Soup 'n Prayer</i> 11:30-12:30	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15	16
Praying Through Our Smart Phone Contacts/Tallassee Directory in the Prayer Room						
17	18	19 <i>No Soup</i> <i>But Prayer</i> 11:30-12:30	20	21	22 Break the Fast Service 6:00 PM Lord's Supper	23
Praying & Fasting for a Breakthrough						

PrayerWalking

PrayerWalking is praying on-site with insight. It is seeking to see our community as God sees it and then praying for its people accordingly.

PrayerWalk Day Has Two Parts: The PrayerWalk and the Bus Prayer Tour.

We generally scheduled our PrayerWalk on Super Bowl Sunday afternoon—not that we had many pro football fans, but it worked out well that way. We sometimes invited other churches to join us.

We prepared a list of the neighborhoods in town. We tried to keep the list even so that one neighborhood would take the same amount of time to walk as the others. We asked them to sign up for their neighborhoods. That way, the participants knew how to spread out. It also let us know where to go looking if someone didn't report back. We asked participants pray in small groups of at least two, but to spread out so we could cover as many neighborhoods as possible.

As people walked instead of driving, they had time to see and the opportunity to hear things that gave them insight into each neighborhood. This helped them know how to pray.

There was a report back session at the end. We asked what they saw and experienced. Often, people had significant insight into their assigned neighborhood and others would have a story of someone who asked for prayer.

***Call the Police Chief in advance and make him aware of what you will be doing.
People will see strangers walking in their neighborhoods and think danger.***

What About Long Country Roads?

When the road is too long to walk, ask members to drive down that road and pray for those in the homes they pass. If the devil can have drive-by shootings, we can have drive-by prayer!

What About Those Who Can't Walk?

We provided a **Bus Prayer Tour** for seniors and the handicapped. The bus went to the *strategic locations* in town and stopped for specific prayer, relevant to that place. These stops might include: City Hall, the Police Department, the local hospital, the Schools, the local industries which employed the most people, pregnancy center, the gateways into the city, athletic facilities, etc.. It would be best to have someone offer prayer guidance to the passengers for each place.

A sample Instruction Sheet follows on the next page.

Instructions for PrayerWalking

Today, we are PrayerWalking the neighborhoods of our town to pray for our neighbors and their families. Home is where people spend the most time and where people's lives are most shaped. The Prayer Bus will be going to the strategic places in town including the schools, City Hall, and police station. If PrayerWalkers go to those places instead of neighborhoods, that will leave entire neighborhoods un-prayed for. This is our only neighborhood PrayerWalk each year. So, please sign up for a neighborhood and PrayerWalk there.

- Walk (or drive) slowly. Be alert to what you see and hear.
- Turn on your "spiritual radar." Listen for promptings from the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pray.
- Don't talk to each other. Conversations distract us from God's prayer promptings.
- Pray for children in each home as well as the adults
- If anyone asks what you are doing, explain that we are praying that God will bless our town and our neighborhoods. Ask, "Is there anything we can pray for you today?"
- If someone comes out to ask you to pray for him or her, stop and pray for the person on the spot. Then, ask if it will be OK if you write down the request so you can continue to pray about it. Assure the person that you will keep the request confidential.
- Pray for the Whole Person:
 - ◇ Ask God to prosper the honest labor of our neighbors and local businesses
 - ◇ Ask God to protect children from physical harm and abuse of all kinds
 - ◇ Ask God to bless marriages and to intervene in marriages in crisis
 - ◇ Ask God to call people to Christ and to arrange circumstances in their lives to bring them to Jesus
 - ◇ Ask God to bless the growth and witness of believers
 - ◇ As you pass other Bible-believing churches, ask God to strengthen them in their mission and to bless their fellowship
 - ◇ Pray for people who suffer with mental health or emotional issues
 - ◇ Pray for those who may have substance abuse issues
 - ◇ Pray for caregivers who have an elderly parent or other person in the home
- ***Meet back at the church for a brief report time by 4:45. Please be courteous; others will have to go look for you if you do not arrive for the Report Session.***

Prayer Room Prayer Vigils

Prayer Vigils are for the purpose of mobilizing the congregation to pray, over a short time, for people in the congregation or in the community, many of whom will not have anyone else pray for them all year long.

In this approach to prayer, people sign up for up to an hour in the church Prayer Room (or worship center or other designated place). There are members who doubt they can last an hour. We always assured them: *You are signing up for up-to an hour. If you manage to pray for only fifteen minutes, you are plus-15, not minus-45. That's fifteen minutes of prayer that wouldn't have happened otherwise.* However, time and again, people reported that they didn't think they could pray that long and, then, they heard the knock on the door from the next person scheduled to pray. Another thing they would tell us was how, as they prayed, they knew more of the people than they thought they would know and knew how to pray for many, after all.

