

# Love Our World

## A Prayer Guide

We say a lot around here that belief unlocks the power of God in our lives. Prayer is one of the main conduits God has given us to express that belief in his promises. Many of the greatest movements of God throughout history began with a small group of people on their knees asking God to move mightily in their midst.

At the Summit, we believe that God cares about every person, and that the Church, as Christ's body, is His plan for demonstrating his love to the world. As we, the Church, demonstrate His love and mercy to those around us, the Gospel goes forward, and lives are changed. The church IS God's plan for changing individual lives and whole communities. By planting churches around the world, we will see the gospel advance beyond our wildest dreams. Our vision is to plant 1000 churches in the next 40 years.

Since prayer is our vehicle for believing God for the nations, I want to ask you to pray. For the next 3 weeks. I am asking you to commit to pray every day for our world. Each day, using this guide, you will pray for what is happening both here locally in RDU as well as what God is doing around the country and around the world. As you pray, open your own life to seeing how God has gifted you for his mission. I hope these few weeks will help you build praying for God's mission into your daily time with God.

- Pastor JD

# Love Our World

## How to Use this Guide

Daily Time Commitment: 15 minutes

### Structure

**Scripture.** Each day will begin with a passage of scripture talking about God's mission to the world. We will begin in genesis and see the mission of God build to through scripture over the 21 day period.

**Devotional thought.** This will be a short explanation of the passage and how this passage connects to the mission of God in the world. This will also include a word on how to pray through this passage as you pray through the prayer points below

**Pray Points.** Each day you will be praying for one grouping of people in need in RDU, one of our North American church planters, and one of our international church planting regions. The points will be in a simple bulleted list.

Example prayer points:

- Homelessness
- Soma Church (Denver, CO)
- South Asia

This list is designed to connect to the appendix in the back of the guide where an explanation of each prayer point and how to pray for it is located.

## Day 1

Genesis 1:27-28

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:27-28*

From the beginning of Creation, God had the entire world in mind. This is an interesting command. Be fruitful and multiply. Now why wouldn't God just want the Garden of Eden populated? Why the whole earth? Because God knew that, as Adam would populate physically, he would also populate spiritually. Can you picture that? The planet covered with worshippers of Him as Adam and Eve "filled the earth." One of the most important entailments of the doctrine of creation is this: it grounds all human responsibility. God made us to "image" himself; he made us for his glory. As you pray through the groups below, Remember Genesis 1 and ask him to bring about worshippers of Him in each of these areas.

### Prayer Points

- Homeless in RDU
- Raleigh-Durham (Vision International Church)
- Central Asia 1

*\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups*

## Day 2

Genesis 12:1-3

*Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Genesis 12:1-3*

This is a big moment. God is focusing his redemptive plan on a specific people, a nation that will come out of the line of Abram. God will not just bless one nation, but will use one nation to bless all nations. This promise, that God's ultimate intentions were from the beginning to bring men and women from every race into the new humanity he was forming, surfaces hundreds of times in the scriptures. Jesus' arrival & the foundation of the church was a confirmation of this promise (Acts 3:25). You and I are the "children of Abraham" called to carry God's blessing, the gospel, to every nation. 35% of the world has no "child of Abraham" bringing God's blessing to them. Could God be calling you to the nation we are praying for today? Where has he already placed you to carry the blessing found in Christ to those who need it? Open your heart to that as you pray for the areas below.

### Prayer Points

- Orphans
- New York City (Gallery Church)
- Central Asia 2

*\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups*

### Day 3

Exodus 19:4-6

*You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.” Exodus 19:4-6*

From the beginning, God’s purpose in saving the people of Israel and calling them to be his people was so that they would be a kingdom of Priests. A priest was someone who acted as a middle person, or bridge between God and the rest of humankind. God’s plan for the people of Israel was that they would be a nation that pointed the other people of the world to the one true God. In the New Testament we find that individual Christians now fulfill this same purpose of God (Revelations 5:10). God saved us so that we might share the knowledge of Him with those who do not know Him, wherever they might be. As you pray through the prayer points below, meditate on where God has strategically placed you and how he wants to use you as a priest to reach others.

