



PRAYER

Initiative



GENERAL CONFERENCE of THE WESLEYAN CHURCH
15th



15th GENERAL CONFERENCE
of THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

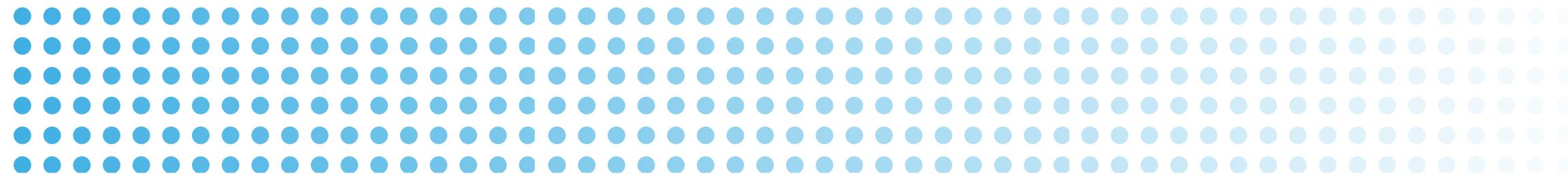
You hold in your hands "EMPOWERED: A 15th General Conference Prayer Initiative." This Spirit-led resource is *your* invitation to join The Wesleyan Church's (TWC's) General Board and Communication and Administration team for 30 days of guided and intentional prayer for the 2026 General Conference.

Our desire is to see and experience a revival of holiness and a Holy Spirit empowerment to fulfill God's purpose and mission through TWC. One important step, as you know, in preparing ourselves to be agents of God's mission in the world is *prayer*.

Would you join your voice with ours as one body calling out to our ONE LORD in focused prayer for the work of the General Conference and our mission? Let's begin praying together now.

In his service,

The General Board and Communication and Administration team



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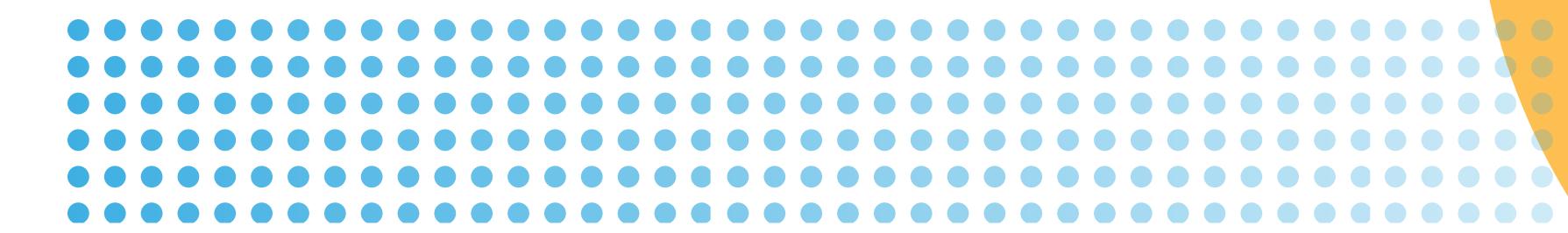
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PRAYER FOCUS: For The Wesleyan Church to boldly live as a holiness movement in our day and time: What needs to change in me?

SCRIPTURE: John 17:15-19

"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." (v. 17, NRSV)

Wesleyans are fond of the word “sanctification,” even if we rarely use it. But if you ask what it means, the answers fall in every direction. Most will say something about being “set apart,” implying a distance of sorts between us and the world.

But in the middle of his prayer, Jesus uses the term three times and his meaning is something quite different. Jesus speaks of being sanctified **for** the world, not **from** it: “I am not asking you to take them out of the world ... I have sent them into the world, sanctify them (there) in the truth” (vv. 15-17a). The sanctification Jesus prays for is both social and spiritual, set apart without being removed. It’s to live as Christ **for** the world.

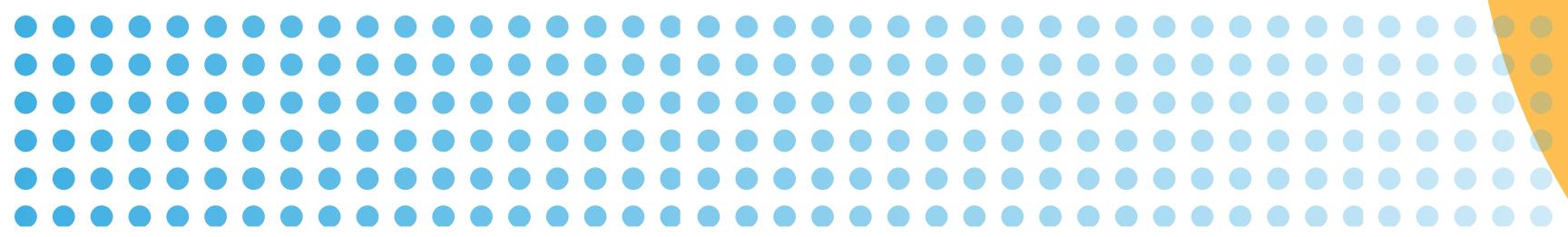
Historically we’ve swayed from one to the other; first being too removed, then being too familiar with the world. Wherever you think we’re at now, please begin to pray for **more**. As we move toward the General Conference, ask God to give us a new imagination for the world. Pray that we’ll dream of something bigger than ourselves, want more ourselves than better performers and bigger congregations. Pray for our churches to love this world even though they belong to another. Pray that our people will once again be called, “the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD ... the Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted” (Isaiah 62:12). Ask that we rise and “rebuild the ancient ruins” of our cities, repairing broken walls and restoring the streets with dwellings.

What has Jesus prayed for or God has promised that seems hard to believe anymore? Pray for it anyway.