We used sign-up sheets with the odd hours on one sign-up sheet and even hours listed on the other. That way, you can place the sheets in different locations in the building (you will need to explain that or they will *write times in*, accidentally double-booking the room). You will want to make sure the Prayer Room is a safe place. You may not want to ask them to sign up in the middle of the night.

The Church Praying for the Church

Provide a church roll listing all the church families. Ask the members to pray for one another. They may pray through several "laps" through the directory, depending on how many sign up and how large your congregation is. We had a white board in the room to write the name where they left off in the church roll or telephone directory.

The Church Praying for the Community

One way to pray for the community is to pray through the local telephone directory. That can work if you are located in a small town and the phone book is not too large. There will be many people listed for whom no one else will pray all year long! It has the additional advantage of listing the local businesses; you can pray for the employees there, its owners (if locally owned), and the prosperity of the businesses. The problem now is that so many people now use cell phones, many people will not be listed.

The Church Praying for People in their Collective Sphere of Influence

One way is to ask members to pray through the contacts in their smart phones. So, members will be praying for people they know. Often, this will include overlapping contacts.

A sample Instruction Sheet follows on the next page.

What to Pray for in the Prayer Room

My Assigned Day: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

What Exactly Am I Being Asked to Do?

You are being asked to take a time slot and spend up to one hour in the prayer room at the church, praying for our church and community.

Do I have to Pray for an Entire Hour?

You are being asked to take “up to” an hour. If you spend less time, that will be OK. However, if you follow some of the suggestions below, you may be surprised at how long you spend praying—and enjoying it!

Basically, What Will We Be Praying For?

We will be praying through our local telephone directory/church roll.

How Will This Work?

You will find a copy of the church roll/telephone directory. There will be a whiteboard showing where the last person left off in praying through the church roll and telephone directory. When you finish praying, please update the note on the whiteboard to show where you left off.

Suggestions for Your Time in the Prayer Room

Carry your Bible with you. You may wish to carry a devotional book or a book on prayer. Spend a few minutes reading God’s Word as you prepare to pray. You may want to read the devotional for the day in your devotional book or read a little in your book on prayer. Be careful, though, not to spend too much time reading.

As you pray through the church roll and telephone directory, pray for each person by name whether you know them or not; some people will not have anyone else praying for them all year! At minimum, mention every name you see to God .

You will know many of the people whose names you see; pray as specifically for them as possible. When you run across names of people you do not know, be still and quiet for a few seconds and ask God to impress you with anything He would have you to pray for that person. Don’t worry about praying the wrong thing; just pray it. If you are mistaken, God will know how to “translate” the prayer. If you don’t sense any specific leadership, then pray the name to God and tell Him you don’t know how to pray, but that you are asking Him to work in that person’s life in the next year.

Thank you for volunteering to participate in unleashing the most powerful force on earth, the power of prayer.

Cottage Prayer Meetings

The purpose of a Cottage Prayer Meeting is for a group of believers, who share a common heart burden, to fervently pray together in an atmosphere of trust

Cottage Prayer Meetings are a great way to get a quick win in a prayer emphasis. Some older members may remember having similar prayer meetings in preparation for revival services; it will feel familiar. They include fellowship, which is helpful in securing participation. The prayer focus of each Cottage Prayer Meetings helps members learn to pray more specifically. The focus also helps the group think outside the walls of the church. And that's where we need to begin...

Each Cottage Prayer Meeting should Have One Clearly Defined Prayer Focus.

A prayer meeting about everything is a prayer meeting about nothing.

Here are some examples of a good prayer focus:

- Lost people in our [specific] workplace
- People on our sports team
- People who will be in hell next year at this time without divine intervention
- Prospects for our class
- Salvation of those who attend Youth Bible Study on Wednesday, but have yet to receive Christ
- Our children yet to profess faith in Christ
- Christians who have gone astray
- People who need to be delivered from an addiction
- Marriages in our church: Their protection, health, & growth
- Marriages in our community currently in crisis
- Those Who Are Grieving a Loss
- Neglected and abused senior adults
- The unemployed and underemployed
- Single mothers rearing children all alone
- Grandparents rearing grandchildren
- Stay at Home Mothers
- Locals currently deployed in the military
- Children who are bullied at school
- Abused children in dysfunctional homes
- Teenagers considering dropping out of high school
- Victims of violent crimes
- Those who suffer depression and other mental health issues
- First Responders who see things people shouldn't have to see and it hardens them

Pastors may sometimes want to enlist someone to host a Cottage Meeting for a specific prayer focus.

Warn your hosts to personally enlist another couple to attend and not rely on church promotions to get people there. Sometimes, the way it falls; otherwise, a host can have no one show up. Church leaders may want to be alert to possible situations of this type and attend accordingly.

On the other hand, the best reports concerning the actual prayer times from Cottage Prayer Meetings come from those with four to six people. It helps when the groups are small enough to pray for people by name.