#### Prayer Points

- Prisoners in RDU
- Richmond, VA (Redemption Hill Church)
- Southeast Asia

*\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups*

### Day 4

Deuteronomy 4:6-7

*Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? Deuteronomy 4:6-7*

Here in this passage God is calling the people of Israel to “keep and do” the commands he has given them. God has something in mind with their obedience that reaches far beyond their own lives. Other nations will marvel at the...get this... nearness of the LORD through the wisdom they perceive as Israel obeys the Lord’s commands. WHOA! Over the past few days, we’ve noted how from the beginning of Creation, God has had the mission of redeeming his people on his heart. He uses the church as that vehicle; He uses us. But have you ever considered that our obedience to our King is a megaphone to the nations about the greatness and nearness of our God? Understanding the gospel brings about obedience, and our obedience leads us on mission.

#### Prayer Points

- Unwed Mothers
- Youngstown, OH (Youngstown Metro Church)
- Southeast Asia (India)

*\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups*

## Day 5

Deuteronomy 10:17-21

*For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. Deuteronomy 10:17-19*

God deeply loves and cares for those groups of people which the rest of the world often shows no care for, such as orphans, widows, homeless and many others. This is because it is a fundamental part of God's character to uphold justice and show no favoritism. Since the people of Israel were meant to reflect God's image, they were also commanded to show compassion, care and justice for these people. They were to love the sojourner. In the New Testament we find that God's command still holds true for followers of Christ (James 2:1-10). Believers are to "image God" in how they treat people. Spend some time meditating on how God daily brings you into contact with those in need and ask Him for guidance on how you can show gospel-motivated compassion to them.

### Prayer Points

- High School Dropouts / at-risk children
- Greenville, NC (Integrity Baptist Church)
- North Africa

*\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups*

## Day 6

2 Samuel 7

*When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. 2 Samuel 7:12-14a*

This chapter in scripture marks another key moment in the bible. God is establishing a covenant with David, that God will establish the kingdom of David's son...forever. This is another big marker in the search for the coming king who will save Israel. He will come from David's line. Of course we know this covenant is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus. Which means he is the king who reigns over the kingdom we are a part of. Christ is your king. How does this sit with you? Are you submitting to him as your king? Good news: he is a good king. One of grace and generosity. He is a king who cares for his people, putting their needs above his own. He calls his people to an abundant life as members of his kingdom. Will you pray for those below, that they would come to know Christ as their king? Would you ask God to show you areas in your life where you are not giving control over to him as your king?

### Prayer Points

- Our own spheres of influence (friends, etc.)
- Denver, CO (Soma Church)
- Johannesburg, South Africa

*\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups*

## Day 7

### Psalm 67

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

How amazing is it that God's desire for all nations to know Him is so evident in Scripture – and yet we can so easily miss it! In Psalm 67 we see that God has blessed us SO THAT He might be known and feared among all nations. Two kinds of blessing are identified: He has blessed us in resources (v. 7) and in salvation through the grace He has poured out on us (v. 1). In other words, our saving knowledge of God and our material wealth are gifts that ought to be used to make His name famous – in our city, our nation, and throughout the world. As you pray for the groups below, first praise God for his blessing of Christ in your life. Then, think of ways that you can bless these groups out of the ways that God has blessed you.

#### Prayer Points

- Future ministry in Raleigh Durham
- Future Church Plants in North America
- Future Church Plants around the world

*\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups*

## Day 8

### Psalm 96

*Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Psalm 96:1-6*

What a hymn of great praise to God as Lord over all of creation. God called Israel to be a vehicle of blessing for all mankind, bringing them knowledge of the true God for whom all human beings yearn, and this psalm keeps this mission prominent in the Israelites' view of the world and their role in it. This psalm is looking ahead to a time in which Gentiles acknowledge the true God, and the benefits that will bring to all the earth. Christians sing this, knowing that God has ushered in this long-awaited epoch with the resurrection of Jesus. The reality is, there are people made to worship him who are worshipping false Gods. Some are in your neighborhood worshipping the Gods of money and success. Some are in Central Asia serving a false god in a false religion. Consider as you pray this prayer how God has equipped you to communicate him as the true God to those in this list below as you pray for them.

#### Prayer Points

- Homeless in RDU
- Raleigh-Durham (Vision International Church)
- Central Asia 1

\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups

### Day 9

Psalm 146:5-10

*Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.* Psalm 146:5-10

Our hope for salvation is not in our programs, not in our strategies, and not in our own strength. Our hope for our salvation and the salvation of the world is in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the Lord who sets prisoners free, it is the Lord who opens the eyes of the blind, it is the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down, it is the Lord who loves the righteous, and it is the Lord who supports the fatherless and the widow. Praise the Lord who blesses us with this hope and allows us to join Him in His plan to bring this hope of salvation to our neighbors, our community and to the uttermost parts of the world. As you pray today, begin by acknowledging to God your hope is in him. Just spend a few moments saying that to him. Rest in that hope today. Then, ask God to bring that hope to these groups below.