PRAYER PROMPT: God, sanctify us, The Wesleyan Church, for the world. And begin your work in me. Amen.



Steve DeNeff



2
day

PRAYER FOCUS: For The Wesleyan Church to boldly live as a holiness movement in our day and time: What do you want me to know?

SCRIPTURE: John 17:15-19

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." (v. 17)

Imagine you're in the ocean and a raging storm surrounds you. The waves are crashing, and darkness is all you can see. You're disoriented, not sure which way leads to safety. Then, off in the distance, you spot the faithful beam of a lighthouse. The light doesn't move, flicker or change direction — it simply gleams with hope, and you turn toward it.

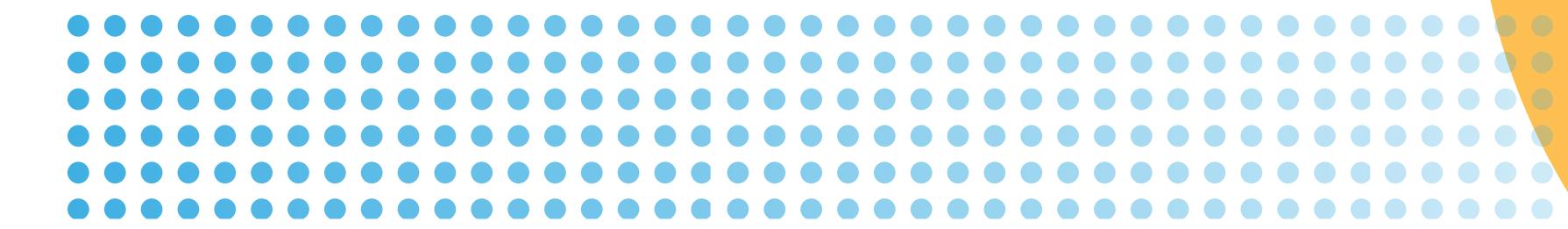
God's truth is like that lighthouse. In a world full of shifting opinions, cultural confusion and moral storms, God's eternal truth doesn't change. While everything else feels uncertain, God's truth remains a trustworthy guide. Just as sailors would risk their lives if they ignored the lighthouse, we place ourselves in spiritual danger when we drift from the truth of God's Word. However, when we fix our eyes on God's perpetual truth — when we trust and obey — it leads us to peace and holiness.

In Jesus' prayer for his disciples, he speaks not only of his disciples but of every future believer — including us. Jesus doesn't ask the Father to take us out of the world but **to sanctify us** in it. Sanctification is central to the Wesleyan tradition — not merely a theological concept but **a living reality**. We believe God calls us to a life that is both set apart and sent out. Holiness is not an escape route; it's engagement. It is Christ in us, transforming our motives, purifying our hearts and shaping our lives to reflect the very nature of God.

PRAYER PROMPT: Lord, sanctify me by your truth. Let your Word shape my heart and my habits. Make me holy, so that I may serve you faithfully in the world, but not of it. Amen.



Ed Love



PRAYER FOCUS: For The Wesleyan Church to boldly live as a holiness movement in our day and time: What do you want me to do?

SCRIPTURE: John 17:15-19

"As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world." (v. 18)

We often treat holiness like a private pursuit — spiritual disciplines, moral purity, personal growth. But when Jesus sent us into the world, he had something bigger in mind. His version of **holiness** didn't pull us away from the world. It sent us into it — with the power to change it.

First, we must **listen**: "God, what do you want me to do?"

Then, as he leads, we **act** with fearless humility. What do we mean by fearless humility? It's leveraging whatever God has given us — gifts, influence, status, insight, resources — for the benefit of others without fear of the outcome.

That kind of holiness is costly. You might find yourself...

Sacrificing your time.
Speaking when silence would be easier.
Welcoming the people others avoid.
Forgiving those who never asked.
Giving more than what feels safe.

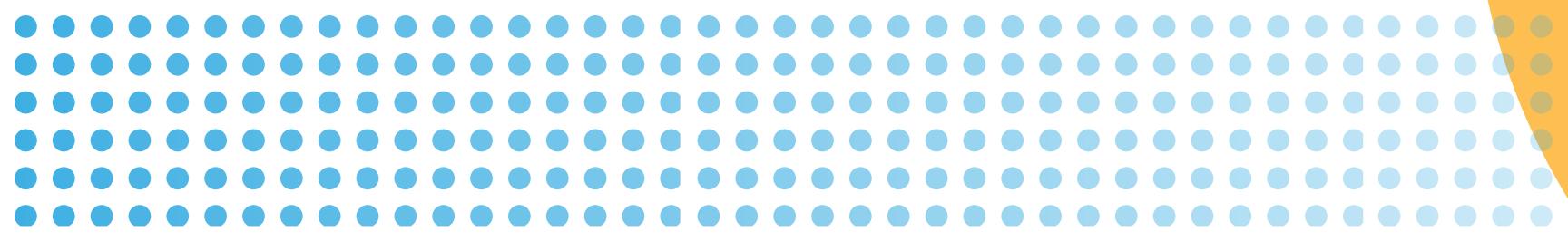
But as this pattern becomes your way of life, you activate the power of the gospel in the places you already spend your time.

And you're not going alone. The same Spirit who empowered Jesus now empowers you.

PRAYER PROMPT: God, what do you want me to do? Help me to hear your direction clearly and give me courage to follow with fearless humility — sent to live holy in the world, not apart from it. Amen.



Jeff Clark



day
4

PRAYER FOCUS: For The Wesleyan Church to be filled with the Spirit.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:17-18

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people..." (v. 17)

I grew up in a Wesleyan Church where revivals were a regular part of the calendar. Those services were highlights in the rhythm of weekly prayer meetings. I have early memories of earnest prayers for the **"pouring out"** of the Holy Spirit.