Impress upon the hosts, that this is a prayer meeting, not a Bible study or a "share time." Encourage them to stay on topic in regard to the Prayer Focus of their group.

Cottage Prayer Meetings

How to Conduct a Cottage Prayer Meeting

Relax.... Things you don't have to do:

- Provide a spacious and luxurious home; this is a prayer meeting, not a Parade of Homes.
- Prepare a lot of food; fasting would be more appropriate than feasting. Coffee and a few cookies are OK, but not necessary.
- Present a Bible study; we are there to talk to God, not listen to a study.
- Have a big crowd. The best reports from Cottage Prayer Groups have four to six people in attendance. If you have too many people in attendance, people open up less and tend to pray less fervently.

Sign Up!

- Cottage Prayer Meetings may be held anytime between DATE and DATE (inclusive).
- You can host the prayer meeting on any night at any time, except when church is meeting.
- You can sign up in the foyer to host a Cottage Prayer Meeting. That way, we can help people publicize your prayer meeting. Tell us your specific prayer focus (to pray for such and such neighborhood or to pray for fellow employees at the local Widget Company).
- You can enlist people from your neighborhood, your Sunday School class, the Youth Group, etc. You will want to have a core group you know will attend.

In the Prayer Meeting:

- Once everyone arrives, read (or have someone read) a brief passage of Scripture.
- Explain that the purpose of this prayer meeting is to pray for the spiritual well-being of your neighborhood (or the people you are trying to reach at work, or whatever), and that this is not a meeting to pray for the sick or new stories, but the designated focus.
- Take prayer requests that are on point for the prayer meeting. Explain when you begin taking requests, that you are seeking requests that are related to the purpose of the prayer meeting.
- Don't allow the prayer request time to drag out too long. You may even wish to use an egg timer and end requests when the bell rings. Otherwise the prayer meeting may end up being all requests and no prayer.
- Tell people they can pray more than once. If they forget something, they can pray again.
- Try to see that the meeting ends at the time you advertised.

Every Cottage Prayer Meeting Should Have One Clearly Defined, Specific Focus:

God answers specific prayer. Our prayers should be clearly defined and focused. We should pray so specifically that we know when our prayers are answered. That is why we ask each host of a cottage prayer meeting to zero in on one clearly defined focus. A prayer meeting about everything is a prayer meeting about nothing. Wouldn't you rather have one Divine

answer to one specific prayer than no answer to generalized prayers about everything?

Don't feel guilty that you're leaving something out: There is so much to pray for in our community that we could never cover it all in one prayer meeting. If we spread out our prayers in a vain attempt to cover everything, they are indistinct and indefinite. With vague, fuzzy praying like that, how would we know if God answered our prayers? How could we pray with any passion? What exactly would we ask for in praying for them all, since people have such diverse needs? That is why we have multiple cottage prayer meetings – to cover the various prayer needs in our community. So, in your prayer meeting, accept the role of being one piece of a large mosaic.

Base your focus on your heart-burden: For whom are you burdened? Start there. Find others who share the same burden. Pray about that! Are you burdened for the employees at the place where you work? Are you burdened for the people in your neighborhood? Do you feel burdened to pray for upcoming revival services? Any of these would make a great focus. God gets serious about answering prayer when we have something specific on our hearts that we are serious about seeing an answer to! “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16).

Soup 'n Prayer

Soup 'n Prayer is a weekday meeting where business people and senior adults can participate in a guided prayer time with a light lunch provided.

These sessions are helpful to senior adults who weren't comfortable driving after dark and for busy business people. An advantage is that sometimes our members networked with other believers and brought members of other churches to these prayer times. We liked to see this for the Soup n' Prayer times as well as the Cottage Prayer Meetings — because it helped them joined forces with like-minded believers to pray for our community and to reach mutual acquaintances with the gospel.

These sessions must be brief, so people can get back to work. In fact, I have done two sessions over one lunch time to allow for the comings and goings. It was emphasized that it was OK to treat the preacher like the television; get up and go get some more soup... until we start praying.

These were themed prayer times with a prayer sheet distributed as people arrived. There was information they could take home and read later (or read while waiting for everything to get started). Some of the themes for prayer included:

Open Eyes

Hear Cries

Stretch Out Your Hand

God of the Impossible

Praying for Fresh Fire

Praying for Our Families

Praying for God to Work in Hearts

Love: Praying to Experience & For Love to Be Experienced by Others

Joy: Praying to Experience Joy in Our Lives & the Lives of Others

Peace: Praying to Experience Peace in Our Lives & the Lives of Others

Fasting and Praying for a Breakthrough

Fasting is for the purpose of focusing on the Lord and on prayer. It frees time from purchasing, preparing, and eating food in order to give time to the Lord and to ask for His help. Fasting is a way of expressing the priority of God and of underscoring the need and the fervency of our prayer.