#### Prayer Points

- Orphans
- New York City (Gallery Church)
- Central Asia 2

\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups

### Day 10

Isaiah 53

*Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

Isaiah 53:4-6

One of the best parts of reading through the Old Testament is the reminder that God's purposes of bringing restoration have always been the same. In a book like Isaiah, we read of judgment after judgment, but we never seem to lose at least a small glimmer of hope. Where does this hope come from? It comes from the coming servant in Isaiah 53. Even in the Old Testament, God's people were looking for the one who would be the Savior and King they longed for. They would find redemption and restoration in this coming Servant, but Isaiah 53 is a beautiful picture of the cost of our salvation. As you pray, thank God for his mercy shown through the death and resurrection of Jesus and pray that this truth will be made known to those in these three areas. Jesus is the greatest hope for us, and for those in these three areas.

#### Prayer Points

- Prisoners in RDU
- Richmond, VA (Redemption Hill Church)
- Southeast Asia

*\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups*

### **Day 11**

Isaiah 56:6-7

*“And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” Isaiah 56:6-7*

Here God continues to remind His people that He seeks everyone. He will reach beyond the nation of Israel until His desire is fulfilled and “all peoples” worship him. He will draw them into His holy presence and He will fill them with the joy they lacked apart from Him. Those who were once far from God will be brought close. Those who were once enemies of God will be made friends. Those who once were foreigners will know Him and pray to Him. This is the mission of God. To know and love God is to love what He loves and desire what He desires. That’s why we pray for people of all nations to know Him. So as you pray today, pray with confidence that God will bring people from all nations to worship him!

#### **Prayer Points**

- Unwed Mothers
- Youngstown, OH (Youngstown Metro Church)
- Southeast Asia (India)

*\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups*

### **Day 12**

Luke 2:8-11

*And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:8-11*

This passage of scripture may be familiar to you. You know, little baby Jesus & the shepherds and the whole nativity scene. Well, interestingly the arrival of Jesus as documented in Luke’s gospel is filled with angelic activity. By only the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter, we are reading the 3<sup>rd</sup> angel sighting. God is up to something big! And what does the angel say? Don’t let these words wash over you. He brings good news of GREAT JOY for all the people. Jesus is good news for everyone. The son of David is here! We live now on this side of the cross resting in the promise of what the angel here declared. Jesus came & brought salvation to us! As you pray for these groups below, remember that it is only God’s grace to you that you have been saved. Thank him for sending his son and believe on behalf of these groups that they will come to believe his good news.

#### **Prayer Points**

- High School Dropouts / at-risk children
- Greenville, NC (Integrity Baptist Church)
- North Africa

*\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups*

### **Day 13**

Matthew 9:36-38

*When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."*

Matthew 9:36-38

When we look at this passage, we often focus on the second half of this verse. But let's remember and rejoice in what Jesus is also saying to his disciples in the first part: the Lord is moving in the hearts of the lost and is bringing them back to himself! Praise God for the work he has already started in countries & villages all over the world. This is a call to give thanks and praise to the Lord...and then respond to the work he is doing. We are called, as God's people, to continue the work he has started and share the good news of the gospel that many are longing & ready to hear. The mission field is vast and open...whether it is your neighborhood, or across the world. How is the Lord calling you to help reap the harvest? How can you be a co-laborer in the mission field? As you pray through the groups below, remember Matthew 9 and ask God to provide faithful laborers to continue the work that he has already begun in each of these areas.

#### **Prayer Points**

- Our own spheres of influence (friends, etc.)
- Denver, CO (Soma Church)
- Johannesburg, South Africa

*\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups*

### **Day 14**

Matthew 28:18-20

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20*

We tend to do everything other than the one thing Jesus told us to do. This passage gives Jesus' mission to those who follow him: to make disciples by leading people from all nations to believe in Jesus and then seeing them grow to love and obey Jesus. This shouldn't appear easy. In fact, it should appear almost impossible. But Jesus bookends this command by giving his disciples a comforting promise: he has all authority (v. 16) and he will be present with them to help them carry out their mission (v. 20). It's in this passage that we not only see WHAT we should give our lives to (making disciples of Jesus) but also HOW that's even possible (Jesus is present to make that possible). Both the hope and the possibility of redemption is found in our Triune God (Eph. 1:3-14) As you pray for the groups, remember the need for churches to not only see people come to Christ, but to grow in Christ as well.