I learned later they were praying for something God had promised, first spoken by the prophet Joel (2:28-32) and highlighted by the Apostle Peter to explain the move of God on Pentecost (vv. 17-18). God says, "I will pour out my Spirit." He wants us to know this pouring is for **all** people — women and men of all ages. It's never too early, or never too late, to experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit. God emphasizes it again: "I will pour out my Spirit."

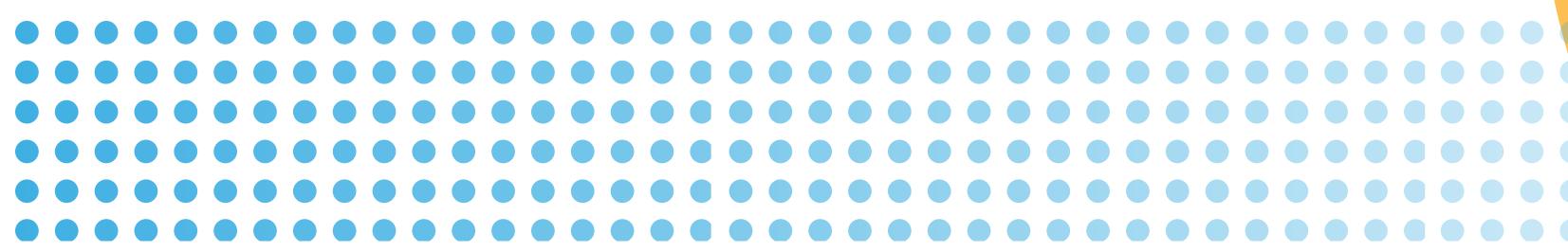
Are we **seeking** the outpouring of God's Spirit for ourselves? When I find myself preoccupied with anxious thoughts, I sit quietly for a moment, slowing and deepening my breathing. As I breath in, I ask God for a **fresh fullness** of his Spirit and pause to treasure his gift ... and then, I breath out with a sense of the freedom his fullness brings.

Are we **sharing** the outpouring of God's Spirit with others? There's something else he promises and repeats in these verses, "they will prophesy." To "prophesy" is to declare a message from God. What we hear from God may we be prompted to share with others.

PRAYER PROMPT: Lord, may I, each day, invite the fullness of your Spirit through and through. What I hear from you may I also share with others, that your promise may spread. Amen.



Wayne Schmidt



5
day

PRAYER FOCUS: For The Wesleyan Church to be empowered by the Spirit.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:45-49

"I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." (v. 49)

Early Friday morning, a message from one of our Wesleyan leaders caught my attention. He wrote, "Friends, I am tired of doing this on my own strength!" Those three words — **my own strength** — stood out. It was a moment of surrender, a realization that he had been trying to lead without relying on God.

During his personal time with the Lord, the Holy Spirit reminded him that he didn't need to lead on his own strength. God's power, available through the Holy Spirit, was there to strengthen and guide him.

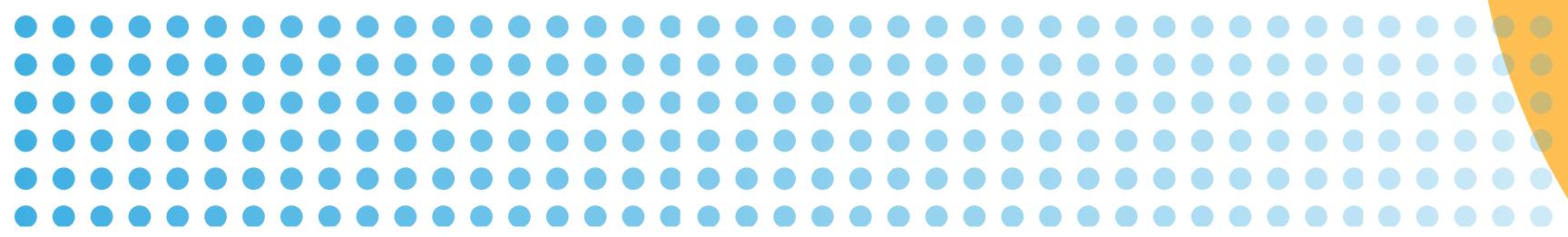
This same truth was given to the disciples: "Stay in the city until you have been **clothed with power**" (v. 49). The promise of empowerment required **waiting** — remaining in place until they received what was needed to fulfill their mission. That power was essential to proclaim the message of Jesus' love, death and resurrection.

Today, our church faces a similar calling. The Wesleyan Church needs leaders who are willing to surrender their own abilities and rely fully on the Spirit's empowerment. As we approach the General Conference, we must recognize that if we want to be a movement that has a transforming presence in the world, we must stop striving in our own strength and allow God's power to lead us.

PRAYER PROMPT: Father, today we pause. We surrender our strength and wait for yours. Clothe us with the power you promised. As we prepare for what's ahead, lead us by your Spirit — not our plans. We're listening. We're ready. Amen.



Johanna Chacón Rugh



6
day

PRAYER FOCUS: For The Wesleyan Church to have wisdom and discernment in pursuing God's vision into the future.

SCRIPTURE: James 1:5-7

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. (v. 5)

Over the last three years through this succession season into the chief executive officer and president role at the Wesleyan Investment Foundation (WIF), the financial and interest rate markets have seen truly generational uncertainty not experienced since the early 1980s. I have daily prayed for fresh wisdom and discernment to lead WIF through this uncertainty and into the future.