This is a week when members are challenged to concentrate on one specific breakthrough in their personal lives or for someone about whom they are deeply burdened. The breakthrough sought may involve a child on drugs... or a lost sibling... or to overcome a personal habit... or any other major heart burden requiring divine intervention.

Members are asked to pick a day to fast and pray for this breakthrough. They can fast for one or more meals. Not everyone can do as much as others, but every extra minute in prayer and every sacrifice made to gain it, is noticed by God.

For medical reasons, some cannot fast from food. However, they can buy time for prayer by abstaining from the personal use of their smart phones... or some other time consuming convenience.

Members should be encouraged to give the time to prayer they would spend eating (or with their fasting substitute) —otherwise, they are just going hungry.

We asked people to sign up for one weekday, Monday through Thursday. We tried to sign up for different days and to spread those days around for a “continuous bombardment upon enemy positions.” Then, everyone would skip lunch on Friday, giving that time to prayer. We broke the fast with a simple observance of the Lord’s Supper on Friday evening.

A sample sign-up sheet follows on the next page.

Fasting and Praying for a Breakthrough

Concentrate on a spiritual breakthrough for which you are trusting God.
 This may be a personal growth goal or you may be praying for someone else.
 Pick a day to fast and pray for this breakthrough. Fast for one or more meals.
 If you cannot fast from food for medical reasons, fast from your smart phone... or something.
 Place your initials below to take your day. That helps everyone else to know how to spread it all out.
 Then, everyone skips lunch on Thursday. Give that time to prayer.
 We will break the fast with the Lord's Supper in a 6:00 PM service.

Sunday February 18			
Monday February 19			
Tuesday February 20			
Wednesday February 21			
Thursday February 22	Everyone fasts for lunch. Then, we break the fast together with the Lord's Supper at 6:00 PM		

**Have a specific breakthrough in mind. Give the time you would spend eating to prayer
 (otherwise, you are just going hungry).**

Providing Prayer Guidance

Helping People Know What to Say When They Pray

Most church members don't have a clue what to say when they pray. How many times have we heard church members pray using phrases they have heard others pray?

Lord, guide us into the furtherance of this service... Now lead, guide, and direct us... We thank Thee for Thy many bounties... We remember those less fortunate than ourselves... We thank Thee for those less fortunate than ourselves (oops, mixed two of them).

If you want them to pray, you have to help them know what to say! Some denominations have prayer books with the prayers written out. That can be more helpful than many evangelical Christians think, but our suggestions which follow offer specific topics with bullet lists of things to *pray about*.

There are two ways we have used this approach.

Sometimes, we have taken the approach to "direct traffic." The pastor says something like this:

Now, we're going to pray for the lost in our community and are thinking in terms of things that bring people to Jesus. If the Lord brings someone to mind, pray in the following ways for them. If not, pray generally for the lost in our community.

First, ask God to engineer circumstances in their Lives to get their attention.

Now, ask that the Spirit would create in them a heart-hunger for God, a homesickness for God.

Ask the Father to bring people into their lives who will connect with them and Influence them.

They are not praying out loud, and they are not being told word-for-word what to pray — but they are being given some guidance. *Pray about that... now pray about this.*

The more typical way we have used this approach was in prayer meeting as we prayed around tables (round tables are great for this). We had the prayer list printed up in advance, and yes, we included the sick list, but we emphasized praying for our community and for church planters and for missions. People would agree to take a prayer focus per table and use the printed page for guidance.

My wife once commented how someone at the table at which she sat had one person who had significantly grown in prayer. At first this person just read through the bullet list, but as the person gained confidence was able to improvise and pray more personal and meaningful prayers.

Prayer Guidance

*You can use these in regular prayer meetings,
in your materials for your prayer emphasis,
or in special called prayer meetings*

Praying Evangelistically

Pray for the Lost... Things That Bring People to Jesus:

- Engineer Circumstances in their Lives to Get Their Attention
- Create Heart-hunger for God, homesickness for God
- Bring People into their Lives Who Will Connect with them and Influence Them
- The Seed of Truth will be Planted – they will “Get” the cross
- Impress upon them the Seriousness of Sin and How Offensive it is to God
- Make them to feel the Urgency of Turning to God

Praying for the Lost... Things That Keep People from Jesus:

- They Don't Get It
- False Ways of Thinking about God and Salvation
- Hardness/Boredom with Spiritual Matters
- Fear of What God Would Do if He Were in Control
- Love of Sin/Preferring their Way to God
- Trapped in an Addictive Lifestyle
- Self-determination: The determination to be in charge of their own lives (even if in a moral and respectable way)

Praying for Christian Witnesses... People Who Lead People to Jesus:

- Ask God to place believers in relationships that will lead to witnessing opportunities
- Pray for Christians to know how to cultivate friendships with unbelievers
- Ask God to alert Christians to witnessing opportunities when they arise, so they won't miss the opportunities
- Ask the Lord to give Christians the courage to speak up
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will give Christians the right words and will guide them as they witness.
- Pray for Christians to grow in their witnessing skills