#### **Prayer Points**

- Future ministry in Raleigh Durham
- Future Church Plants in North America
- Future Church Plants around the world

*\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups*

### **Day 15**

John 12:23-26

*And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. John 12:20-26*

This short teaching of Jesus can appear on the surface to seem like Jesus is contradicting himself. Love your life...lose it? Why would I lose what I love? Why would I want what I hate? The answer of course lies in knowing you cannot live YOUR life and serve Christ. Your life is temporary and ultimately you will lose it. To hate your life means to discount it as worthless compared to serving Christ. This is what it means to "die" to Christ. And when you die, you are like a grain of wheat that falls into the earth that first dies, then bears much fruit. Christ is first talking about his own life where he literally dies and the fruit of it is our salvation. But he is also calling you and I to die to the life we may love for the sake of something far greater. As you pray, ask God to give you a new joy in Him and distaste for a you-led life. And pray the same for those in the areas below.

#### **Prayer Points**

- Homeless in RDU
- Raleigh-Durham (Vision International Church)
- Central Asia 1

*\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups*

### **Day 16**

Acts 1:6-8

*So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:6-8*

Our responsibility is not to know the future or God's plans; how He will work things out. Our responsibility is to take full grasp of the Holy Spirit's power and BE a part of that plan. We do so by sharing His love, the life-changing power of the Gospel with others. And we can't limit that message to only a certain group of people. It is meant for everyone. We must take it "to the end of the earth." Just as the disciples were challenged at Jesus' ascension in Acts 1, the same calling goes out to us. We are His witnesses, and we have the Spirit to empower us. He has given us, the Church, every tool we need to share the Gospel with the world. We are left without an excuse. Today, as you think about and pray for the groups below, remember that this is our calling, our mandate. We are to be part of this mission to share what we have witnessed, the power of the cross.

#### **Prayer Points**

- Orphans
- New York City (Gallery Church)
- Central Asia 2

*\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups*

### **Day 17**

Acts 2:44-47

*And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:44-47*

The early church hung out a lot together. They cared for each other's needs. They prayed and studied scripture together. They enjoyed life together. And look what God did in the midst of their community....he added daily to their number those who were being saved. The church is a deeply relational ever expanding community. It is quite possible that the greatest evangelistic method we possess is how we love one another. Christ told us this would be how the world would recognize us as his disciples (John 13:35). The church is to be a living and active picture of God's love and grace. What a great call on our lives. The way we love one another tells the world something about Christ! When you pray today, pray for Christ's love to be very visible to these groups below by the local churches in their areas.

#### Prayer Points

- Prisoners in RDU
- Richmond, VA (Redemption Hill Church)
- Southeast Asia

*\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups*

### **Day 18**

Romans 1:4-6

*And (Jesus) was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.*

Romans 1:4-6

Paul's mission is to all people groups. His goal is to bring about the obedience of faith (Rom 16:26) Obedience is required, but it is an obedience that flows from saving faith and is always connected to ongoing faith. Although Paul can speak of people's initial response as obeying the gospel (Rom 10:16) it is unlikely that "obedience of faith" here refers only to initial saving faith, because the purpose of Paul's apostleship was not merely to bring people to conversion but also to bring about transformed lives that were consistently obedient to God. Paul's ultimate goal in preaching to the Gentiles is for the sake of his name, that is, that Jesus Christ will be glorified. <sup>1</sup> As you pray for the groups below, pray they would not just hear of Christ, but Christ'

#### Prayer Points

- Unwed Mothers
- Youngstown, OH (Youngstown Metro Church)
- Southeast Asia (India)

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<sup>1</sup> ESV study bible note for Romans 1:5 (Crossway, 2010).

*\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups*

### **Day 19**

Romans 1:14-16

*I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

Romans 1:14-16

Paul understood his call to be an Apostle to the Gentiles as both a privilege and a responsibility. As a bond-servant he lived under an obligation to preach the gospel, but this obligation came with no shame. The gospel is the power of God that brought salvation to all classes: the Greeks, the barbarians, the wise, and the foolish. Preaching resulted in his personal ridicule and persecution, yet Paul was eager to do so knowing that the gospel revealed the righteousness of God. Paul's reputation was submitted to the gospel. The revelation of God's power for salvation is every bit as relevant today. As believers we must also submit our own sense of honor or reputation to the purpose of the Gospel that is to proclaim salvation to those who would believe. That may mean going to the professor, the prostitute, the rich or the homeless because the power of God has no boundaries and for that we should never be ashamed. As you pray for these groups below, remember that Christ came for all bringing salvation to all who believe.