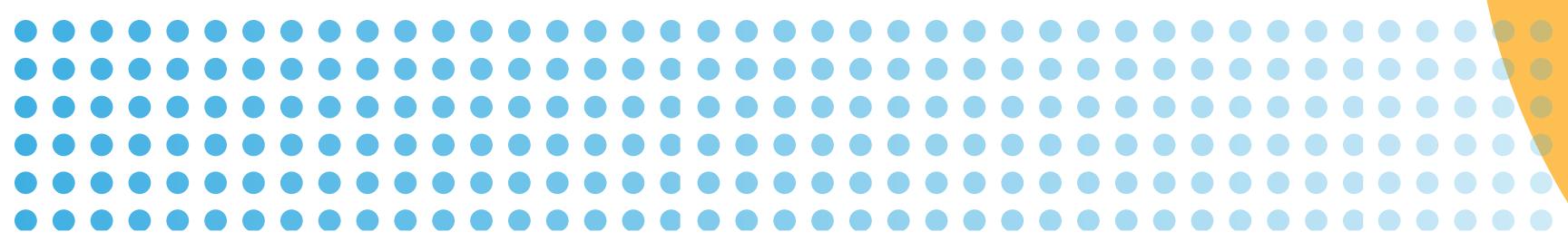
Certainly, with the pressures of a globally dynamic financial system and an ever-shifting cultural context, it is difficult to ask for wisdom while avoiding doubt. Yet, God graciously reminds me continually to ask (v. 5), heeding his invitation in Hebrews 4 to “approach God’s throne of grace with confidence.” It always builds my confidence to know that God invites me to make requests of him for **wisdom** and guidance. He invites us not because of who we are, what role we have or what tasks we face. He invites us because of his goodness and love for us.

So, even as we face an unknown future as a denomination, we know that God builds his church, appoints leaders and illuminates our path as we trust him and ask for wisdom! So, let’s ask for an outrageously abundant anointing of his wisdom!

PRAYER PROMPT: Father, thank you for your invitation to approach your throne of grace with confidence! As your Word promises, grant us wisdom to discern the signs of the times and know which way to lead your church. When we feel the faint breeze of doubt, may you graciously remind us of your invitation and promise. Amen.



C. Norwood Davis



7
day

PRAYER FOCUS: For The Wesleyan Church to have the Spirit of unity and peace as one church, pursuing God's mission into the future.

SCRIPTURE: John 17:20-23

"I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one ..." (vv. 20-21)

The only way we stay united in mission as one church is through the power of the Holy Spirit. He alone provides the ability to be united and offers peace despite any circumstance. He alone is unity and peace for all people, families, churches, ministries and organizations. Jesus' great desire for his disciples was that they would become one. The main reason was so they would be a great example and powerful witnesses to a world that continues to be tragically discombobulated.

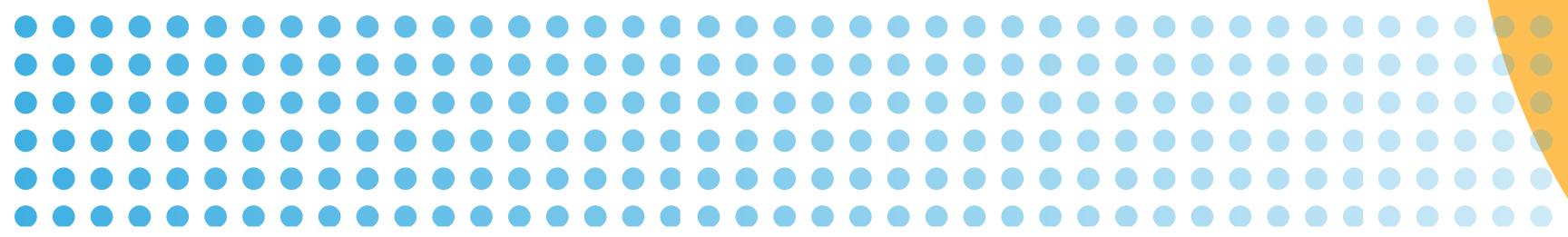
While being questioned as a potential juror recently, a defense attorney inquired of me, "What's the biggest problem in society today?" "The worship of self," I answered. We are either chasing after God or we are chasing whatever we think we can do ourselves. There is no sidestepping Jesus' prayer that we would be focused on him and that **we would be one** as he and the Father are one. Why? So "... that the world may believe that you (God) have sent me" (v. 21).

Pray. Stop critiquing everyone and everything. Put your spoon down and resist what I call, "spoons disease" — the constant need to stir. Build the other person up in Christ. Work together on eternal things and don't sweat earthly things. Exalt Christ in decisions as well as in lifestyle choices, never getting close to being a potential stumbling block. Spend and be spent on Christ's mission to save the lost, reach the unreached and assist the least. Preach Christ alone. Speak Christ alone. Live in Christ alone. **Commit to oneness** in the things God craves instead of the things that so easily distract and divide us.

PRAYER PROMPT: Lord, help us to be one in you so that the whole world may believe in you! Amen.



Jim Dunn



8
day

PRAYER FOCUS: For The Wesleyan Church to boldly embrace God's mission in here, near, hard and far places.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 1:4-8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses ..." (v. 8)

My friend Jervie reminds me often that in the kingdom we work out of rest instead of resting after our work. What's the difference? The giants of Scripture — Moses, David, Jesus, Paul — all spent time in relative obscurity before going into all the world. There's significant **transformative work** to be done in the waiting.

In Acts 1, Jesus has given the disciples a vision of what they would be doing. But he told them they first needed to "wait" (v. 4). Their call was to be his witnesses in all the world. That same call is our call too.