Praying Evangelistically

(continued)

Praying for those who are living secular lives:

- Pray for people who are leaving God out of their lives, who live without reference to God (regardless of what they would say they about God's existence or about whether they believe in Jesus)
- The "nice guy" who, in a quietly stubborn way, rejects Christ as Lord of His life
- The "busy person" who never thinks about Jesus or spiritual matters
- The highly competitive man with a big ego who would become angry if you told him he needed Jesus
- The person who used to walk with the Lord but has gotten off track
- The chronic Sunday School/church absentee
- People who are right now wanting to "do better" and be a "better person," but who don't know how
- Pray that God will cause each of these people to realize they are living godless lives— lives without God

Praying for Lost People in Whom God Has Been Working:

- People who are under conviction for their sins and are angry about it and "kicking at the goats"
- People who are sensing something isn't right or that something is missing
- People who are opening up to Christians and are starting to ask questions
- People in whom the Holy Spirit has been at work and are coming to grips with the truth about themselves and Christ's demands on their lives.
- People who are beginning to understand the gospel, but who don't yet understand key parts of the message
- People who understand where their need of Christ, but who need courage to cross the line

Pray that the Gospel will Powerfully Spread in the Our Community:

- Ask God to tear down the walls people have put up to keep Christ out of their lives.
- Pray that God will overcome lies people have believed that keep them from Jesus.
- Ask God to show people their need of Him and to attract people to Himself.
- Pray for an environment that is conducive to the spread of the Gospel and that strengthens churches.
- Pray that God will send revival to every Christian church in Tallahassee, that He will reawaken His church and renew repentance in His people.

Praying Evangelistically

(continued)

Praying for Lost Church Members in Our Town:

- People who sit there week after week and it never dawns on them that the message was for them
- People who have strongly resisted the Gospel; for example, even clutching the pew in front of them during the invitation time
- People who are embarrassed to admit they have been lost all this time, though church members – so their pride keeps them lost
- People who have a false sense of assurance, based on the home in which they grew up, their character in comparison to other people, their regular church attendance, etc.
- People who attend church to see their friends and who enjoy the music, etc. – who attempt to “hitchhike” on the faith of others – but who are lost
- People who attend church because their spouse insists they come with them, but who have no personal relationship with Christ of their own.
- People who have “walked the aisle” or “prayed the prayer,” but, without faith and repentance, who have never been born again

Praying for those Wounded in Regard to the Church:

- Pray for people who have had a bad experience in church, were wounded, and became disillusioned
- Pray for people whose hypocritical parents caused them to reject God and feel hostility toward the faith
- Pray for those who grew up in homes hearing continuous criticism of the church, coming to accept their parents were right – those church folks *are* a bunch of idiots – and decided the Lord and His church are unworthy of their time
- Pray for people whose conscience condemns them for their sins and are afraid to come to God or to church
- Pray for victims of abuse or crime who have rejected God and His church – since He didn’t prevent their suffering

Praying for Christians Who Have a Sensitive Spirit and Need Assurance:

- People who are truly trusting Jesus for salvation, but have a tender heart. When they hear sermons for the hard-hearted, they struggle with their own assurance of salvation.
- People who need to get this “nailed down” so they may move forward in spiritual growth and service.
- Christians who love the Lord, but who have great shame over something in their past, that they might have the assurance of forgiveness, and move forward.
- Believers whom the devil does his accusing work on – robbing them of confidence before God and keeping them from being a bold witness.

How to Pray for the Lost

“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.” — John 6:44

Salvation is an Inside Job:

The Holy Spirit must work to change what a person really, truly believes, to make him see the seriousness of sin, the goodness of Jesus, and the urgency of repentance. A person will not come to Christ until the Holy Spirit convicts them and draws them to Him. Here are some ways you can pray for your lost friends:

Ask God to Open their Spiritual Eyes (to make them “get it”):

II Corinthians 4:4 “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

Ask God to Open Their Hearts:

Acts 16:14 “And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.”

Ask God to Call Them to Himself (to attract them to Jesus):

Acts 2:39 “For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

I Corinthians 1:9 “God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Ask God to Free Them from Bondage to Old Habits and Ways of Thinking:

II Timothy 2:25-26 “In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”

Ask God to Give them the Repentance they Do Not Have:

Acts 11:18 “When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.”

Ask God to Give You the Opportunity to Share Christ Winsomely, Boldly, and Clearly:

Colossians 4:3-4 “Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.”

Praying for People in My Daily Routine

Praying for My Co-Workers:

- My immediate supervisor
- The person with whom I most often interact
- The person who is the most difficult
- A fellow Christian who could have significant influence

Praying for My Nearest Neighbors:

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Praying for Our Schools:

- Pray for the safety of our students and faculty
- Pray for Christian students and faculty to know when and how to speak up for Christ and to know how to show His love.
- Pray for students and faculty who are lost, to be saved.
- Pray for the Spirit to move and for the Gospel to spread.