#### Prayer Points

- High School Dropouts / at-risk children
- Greenville, NC (Integrity Baptist Church)
- North Africa

*\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups*

### **Day 20**

Romans 10:14-15

*How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"* Romans 10:14-15

Paul is making a point in asking this string of rhetorical questions seen in verses 14-15. He is emphasizing our need for action. The means which God has chosen for His message to be propagated is by means of the spoken and written word. Without men and women of faith speaking up and going out to the lost of this world, many will die either with a misconstrued/false gospel or no knowledge of Jesus Christ. He then calls the feet of the willing "beautiful." Beautiful in that we are going about doing the most important and wonderful task that could possibly be given, making God's name and greatness known throughout our communities and all the earth. As you pray through the points below pray his word and truth would be heard throughout the world. You have one life to live. Who is God calling you to go and tell his good news to?

#### Prayer Points

- Our own spheres of influence (friends, etc.)
- Denver, CO (Soma Church)
- Johannesburg, South Africa

*\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups*

## Day 21

Revelation 7:9-10

*After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

Revelation 7:9-10

Heaven, rightly so, seems to always be on the Christian mind. "What will it be like?" "Will my dog be there?" "Wow, it will be good to see Grandpa Joe again!" Revelation 7:9 is John's incredible word picture illuminating just a glimpse of what God revealed to us about heaven. We see an uncountable multitude of people representing every nation, tribe and language. Think Olympic opening ceremony on steroids. The incredible diversity of the multitude reveals God's inconceivable creative majesty and bears witness to the complexity and immensity of the God we serve. Which begs the question, if "all tribes peoples and languages" are represented in heaven, and there are currently over 4000 unreached people groups... Yeah, you fill in the blank, and as you do remember Romans 10:14-15 we prayed through yesterday. This is the where the mission of God ends. With worship of Him. Give him praise for the hope heaven gives you ask for that hope for those below.

### Prayer Points

- Future ministry in Raleigh Durham
- Future Church Plants in North America
- Future Church Plants around the world

\* See Appendix for info on how to pray for these groups

## Appendix

# Love Our World Prayer Guide Reference Section

## Local / RDU

### Homeless

About 1,200 people in Wake County and 675 people in Durham County are homeless, with many more living in unstable conditions. The Summit partners with organizations like the Durham Rescue Mission, Raleigh Rescue Mission, Habitat for Humanity, and the Interfaith Council of Chapel Hill that work with the homeless and addicted. Another group of people in our area in need of housing are refugees. Every year, World Relief resettles around 200 refugees who come to the US without a home, job, social network, fluency in English, and in general, without knowing Christ. People come to these organizations with great physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Pray that God would use us not only to help provide them with food, shelter and counsel, but the good news of the gospel. Pray that they would know Christ as their Provider and Savior.

### Orphans/ Foster Kids

The Bible defines "orphan" as being *fatherless*. 24 million children in the US will go to bed tonight without their father living in the home with them. Research shows that children who live without their fathers are more likely to be poor, to use drugs, to experience educational, health, emotional and behavioral problems, to be victims of child abuse, and to engage in criminal behavior. Some of these

children need mentors, some foster care homes, many need to be adopted, and all of them need to hear of God's love for them. The gospel shows us that we were the ones that were fatherless before God adopted us as His children through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Pray that we would love and care for orphans in response to what God has done for us. Ask that they would know their true Father who will never leave them or forsake them.

### **Prisoners**

50-75% of ex-offenders will return to prison within 3 years after their release. 85% of children of prisoners will become incarcerated themselves. The Summit Prison Ministry is focused on showing and sharing the love of Christ with prisoners and their families pre- and post-release. We are specifically focused on building relationships at WCC (the Wake Correctional Center for Men) and NCCIW (the North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women) in downtown Raleigh. Pray that we would give our time and resources to see liberation come to all held captive by sin. Pray that God would grant us favor in building relationships with prisoners and their families. Pray that they would experience true freedom through Christ and restoration in their relationships with others.

### **Unwed Mothers/ Widows**

About 40% of all babies born in America today are born to single moms. These women are in need of extra support, as well as their children. Increasingly more women are choosing to have abortions – in 2008, there were 8003 abortions performed in Wake County. The Summit partners with organizations like Pregnancy Support Services Inc. of Durham/Chapel Hill and Pregnancy Support Services of

Wake Forest that reach out to women facing the challenges of unwanted pregnancies. Pray for protection against the spiritual warfare that the staff, volunteers, and clients at PSS face daily. Pray that we can be a beacon of light and truth to unwed mothers and widows and that they will choose and know Life.