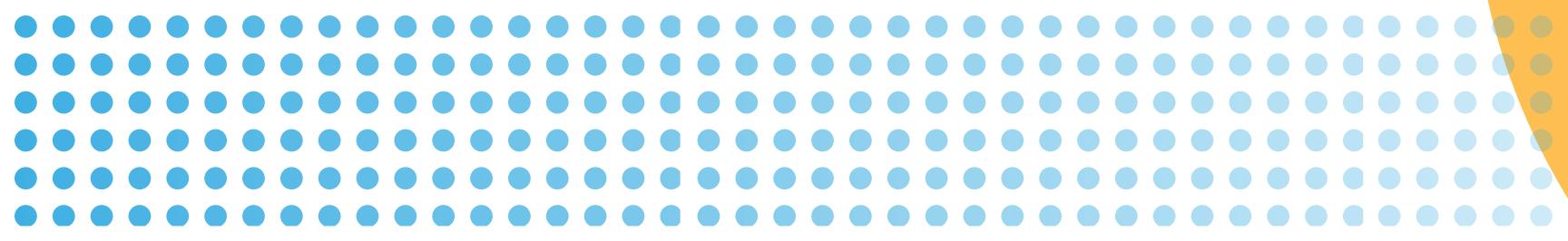
Remember, a witness is someone who tells what he or she has seen. Somehow, we turned "witnessing" into something like annoying others into our churches. — You might be relieved to know that's not what witnessing is. — Witnessing is simply telling others what they actually want to know. When you are full of the Holy Spirit, as the disciples were about to be, others will want to know what you know.

God doesn't need you to be in a hurry. He needs you to be full of the Holy Spirit. Will you put in the time to wait before you **boldly embrace the mission to go?**

PRAYER PROMPT: Father, anything great and lasting that happens in and through your church will happen because your Spirit will come upon us. As you fill us, give us the grace and boldness to tell others what you have shown us. Amen.



Billy Wilson



9
day

PRAYER FOCUS: For The Wesleyan Church's 15th General Conference preparations.

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 16:1-3

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. (v. 3)

Gracious God,

We bring the General Conference leadership team, rally speakers and all who will lead devotions at the 15th General Conference to you. Thank you for calling and empowering them. We entrust their leadership to you.

As they prepare to speak, ***establish their thoughts and plans.*** May we sense your heart through their words. Where we need prophetic challenge, would you give them boldness? Where we need encouragement, would you give them a shepherd's heart? Where we need to change, would you use their words to inspire courage in us? Where we need to stay the course, would you use their words to inspire steadfastness in us? Where we need to be unified, would you use their words to bring us together? And, in all things, Father, would you use their words to point us to Jesus?

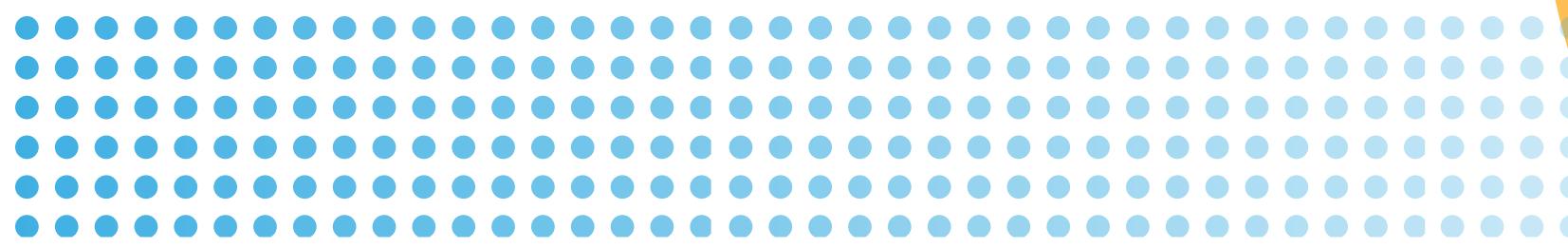
For the leadership team, we ask that you make the work a joy, as they commit the tasks before them to you and your purposes. Equip them to prepare well, with deep dependence on you. We desire, Lord, to see you ***inspire fresh faith*** in us, ***courageous ministry*** in our contexts, ***unity*** between all of us as brothers and sisters, and a renewed sense of ***your holiness*** in our church.

May your kingdom come, and your will be done at General Conference as it is in heaven.

In the name of Christ our Lord, amen.



Steve Dunmire



10
day

PRAYER FOCUS: For The Wesleyan Church's 15th General Conference business.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:11-16

Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. (vv.11-12)

Dear heavenly Father,

Much of what we do in our lives is a result of decisions we make. Decisions are a regular part of our daily routine — what we wear, eat ... even what toothpaste we buy. But when it comes to electing individuals to serve in key roles like our general officers, General Board and General Superintendent, we wonder to ourselves if there's not a godlier, more Christ-like, biblical or more Holy-Spirit-inspired way?

This passage out of Paul's letter to the Ephesian church is familiar to us. Many times, we have read and heard messages from it ... about your body, your church, being built up into its greatest fullness.

You, Jesus, have chosen the gifts Holy Spirit pours out on us, your followers. It was your decision, not ours. And yet, we have an important responsibility to play, which is to discern your good, perfect and pleasing will concerning who is to serve in leadership capacities. Jesus, it's not ours to **decide**, it's our responsibility to **discern** (Proverbs 3:5-6).