Praying for Persons with Influence over Others:

- Coaches and leaders of extra-curricular activities at school who influence participants
- Dance and Cheerleading teachers
- Volunteer coaches: Upward, DYB & Babe Ruth Baseball, Youth Football, Soccer, etc.
- Guidance Counselors at schools

Praying for the Self-Destructive

Praying About the Drug Problem:

- Pray against the people that organize and sell illicit drugs in the Tallassee area.
- Pray that these people will be converted to Christ, move far away or be arrested and convicted.
- Pray for the protection and effectiveness of law enforcement in this matter.
- Pray that any corrupt law enforcement officers (of whatever agency) will be exposed.
- Pray that those addicted will be delivered.

People in Other Addictive Lifestyles:

- People with alcohol addictions
- People with sexual addictions such as pornography
- People struggling with temptations to homosexuality
- People with eating disorders
- Teenagers who are cutting themselves
- People with anger management issues

Praying for the Wounded

Praying for the Depressed – and Others Struggling with Mental Health Issues:

- People overcome by clinical depression
- “High Drama” people whose strong emotions cause them to create scenes
- People with anger management issues
- Needy people who constantly demand too much of others
- People who are bored with life, coasting along without meaning
- Those filled with unforgiveness – bitterness, resentments, or hatred

Pray for Children Who are Abused, Weak, or Hurting:

- Pray for those students who are socially, athletically, academically, inept – who struggle with self-esteem
- Pray for those who are picked-on and bullied.
- Pray for those students from unloving, unsupportive, or undisciplined homes. Children who struggle in school for lack of support at home
- Children abused by their parents, mother’s boyfriend, grandparents, etc.
- Neglected children without parents taking care of them
- Struggling single mothers on their own, trying to do the right thing for their children

Praying for Hurting Marriages:

- Marriages where both partners have given up, when with effort, the marriage could be saved
- Marriages when the couple hasn’t been married long, but they are going through hard times that could try their marriage
- Marriages where one spouse wants to work things out and the other spouse doesn’t
- Marriages where one spouse is abusive
- Marriages where one of the spouses is being unfaithful

Praying for Those in Hard Times Financially:

- For those who have been laid off from a job
- For those who own small businesses and have key decisions to make, that they will have wisdom
- For those businesses that ought to go out of business (those that sell things they shouldn’t be selling), that they will find something better to do for a living
- For Christian business people who need creative solutions to be guided to them
- For those businesses that need to change, that they will do so in a way that is biblical and not a compromise
- That people who have been living a self-sufficient, materialistic lifestyle to be led into a Christ-centered lifestyle

Praying for Students

Students with Hard Struggles:

- Persons with bulimia who binge eat and then try to compensate in extreme ways, such as forced vomiting or excessive exercise, to prevent weight gain.
- People with anorexia who have an extreme fear of weight gain and a distorted view of their body size and shape. As a result, they can't maintain a normal body weight.
- Students who do not excel in extra-curricular activities, struggle with self-esteem, and get into wearing black to stand out – some getting into neo-paganism or the occult.
- Young people who are trying to cope with deep hurt and strong emotions by self-injury such as cutting.

Praying for the Future Spouse of the Young People in our Church Families:

- That their foremost desire will be to marry a growing Christian and establish a Christian home
- Their future spouse will be saved and grow to be strong in the Lord
- Make them unwilling to settle for anyone else
- Give them patience to wait for each other
- Prepare each one for each other, develop in them the qualities that will make them a good spouse
- Cause them to place great value on the qualities the other has to offer
- Bless the marriage of the parents of that future spouse and guide them as they rear and counsel him or her

Praying for the Graduating Class of The High School:

- Students who will now have freedom that haven't had before; that they will have a desire and a plan to use it wisely
- Pray that wherever they go who graduate will run into likeable people who will have a godly influence on them
- Pray for graduates going to college; pray they will attend the Let's Get Ready for College event
- Pray for graduates going to the workplace
- Pray for graduates going into the armed forces
- Pray for graduates who have no clue what to do next

Praying for Our Town

Praying for Sister Churches in Our Area:

Pray that God will focus their mission, guard their unity, and protect their purity – that He will make them effective in evangelism and disciple-making.

Spiritual Victory for God's People in Town:

- That God's people will praise the Lord and not focus on the enemy
- For spiritual discernment – to distinguish good from evil, truth from error, and that which is of God that which is from the evil one.
- That Christians will realize the enemy has already been disarmed and defeated through the cross (“And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross”-- Colossians 2:15, NIV)
- That Christians will humbly depend on God for victory, and not fight in their human resources.
- That Christians will choose to stand firm, regardless of the intensity of the attack.
- That God will grant overwhelming victory to His people in numerous, specific ways.