### **Dropouts/ At-Risk Students**

High school dropouts/at-risk students are another focus of the Summit's local outreach. In 2008, there were 1,647 high school dropouts in Wake County and 439 in Durham County. Many of these young people come from difficult home situations or broken families. The Summit partners with several ministries that mentor kids and youth such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, Agape Corner, and the Kid's Club at Oxford Manor. Big Brothers Big Sisters has 200 openings for mentors in Durham alone. Pray for more mentors, especially men. Pray that we would be able to live out the Gospel to many of these kids and they would learn to follow Christ.

### **Your Sphere of Influence**

God has intentionally placed each and every one of us in specific jobs, schools, and neighborhoods to share the Gospel with those who otherwise may not have a Christian influence. While we desire to see the Gospel advance in "other" parts of our local community, North America, and amongst the nations, we cannot overlook those in need where we are. The most effective way to share the Gospel is through relational evangelism, having intentional Christ-centered conversations with those you already know and living out the gospel in front of them. Pray that God will

open doors for these conversations to happen and give you boldness to speak truth when the opportunities arise.

## **National**

### **Vision Church (Raleigh, NC) – [www.visionchurchrdu.org](http://www.visionchurchrdu.org)**

Located in Southeast Raleigh, Vision Church has one mission: fulfilling God's *vision* of making disciple-making disciples. This vision comes from Acts 16 where the gospel reaches different races, economic backgrounds and cultures, and is based on the belief that the gospel changes people, and people changed by the gospel change the world. Currently they have begun a movement they're calling 'One Block, One Life' (One Block at a time, One Life at a time), where they're putting all of their efforts into one block of their city, adopting Washington Terrace, a neighborhood with 340 residents, the Wake County Boys Club, with 481 young men, and Saint Augustine's College, with 1500+ students. Please pray for Vision Church: for maturity (they have a ton of new converts and need more leaders); for giving (a constant struggle); for their pastor, Jerome Gay (that he will be transparent accountable and faithful to the gospel); for the people of Washington Terrace (that they will trust Christ as their savior); and for the people of Vision (that they will love Jesus more and more).

### **The Gallery Church (New York, NY) –**

[www.gallerychurch.com](http://www.gallerychurch.com), [www.sendnyc.com](http://www.sendnyc.com)

The Gallery Church was launched in September 2006 in the heart of the most influential city in the world, New York. The Gallery is a group of Christ followers that want to display the Glory of God in NYC and around the world. The Gallery has a unique opportunity to show the love of Christ to men and women in their community that are HIV positive, and are pioneering a model for local churches

around our country in the way they are responding to the AIDS pandemic. From the beginning, the vision of Gallery has been to be not just a church in the city, but a church that plants churches in the city. They have already planted Gallery Church Baltimore and helped plant Trinity Grace Church in Brooklyn, NY. In 2008, Gallery brought on a new teaching pastor, Freddy Wyatt, allowing the founding pastor, Aaron Coe, to focus on church planting. They have since launched SendNYC with the express intent of planting 100 new congregations in NYC over the next decade. Since 1990 the evangelical population of Manhattan has grown from less than one percent to now over 3 percent. This is a huge movement! Please pray God continues it!

### **Redemption Hill (Richmond, VA) –**

[www.redemptionhill.com](http://www.redemptionhill.com)

Richmond, the capitol city of Virginia, boasts a rich history as one of the most influential cities in American history. And yet that history has also been characterized by a polarizing dichotomy between freedom and slavery. It is a city that is truly 'lost in translation'. Is it the former capitol of the confederacy, or is it an up and coming city in the new urban south? Regardless, the reality remains that Richmond doesn't think that the church has any answers or hope for the future. Once called the 'city of churches,' today less than 15% of Greater Richmond's 1.2 million residents claim any evangelical affiliation. It's the prayer of Redemption Hill, that God would use us to cultivate the soul of this city...that Richmond would one day be busting at the seams with people who Enjoy God Deeply and Engage God's Mission. Please pray for Redemption Hill and their pastor, Robert Greene. That they would have God's heart for the city and the nations; that they would never settle or feel they've arrived; that they would not fear failure but have

confidence in God's purposes; and that they would reflect the gospel's power across all ethnicities.