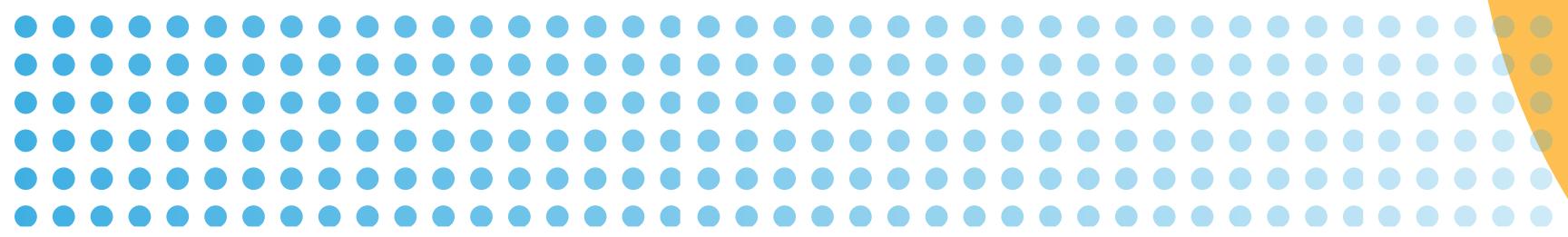
Holy Spirit, Acts 1 tells us the disciples "decided" on Matthias to take over Judas' role as a disciple. And we never hear Matthias' name again throughout the New Testament. In contrast, Luke shares in Acts 13 that the church in Antioch worshiped, prayed, even fasted for your wisdom. Out of that time, they discerned what you were saying to them, to "set apart for me Barnabas and Saul" for the work you had called them to (v. 2). Holy Spirit, the Antioch church didn't **decide**, they **discerned** and as a result the whole world was turned upside down by their ministry.

So today, Father, Son and Spirit, I ask you to help me not lean on my own understanding, but to press into you for **wisdom and discernment**. Help me to discern your good, perfect and pleasing will for who you desire to serve as leaders in The Wesleyan Church in this next season.

I pray this in your glorious name, Jesus, amen.



Chris Conrad



11
day

PRAYER FOCUS: For delegates to vote God's will on every General Conference memorial.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:1-2

... but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God. (v. 2, NRSV)

Lord, 14 times Wesleyans have gathered at General Conference to seek your good and acceptable and perfect will for The Wesleyan Church. Fourteen times, you have been faithful.

We humbly ask you to guide us again as we prepare for and gather at the 15th General Conference of The Wesleyan Church. Prompt us to pray for the outpouring of your Holy Spirit upon every aspect of the memorial process. This gathering will be futile without your presence and leading.

Thank you for Wesleyans from across the North American General Conference who have added input to the shaping of draft memorials for the 15th General Conference. May every word in every memorial **be formed under the Holy Spirit's guidance.**

Thank you for the input from district superintendents informing General Board members responsible for recommending memorials to the 15th General Conference. May every memorial-related conversation **reflect your will and no other's agenda.**

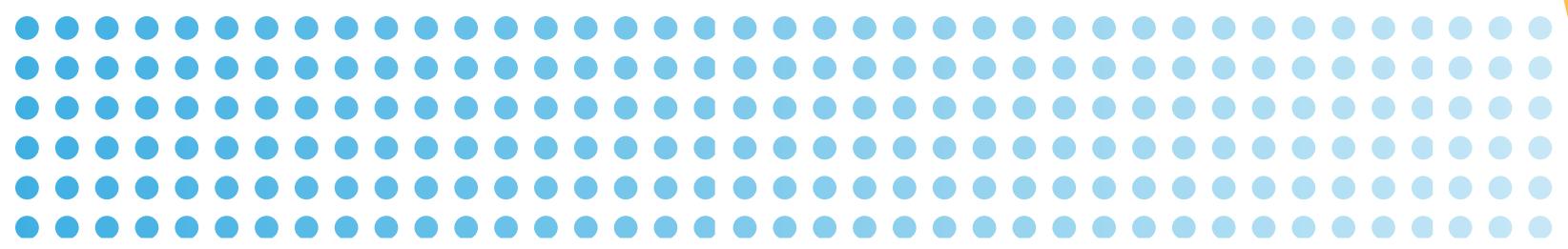
Thank you for the delegates seeking to discern your will when voting for memorials that better equip The Wesleyan Church to fulfill its mission. We pray you **grant us wisdom, grace, courage, peace, joy and fortitude** as the policies guiding our local, district and General Church ministries are decided.

Our lives are dedicated to fulfilling your will for The Wesleyan Church. May that dedication be reflected in the memorials approved at General Conference.

Lord, transform our hearts and minds so that only your will prevails. Amen.



Janelle Vernon



12
day

PRAYER FOCUS: Connectional moments at the 15th General Conference.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:1-3

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (v. 3)

Our dear Lord and Savior,

We approach your presence on this day realizing you have already been surrounding and guiding us. We're grateful for your guidance in our lives. Yet, at the same time, we realize we do not live alone but in the unity of your Holy Spirit with our sisters and brothers. Throughout the Scriptures, you continually remind us that our relationships with each other are the "currency" of God's kingdom.

It is from this understanding we ask that around the General Conference tables in May our delegates would be listeners to each other in humility. Please be with and guide General Superintendent Dr. Wayne Schmidt as he chairs the business sessions. May he have wisdom that leads to unity of the Spirit among your people throughout the discussions. As delegates and observers help us to be gentle and patient with each other, even in times of disagreement, realizing we are seeking your face through the bond of peace.

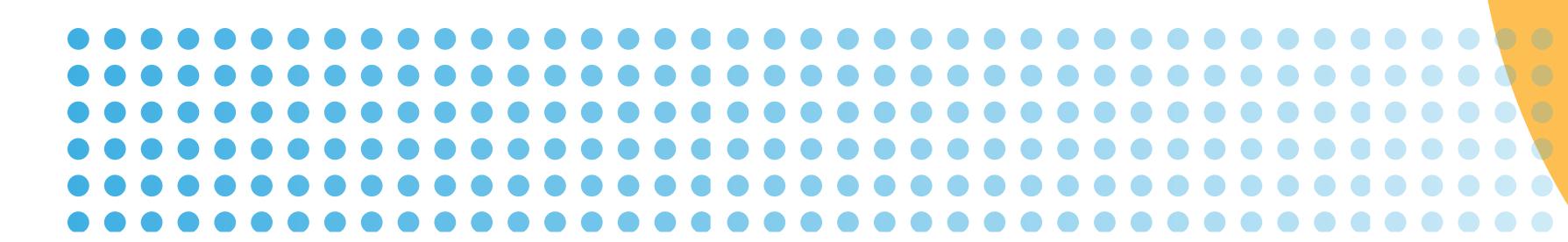
Through our times of worship, would you cleanse our hearts and strengthen our relationships with you and each other?