Pray for Local Businesses:

- For Christian business people who need creative solutions... to be guided to them.
- For businesses that need to make changes, that they will do so in a way that is biblical, without compromise
- For a steady demand for business.
- That people who have been living a self-sufficient, materialistic lifestyle to be led by these circumstances into a Christ-centered lifestyle
- Pray for owners or employees who don't yet know the Lord
- That the Federal Government will take wise steps that would help the economy and not take unwise steps that would be counterproductive.
- For families of individuals who have been laid off from a job

Prayer Worksheets

Prayer Worksheets assist people, who like to think on paper, to privately review their lives, relationships, and places of service that they might better pray for themselves and others.

One of the goals of a pastor is teaching the members of the church to pray. These worksheets are designed to help members learn to better pray in their personal devotional times.

Just looking at the titles of the Prayer Worksheets, we see important parts of life for which some people never pray. It has never occurred to some Christians to pray for their children's future spouses, or many teenagers to pray for his or her own future husband or wife. Some church members don't know how to pray for their church.

Each sheet is designed to help church members think through their lives and relationships from a biblical perspective. Just having to fill out the worksheet will help them think. Having it completed will help them pray.

Some people think better on paper — not everyone, of course, but some. The worksheets that follow may be especially helpful to such persons.

Sample Prayer Work Sheets follow on the following pages.

Praying for Myself

Spiritual Condition: *Uncertain/Find Out Lost Backslidden Saved & Growing* (Circle one)

Character Qualities I'm Asking God to Develop (Circle all that apply)

Ability to control tongue	Graciousness	Not self-centered	Respectfulness
Considerate, thoughtful	Humility	Outgoing, friendly	Responsible
Courage	Initiative	Patience	Self-control
Diligence	Joy	Peace	Self-discipline
Faithfulness	Kindness	People skills	Teachable spirit
Good listener	Love	Pure thought-life	Uncritical spirit
Goodness	Not harsh	Reasonable	Unselfish

Other: _____

Protection From:

Accidents Evil People Wrong Friends Temptation False Thinking

Special Heart Burdens:

Specific Challenges on the Job or at School:

People I Want to See Come to Christ, Opportunities to Witness:

My Place(s) of Christian Service:

Praying for Myself

Praying in Times of Waiting on God:

- God, Your Plan is a Good Plan
It is designed to meet the deepest needs of my heart
- Your plan is a righteous plan
You will never violate your holiness to promote my happiness
- Your plan is a wise plan, the smart thing to do
If I knew all the facts, your plan would be exactly what I would want.
- Your plan works according to Your perfect timing
 - Your delays have circumstance-arranging purpose
 - Your delays have motive-purifying purpose
 - Your delays have sin-purging purpose
 - Your delays have skill-training purpose
 - Your delays have work-completing purpose

God, as I wait on You, please enable me to trust You to plan my life regarding:

Confessing My Union With Christ

As I Resist Temptation:

Father, by Your doing I am in Christ Jesus ¹ and Christ is in me. ²

Jesus was tempted at all points – yet without sin ³

I have been crucified with Christ to _____ and to all that is in the world. ⁴

Since I am Christ's, I have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ⁵

I have been made alive to God and raised up together with Christ. ⁶

Through the cross, Jesus has already triumphed over the devil and destroyed his power over me. ⁷

I choose to set my mind on the things above, where Christ, who is my life, is sitting at the right hand of God. ⁸

I choose to walk in the Spirit – and by the Spirit, I put to death _____ . ⁹

Now thanks be to You, God, who always causes me to triumph in Christ. ¹⁰

“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” – Romans 6:11

¹ I Cor. 1:30 ² Col 1:27; Gal. 2:20 ³ Heb. 4:15 ⁴ Rom. 6:1-6 ⁵ Gal. 5:24

⁶ Eph. 2:4-6 ⁷ Col. 2:15; Heb. 2:14; I John 3:8 ⁸ Col. 3:1-4

⁹ Gal. 5:16; Rom. 8:13 ¹⁰ II Cor. 2:14

Praying for Myself: Why I Need Revival

I need revival because...

- I am distracted from God by things in this world, things I own and things I do.
- I have fallen into a pattern of sin, and I can't seem to stop
- I am at odds with others, filled with resentment, bitterness, and unforgiveness.
- My attitudes, thought life, or vocabulary give me away; I have not been plugged into God.
- I've not been as honest as I used to be.
- I have been indifferent to the spiritual condition of people around me. It doesn't even occur to me to witness to them.
- I have been neglecting my devotional life, being disinterested in prayer and Bible study.
- I have been going through the motions and keeping up appearances, but spiritually, I am dry and barren.
- I can't name one new thing I am attempting in serving God or one new way in which I am striving to grow spiritually.
- I have been bored with spiritual things, with little spiritual appetite for the things of God. Church doesn't do anything for me, anymore.
- I have been more concerned with my glory than God's.
- I have been feeling unmoved, unblessed, unchanged, and out of touch with God. My heart has not been soft toward God, but hardened.
- I have lost hope that things will be better.