**Youngstown Metro Church (Youngstown, OH) –**

[www.youngstownmetrochurch.com](http://www.youngstownmetrochurch.com)

Youngstown Metro Church is the oldest partnership of the Summit. Pastor Josh Shank was on staff at the Summit and left in 2004 to plant a church in his hometown of Youngstown, Ohio. Metro began as a vision that God placed within Josh and his wife Aimee in seminary. It grew to a small group of friends who met in the Shank's apartment to discuss what it meant to be a church. They have since grown into a community with a vision to become a people who grow in our love for God and the people around them. They are a community driven by a deep love for the gospel and a strong desire to see it worked out in community. Metro has seen God do some spectacular things over their short lifespan and are trusting for greater things in the future. In December of 2010, Metro will be taking a team of people to Liberia, Africa, to help dig clean water wells, set up medical clinics, and help plant a church. Please pray for Metro: that God will give them wisdom as they look towards the future; that God will raise up new leaders within the church; that they will see the Gospel go forward in Youngstown; and that he will use their trip in December to plant a new church in Liberia, Africa.

**Integrity Church (Greenville, NC) –**

[www.liveintegritychurch.org](http://www.liveintegritychurch.org)

Integrity Church is located in Greenville, North Carolina, a college town full of students and young professionals. In 2008, Greenville was named as one of the best communities for young people and the top ten best places in the nation for business and careers. Ben Tugwell, his wife (Jes), and son (Finn) moved to Greenville in 2007 to plant Integrity.

Integrity started as a small group that met on Sunday afternoons. Now Integrity meets on Sunday mornings in an elementary school and as multiple small groups scattered throughout the city of Greenville during the week.

Integrity seeks to redeem the city being the church, loving the city and raising up on mission disciples. Integrity has recently helped launch its own church-planting network to plant churches across eastern NC. Please pray for Integrity, that they would continue to raise up godly leaders to plant more Gospel-Centered churches in North Carolina; that Pastor Ben would continue to have fresh vision for Integrity Church; and that their people would have a burning passion to make disciples in Greenville.

**Soma Church (Denver, CO) – [www.somadenver.org](http://www.somadenver.org)**

Soma Church will be the newest church plant of the Summit, planned for January 2011 in Denver, CO. Denver is a thriving city of approximately 2.8 million people, home to over 140,000 college students, 75 nationalities and languages, and professionals of all fields who influence the country and world. At the same time, Denver is far less than 10% evangelical and in desperate need of more gospel-centered churches. Soma Church strives to be a gospel-centered community on mission for Jesus to the city of Denver. Soma was born out of the vision of the lead pastor, Bryan Barley, to plant a church in the heart of an influential city with a desperate need for the gospel. Please pray: for the Holy Spirit to begin softening the hearts of the people of Denver to hear the gospel; for the families and individuals from the Summit who make up the Soma team to be a well-equipped community of missionaries that take the gospel to where they work, live and pray; for God to use Soma in ways greater than they could ever ask or imagine; and for a gospel movement to take place in Denver.

## **Future**

At the Summit, we believe that God has given each and every Christ follower gifts, skills, experiences, and resources that He wants to use to make a difference in the world around us. The church is God's plan for demonstrating His love to the world. As we use our gifts to demonstrate his love to our community, and to communities around the world, the gospel goes forward, and lives are changed. As we plant churches around the world, the gospel will advance beyond our wildest dreams. That's the vision behind our dream to plant 1000 churches in the next 40 years, and 20 churches in the next 5. But if we're going to see this dream realized, it's going to take every member of the Body using their unique skills, gifts and resources to advance the mission.

Please pray for our church: that we would be a people with a passion for God and his purposes, both local and global; that God would raise up men and women within the Summit that would leverage their lives for our community and communities around the world; and that we would believe God's promise to build His church around the world. **Finally, pray for how God might use you to be a part of this mission.**

## **International**

(\*Note: The Summit has nearly 70 members living and working around the world. The locations below represent 6 areas of particular focus to the Summit. In many instances, these places are particularly hostile to the Gospel and, in turn, the information that can be shared below must be limited.)

## **Central Asia 1**

The "Valley Tribe\*" is a people group in Afghanistan, Iran, Kirgizstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Very few people from the "Valley Tribe" have come to know the Lord, and those few believers face persecution in all the countries they live in. Less than 0.1% of the Valley Tribe people are followers of Jesus, and there are only a few isolated house churches that meet in a couple of the countries they live in.

The vast majority of the "Valley Tribe" live in areas where there is no gospel witness. The overwhelming majority of the "Valley Tribe" are Sunni Muslims, and most are very fundamentalist in their Islamic faith. This makes them a very difficult people to reach. The Summit has been involved in engaging the "Valley Tribe" for eight years now.