And finally, may your love, Lord, flow through us so it will be said of us as of the early Christians by a pagan world: "See how they love each other."

Thank you for answering this extravagant prayer. In the name of Jesus we ask these things, amen.



Jo Anne Lyon



PRAYER FOCUS: For Wesleyans to boldly embrace God's mission in here, near, hard and far places in the Atlantic and Central Canada Districts.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:11-16

Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. (vv. 11-12)

Loving heavenly Father,

We thank you for this day and for calling us to yourself — for calling us your children, your beloved. We exalt you for who you are and always have been. We praise you for what you have done to rescue us and how you are shaping our lives more and more into the likeness of Jesus.

As we gather in May as a denomination committed to honoring you and advancing your mission, set an irresistible fire in our hearts. Give us a passion to see your kingdom come and your will be done in our communities, churches and around the world, as it is in heaven.

We humbly ask for your provision — not only daily bread and health for body, mind and soul, but also the spiritual provision that equips and compels us to **boldly embrace** and **live out** your mission. And with that provision, give us your eyes to see the needs around us, strengthen our feet to run toward the hurting and empower our arms to lift those who have fallen.

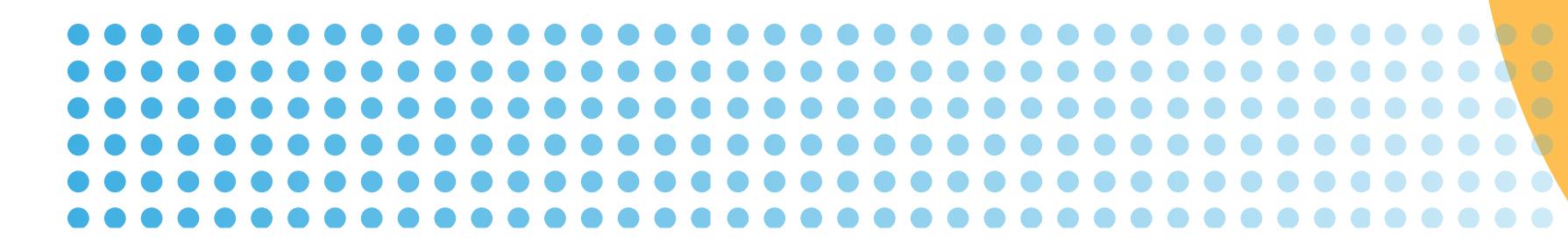
Grant us hearts that beat in rhythm with yours — hearts full of vision, unity and humility. Keep us meek in spirit, vigilant in caring for one another and steadfast in love. May this sacred love abound in us, flow through us and surround all we think, say and do — *so that the world may know you.*

In that same spirit of love, we lift the Atlantic and Central Canada Districts and their superintendents, Peter Moore and Eric Hallett, to you. Keep their hearts and minds close to you. By your Holy Spirit, guide them as they continue to build up every member of your church in love and in mission. Give the Atlantic and Central Canada churches, pastors and laity, the courage to boldly embrace your mission and live into your purposes wherever you may lead.

We pray all this in the name of Jesus, in whom we live, move and have our being. Amen.



Yamil Acevedo



PRAYER FOCUS: For Wesleyans to boldly embrace God's mission in here, near, hard and far places in the Chesapeake and Crossroads Districts.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:18-20

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations ..." (v. 19)

Heavenly Father,

We come before you with humble hearts and open hands, ready to be used for your kingdom. Thank you for calling us to participate in your divine mission. As Jesus declared, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations ..." (vv. 18-19), we receive this commission with boldness, not shrinking back in fear but stepping forward in faith.

Empower us through your Spirit to teach, baptize and disciple — proclaiming your truth with clarity and compassion. Remind us that you are with us "always, to the very end of the age" (v. 20b).

We praise you for gifting the church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, "to equip your [his] people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Ephesians 4:11-12). May we walk in unity, embracing our callings, building up the body and advancing your kingdom on earth.

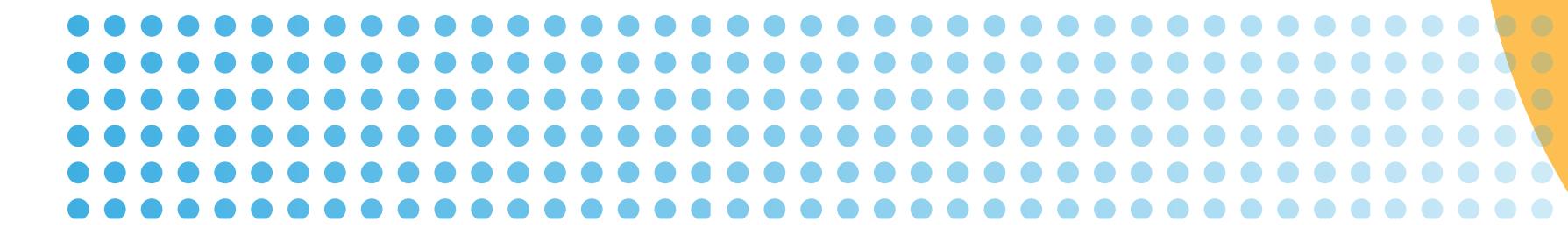
Today, we give special thanks for the leadership of Todd Crofford and Chris Williams. Pour out your wisdom, strength and grace upon them. May they continue to lead with vision, humility and courage. Bless the Chesapeake and Crossroads District churches and congregations with a fresh move of the Spirit.