Praying for My Spouse

Spiritual Condition: *Uncertain/Find Out* *Lost* *Backslidden* *Saved & Growing*
(Circle one)

Character Qualities I am Thankful For in My Spouse

(Circle all that apply)

Ability to control tongue	Graciousness	Not self-centered	Respectfulness
Considerate, thoughtful	Humility	Outgoing, friendly	Responsible
Courage	Initiative	Patience	Self-control
Diligence	Joy	Peace	Self-discipline
Faithfulness	Kindness	People skills	Teachable spirit
Good listener	Love	Pure thought-life	Uncritical spirit
Goodness	Not harsh	Reasonable	Unselfish

Other: _____

Protection From:

Accidents Evil People Wrong Friends Temptation False Thinking

Special Heart Burdens of My Spouse:

Specific Challenges My Spouse Faces on the Job or at School:

My Spouse's Place(s) of Christian Service:

Ways I Can Be a Better Partner to My Spouse:

Praying for My Future Spouse

My Commitments:

To marry only a committed, growing Christian. To date only committed, growing Christians as I seek a life partner. (Circle one) YES NO

Regardless of anything that may have happened in my past, and as an expression of love to God and to my future spouse, from this day forward, I am committed to saving sexual activity for marriage. (Circle one) YES NO

Character Qualities I am Seeking to Develop in Myself to Be a Better Spouse

(Circle all that apply)

Ability to control tongue	Graciousness	Not self-centered	Respectfulness
Considerate, thoughtful	Humility	Outgoing, friendly	Responsible
Courage	Initiative	Patience	Self-control
Diligence	Joy	Peace	Self-discipline
Faithfulness	Kindness	People skills	Teachable spirit
Good listener	Love	Pure thought-life	Uncritical spirit
Goodness	Not harsh	Reasonable	Unselfish

Protect My Future Spouse From:

Accidents Evil People Wrong Friends Temptation False Thinking

Requests for My Future Spouse and Myself:

Give us patience to wait for each other To be unwilling to settle for anyone else

Prepare us for each other To value the qualities the other has to offer

Bless the marriage of his/her parents Guide his/her parents

That my future spouse will grow to be strong in the Lord

Other Requests Regarding My Future Spouse:

Praying for My Children

Name: _____

Spiritual Condition: *Uncertain/Find Out Lost Backslidden Saved & Growing*
(Circle one)

Character Qualities I'm Asking God to Develop in Him or Her (Circle all that apply)

Ability to control tongue	Graciousness	Not self-centered	Respectfulness
Considerate, thoughtful	Humility	Outgoing, friendly	Responsible
Courage	Initiative	Patience	Self-control
Diligence	Joy	Peace	Self-discipline
Faithfulness	Kindness	People skills	Teachable spirit
Good listener	Love	Pure thought-life	Uncritical spirit
Goodness	Not harsh	Reasonable	Unselfish

Other: _____

Protection From:

Accidents Evil People Wrong Friends Temptation False Thinking

Future Spouse/Spouse:

Patience to wait for each other Prepare them for each other

To be unwilling to settle for anyone else To value the qualities the other has to offer

To bless the marriage of his/her parents To guide them as they rear him/her

That his/her future spouse will be saved young and grow to be strong in the Lord

Education/Employment:

Specific Needs & Challenges:

Praying for My Adult Children

Name: _____

Spiritual Condition: *Uncertain/Find Out* *Lost* *Backslidden* *Saved & Growing*
(Circle one)

Character Qualities I am Thankful For in My Adult Child (Circle all that apply)

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Ability to control tongue | Initiative | People skills | Unselfish |
| Considerate, thoughtful | Joy | Pure thought-life | |
| Courage | Kindness | Reasonable | |
| Diligence | Love | Respectfulness | |
| Faithfulness | Not harsh | Responsible | |
| Good listener | Not self-centered | Self-control | |
| Goodness | Outgoing, friendly | Self-discipline | |
| Graciousness | Patience | Teachable spirit | |
| Humility | Peace | Uncritical spirit | |
| Other: | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Protection From:

Accidents *Evil People* *Wrong Friends* *Temptation* *False Thinking*

My Adult Child's Spouse & Children:

Special Heart Burdens of My Adult Child:

Specific Challenges My Adult Child Faces on the Job:

My Adult Child's Place(s) of Christian Service:

Ways I Can Be an Encourager to My Adult Child:

Praying for The Lord's Church

Things for Which I am Thankful in Our Church:

Protect:

The Unity of the Church The Staff of the Church The Mission of the Church

The Spirit of the Church The Power of the Church

Specific Goals and Challenges of Our Church:

Special Heart Burdens for the Church:

My Place(s) of Service Through the Church:

My Sunday School Class:

NAME:

TELEPHONE:

NAME:

TELEPHONE:
