

WEEK 4

How to Use These Prayer Updates

We invite you to watch the video, as Michael Oh, Lausanne Movement Executive Director, shares an invitation to join in the month of prayer by visiting www.lausanne.org/pray



We ask you to set aside time each day – a holy, consecrated time - to savor the great gift of God in the Gospel, and to bring before Him the needs of a world where so many have yet to hear and experience the transforming news of the Gospel.

Some updates include sample prayers, while others include specific prayer points. These are provided as beginning points for your own communion with God and intercession for the nations. Don't allow the format to restrict the way that you respond to God. Just as we come from many cultures and traditions, may our worship and prayers be expressed in manifold ways to the glory of God.

In addition to reading and praying, consider how you might further consecrate yourself to God during this time. Would you consider fasting one meal a day, a day each week, or perhaps giving up something else that is precious to you like your morning coffee or your internet surfing? Would you be willing to go without these things in order to express to God your deep need for him to make himself known in you and in the world? Might this discipline of prayer and fasting be an aid to stirring up a holy hunger to see God glorified in those places where men and women are serving creation instead of the Creator.

How else might we together declare to God that we are expectant, waiting, and attentive to his Word and his Holy Spirit, wholly dependent upon him and completely his?

When the month is over, may it be that God has been lifted up and glorified, the world made further ready for the Gospel, and God's people renewed, rejoicing and ready to serve him!

Please join us in this prayer journey.

WEEK 4, DAY 22:

Our Partnership in the Gospel

Watch this conversation between Dr. Davi Gomes, Chancellor of Mackenzie University in Brazil and Dr. Michael Oh, Executive Director/CEO of The Lausanne Movement about Our Partnership in the Gospel.

Hear now the Word of the Lord:

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together." 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Holy Father of us all, we ask that you be glorified this week. We need you to make your people one so that the world might know that you sent Jesus and that we are his disciples. We cannot do this in our own strength. Our weakness is evident, but your power and grace is sufficient. We rest in the truth that you are aware of our need, that you are able to meet our need, and that you care for us. Thank you, loving Father. Amen



WEEK 4, DAY 23: OUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

The Global Body of Christ

"We are now in the midst of one of the most dramatic shifts in Christianity since the Reformation. Christianity is on the move and is creating a seismic change that is changing the face of the whole Christian movement." ¹ — Timothy Tennent, Lausanne Theology Working Group Chair

If anything should encourage us to continue in the work of World Evangelization, it should be the historic growth of the Church, particularly in the last few decades. Around the world brothers and sisters are daily being added to the number of those who are being saved, to the number of those who are worshipping and heralding the name of Jesus! Praise the Lord who is building his Church!

With this growth has dawned a new season for God's people – a season marked by multiple centers of Christianity. Throughout history, the church has moved mainly uni-directionally – from Jerusalem to the Roman Empire, from Rome into Europe and beyond. Even though God's people have made mistakes along the way, the Gospel has been planted deep throughout the world, resulting today in the ability to say, "Missions is from everywhere to everywhere."

We celebrate God's move throughout the world, while also recognizing the challenges for God's people in partnering together. For his glory, we prayerfully seek to overcome the historical misunderstandings that God's people have perpetuated towards people of other cultures. We defy persistent neocolonial attitudes. We resist anything that would come against unity under Jesus Christ, which God desires for his people. We pursue not only reconciliation – **for that would be too little** – but true partnership in the Gospel.

This earnest desire for partnership brings us back to where we started in prayer this month, in awe of the Gospel. The same good news that reconciles us to God and to each other is the same good news that compels us and propels us out into the world, in partnership with each other.

Let's praise God together as we marvel about what he has done, and is doing, in the world. Let's pray for true Gospel partnership across cultures. East, North, South, and West – may all of God's people see and act on opportunities for cooperation and collaboration. May the world truly know that we are Christians by our love.

¹ Timothy Tennent, *Theology in the Context of World Christianity*, Zondervan, 2007, 2.

WEEK 4, DAY 24: OUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

Men and Women, Young and Old in Partnership

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit." Joel 2:28-29

It's been said by numerous authors, ethnographers, and sociologists that teens in the world's urban centers have more in common with each other than with older generations in their own cultures. Whether we call it globalization or "McDonaldization", inexpensive, accessible media has helped advance an emerging youth worldview which is very different from previous generations. This has resulted in what some see as a growing worldwide, generational divide. People of God, we cannot allow that divide to partition the Church.

The body of Christ needs every part for maximum health. This includes the unique ways that God has placed young and old, and men and women in the Church. Younger leaders need the wisdom, encouragement, experience, spiritual parenting, and love of those who are older leaders. At the same time, older leaders need the energy, creativity, passion, and love of those who are younger. Older leaders should not be quick to dismiss the lack of experience or naiveté of younger leaders. Conversely, younger leaders should not disregard the experience and counsel of older leaders. Likewise, men and women, because of the Gospel, work together in partnership for the glory of Christ.

Leadership is from God; not a "right" but a gift to be stewarded. Positions of service are often referred to in the New Testament as "graces." Regardless of the person, we must remember that we are all reliant on God's grace, especially in our positions of service. And remember that these graces are all given for the building up of the Church!

Therefore, let's praise God for the diversity in the body of Christ. We praise Him for the differences in generations, and between men and women, knowing that He desires to use those differences to advance his glory and his Kingdom. As young and old, male and female, let's encourage one another and speak a word of blessing over each other. Let's each intentionally seek to partner with leaders who are not like us. Our lives and ministries will be enriched, and God will be glorified by the unity of his people.

Father, we pray today for the leaders that you are raising up to serve around the world. We ask you, O Spirit of God, to unite us – younger and older, men and women – for the good of your people and for the glory of Christ! Amen

WEEK 4, DAY 25: OUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

All Denominations – All Organizations

"I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, 'I follow Paul,' or 'I follow Apollos,' or 'I follow Cephas,' or 'I follow Christ.' Is Christ divided? 1 Corinthians 1:10-13

Is there ever room for rivalry in the house of God? Is it ever acceptable for God's people to seek to advance their own ministry or agenda over another one? The Apostle Paul reminds us that if we have to ask these things, then we have missed the point of the Gospel; the Gospel that unites all of God's people into one body. You see, the natural end of competition is a loss of love. How can we seek the best for someone else while also trying to beat them? It's impossible.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul urges unity within our diversity. His exhortation applies to us today and could read something like, "Now there are varieties of denominations, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of sending agencies, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of Christian NGOs, but it is the same God who empowers them all" (1 Corinthians 12:4-6, adapted).

Pray for organizations, ministries, and businesses apart from your own. Ask the Lord's blessing on a God-honoring denomination to which you don't belong. Ask the Lord if a partnership might be possible between your ministry and one with which you've been in competition.

And finally, brothers and sisters, there is one area in which Paul exhorts us to compete as believers. Romans 12:10 says, "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor." Today may we strive to give honor and glory to the Lord by showing honor and respect to co-laborers in the gospel around the world!

Father, we know that the one who would seek to be greatest must become the least. Indeed, they must become a servant of all. Would you empower us to have the same mind as Christ who came not to be served but to serve, who emptied himself and did not grasp for power?! May our competition at showing honor to others be great, and in doing so might the world see our good deeds and glorify you, our Father in Heaven. Amen

WEEK 4, DAY 26: OUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

Social Concerns and World Evangelization

*"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, **Selah***

*that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. **Selah***

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him! Psalm 67 (ESV)

Where does the Kingdom of God need to "come in power" in your region? In what ways is God being dishonored by the mistreatment and abuse of men, women, and children? As we reflect on the injustice and sadness of the world, we join together in prayer, asking for God's mercy. We desire that God's Kingdom would come into each situation, and that men and women, young and old, would be delivered from the evil one.

The Gospel tells us that God is not content that men and women, creatures made in his image, would suffer under the hands of evil men or as a result of a fallen world. Instead God has acted and provided a way out. The Gospel is the root of the tree which produces the fruit of justice and love for those hurting. Gospel action on behalf of the oppressed results in glory to the same God who hears those hurting ones.

Where can you begin to act on behalf of God's kingdom, to speak life into the dark areas of injustice and exploitation? Pray that the Lord would use you in those situations, and that because of God's grace the evil one would be defeated. Who do you know that is bringing God's mercy and grace in these areas? Pray for them. Pray for God's people everywhere that the knowledge of God who won salvation for us even though we could not repay him, would compel us to go and do likewise that more might know him and love him.

May his will be done on earth just as it is done in Heaven!

WEEK 4, DAY 27: OUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

The Marketplace and World Evangelization

The Lord uses marketplace sectors (Medical, Education, Science, Government, Media, etc.) to allow his people opportunities to serve and share with those living outside the reach of the Gospel; however in some Creative Access Nations (CANs) many traditional tentmaking roles are increasingly suspected of being connected to evangelistic endeavors.

We should, therefore, pray for the creativity of God's people to discern new ways to take the good news of the Gospel to such nations. One area that has received a lot of attention has come from Christians who are asking how they can use business as a conduit to bring God's blessing to the nations. Business as mission and tentmaking in CANs is important, as is the involvement of marketplace leaders in sharing their faith in and through the businesses they lead in open countries.

Pray for those people you know who are in business as a means of advancing the Gospel among the lost where they are and the unreached. One BAM practitioner writes that, particularly for those working in CANs, we should pray for four things:

That the business platform would afford Christians opportunities to develop relationships with non-believers.

1. That the business would help Christians establish a natural and valid identity.
2. That the business would provide visa access to the country where they are serving.
3. That the business would offer opportunities to bring God's blessing to the nation of service.

What about you? Think of a handful of men and women you know laboring in the marketplace either in their home countries or abroad. Are they in business? Medicine? Education? The Service Industry? Manufacturing? Whatever their role, ask that God would bless their efforts so that men and women would come to know Jesus and that their immediate needs would be supplied to the glory of God.

Father, we pray for those who are, by your grace, bringing blessing to unreached and hostile nations through business. We also pray for those business leaders who bring honor to you by daily sharing their faith and practicing integrity in their business relationships. We ask for creativity and wisdom for both of these groups as they navigate the challenges they face each day. Maximize their impact for your glory. Amen

WEEK 4, DAY 28: OUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

Media and the Gospel

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." Romans 10:17

Media – Traditional and New – has been a friend of the Gospel and the word of Christ, when it has been used strategically and creatively.

Praise God for how he has used the written word, radio, television, video/film, tapes, CDs, DVDs, mobile devices, music, and the internet! God has been gracious in allowing the church to develop and use media to share the message of Jesus Christ. Praise him that these types of media often reach beyond the places where the Church exists, or where the Church is able to go.

As you watch the below video (Speaking Hope to the World), pray that the Lord of the Harvest will continue to use media in ever-increasing ways to bring men and women to himself. Remember that God is able to do more than we could ever ask or imagine.