We have been blessed to reach out and minister to the spiritual and physical needs of these people who have been oppressed by dictatorships, wars, and poverty. Please pray for the spiritual bonds that blind this people to be broken, and for many to have the opportunity to hear the message of salvation. Please pray for safety for the workers who are helping the "Valley Tribe" in these days of turmoil in the region.

## **Central Asia 2**

Central Asia is host to a myriad of cultures whose histories date back to the times of the Old Testament; one of which is Turkey, whose heritage was born out of the Ottoman Empire and is host to many locations found in the New Testament (such as the seven churches of Revelation). Even though Turkey used to have a strong Christian presence, with the rise and fall of the Ottoman Empire, Christianity

was all but wiped out. In this now Islamic nation, less than 1% of the population are Christian and was recently considered the "least reached nation *per capita* in the world." By forsaking Islam and turning to Christ, national believers are often ostracized, persecuted, or killed by family members, friends, or their community. The Summit, seeing the need for Christian workers in Turkey, has begun to send its members to Turkey to proclaim the gospel by living among the Turks, sharing the truth about Christ with them in their homes, and helping to meet the needs of their community.

Please join the Summit in praying for the expansion of God's Kingdom in Turkey: 1. that the national believers would not abandon the faith, but remain strong in the face of persecution; 2. that non-believers would see their need for a Savior through dreams, conversations, and the lives of believers; 3. that the gospel would reach even the darkest corners of Turkey where the True Light has yet to shine; and 4. that the Summit would raise up many long-term Christian workers who will be bold in their giving their lives for the sake of the Turkish people and in Jesus' name

### **Southeast Asia**

The "Coffee Drinkers\*" of Southeast Asia number over 4 million. They have a recent history that involves a violent civil war and massive devastation from earthquake and tsunami. They are fiercely proud of their Islamic heritage and less than 2% of their population has access to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Those that have chosen to believe the Gospel and follow Jesus Christ face intense persecution both from within the local community and from the local authorities. The Summit has a long history of involvement with the "Coffee Drinkers" – over 6 single men and women and one family have spent 2-3 years to living and working

amongst the "Coffee Drinkers." Please pray for the few current local believers to be bold in learning and sharing their faith, for new and lasting relationships with government authorities, and for opened doors in new places of work around the province.

### **South Asia**

The neglected groups in the heart of India represent millions of people who have never heard about the Living God. Most of these peoples are worshipping idols of stone, in desperate need for someone to find them and share the Truth. The church in this area is not reaching them, due to fear of persecution, lack of awareness, and the difficulty of getting to these often-backwards groups. The Summit is partnering with personnel in this area in church-planting-focused micro-finance work, and is planning to send a team of workers to live and serve in this area in the near future. Please pray for the Lord to provide godly partners who will catch a vision to reach these neglected groups, and who will train other laborers to work in this vast harvest.

### **North Africa**

This North African city is home to over 4 million people, of whom less than 1 percent are born-again followers of Christ. Sunni Islam is the dominant religion of this spacious city, with most of the city's Muslims believing that the Bible has been corrupted and Jesus is merely a prophet. The decision to follow Christ as Lord and Savior comes at the price of shame, family pressures, persecution and discrimination. The Summit has been at work in this city for over three years. Soon, there will be 3 Summit families and another single girl living and working in this place. Please pray that the hearts and minds of many would turn to Jesus, that God would bring many persons of peace

across believers' path, and that a mighty, God-sized church planting movement would take hold across the city.

### **South Africa**

On any given morning on the streets of downtown Johannesburg, South Africa, you can meet Yakubu a student from Nigeria, Raphael, a father from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Edward, a laborer from Zimbabwe, Juanita, a Portuguese speaking woman from Mozambique, and Siphwiwe, a bank teller from South Africa. People from all over the African continent come to this "World Class African City" to get a better education and to find work. It has been reported that there are over 300 languages spoken by the over 4 million people living in Jozi. The Summit has sent 5 missionaries to Jozi, the first in 2000. The Summit has continued to partner in Jozi by sending several teams which have been directly involved in 5 church plants in Johannesburg and Soweto. Please pray that the three existing downtown Baptist Churches (Troyville, Berea and Bellevue) to reach their neighbors with the gospel. Pray for a new church to be planted in Bertrams/Bez Valley a strategic area near the inner city. Pray for men to be trained to become the leaders of the church in South Africa. When Jozi is reached, the entire continent of Africa will be impacted!