Ignite a fresh passion in our hearts, Lord. Let us go — not with hesitation — but with **holy urgency**. Let us speak — not with mere words — but with **Spirit-filled power**. And let us serve — not for recognition — but for your glory.

In the mighty name of Jesus, amen.



Tammy Leonard



PRAYER FOCUS: For Wesleyans to boldly embrace God's mission in here, near, hard and far places in the Florida District and Great Lakes Region.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:18-20

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to obey ..." (vv. 19-20)

Dear Lord,

Thank you for loving us and dying for our salvation. Help each of us to honor your sacrifice by living into this Great Commission that Jesus gave to all believers in all times and every space in our world.

We are grateful that you have not expected us to figure this mission out and do it on our own. You have equipped your children with special and specific gifts to enable us, as we work together, to fulfill your command. And you've given each believer a role to play in this Great Commission.

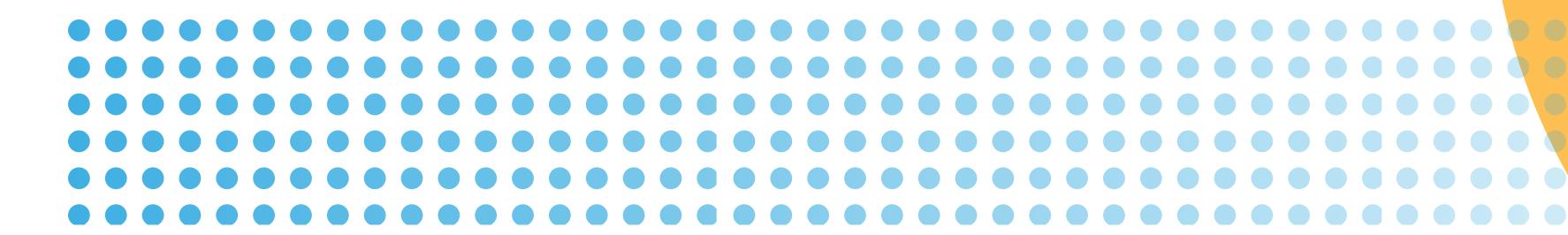
Strengthen your children to obey you, Father. **Embolden us** to proactively share your salvation message with others. **Empower us** daily to live courageously and wisely as we look for opportunities to proclaim the good news. **Guide us** in our going, showing us how to teach and disciple those you've entrusted to us so we may baptize them in your name and for your glory.

We pray specifically for Derek Atkinson and Chris Conrad as they lead the Florida District and Great Lakes Region to reach lost people for Christ. Help these district superintendents, churches, leaders and congregations to keep your Great Commission in focus as they make decisions. May each church and believer be given daily strength and wisdom to carry out your desires in serving and leading those you have given and will entrust to their care.

In the name of Jesus, our Christ, amen.



Roger Metcalf



PRAYER FOCUS: For Wesleyans to boldly embrace God's mission in here, near, hard and far places in the Greater Ohio and Indiana South Districts.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:18-20

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (v. 19)

God,

Thank you for sending Jesus to die for our sins and for his resurrection that gives us the hope of eternal life. We realize that this is really good news that the world needs to hear and that you have commissioned us to share it with others. We initially responded by accepting this mission and excitedly embracing its challenge, but, alas, over time the daily demands and distractions of life can easily divert our focus. This happens gradually and subtly as our fervor subsides and the embers cool.

God, we want your mission to be our mission. We want to keep the "main thing" the "main thing."

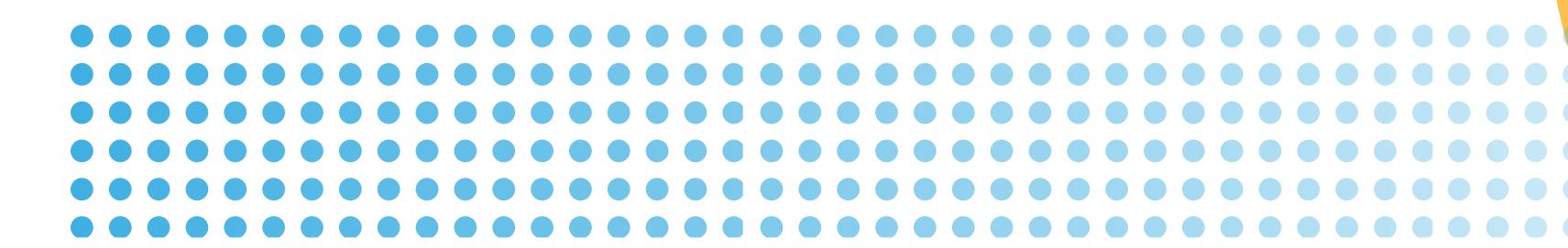
We **recognize** the distractions that have diverted our focus, resulting in neglect of your mission.

We **repent** of not seriously pursuing your commission and letting you down. We **resolve** to cast aside our distractions and embrace your mission.

God, bless Les Crossfield and the pastors in Ohio as well as Doug Preston and the pastors in southern Indiana as they faithfully pursue your mission and challenge those in their charge to the vision of the "Great Commission." Anoint them with the power and courage of the Holy Spirit and grant them much fruit for the kingdom. Amen.



Carl Shepherd



PRAYER FOCUS: For Wesleyans to boldly embrace God's mission in here, near, hard and far places in the Kansas and Kentucky-Tennessee Districts.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:11-16

Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. (vv. 11-12)

Dear heavenly Father,

We thank you for all with whom we are honored to serve in The Wesleyan Church. You gathered us together for a reason and we pray that you will enable us to ***fulfill that purpose***. May we not lose sight of that.

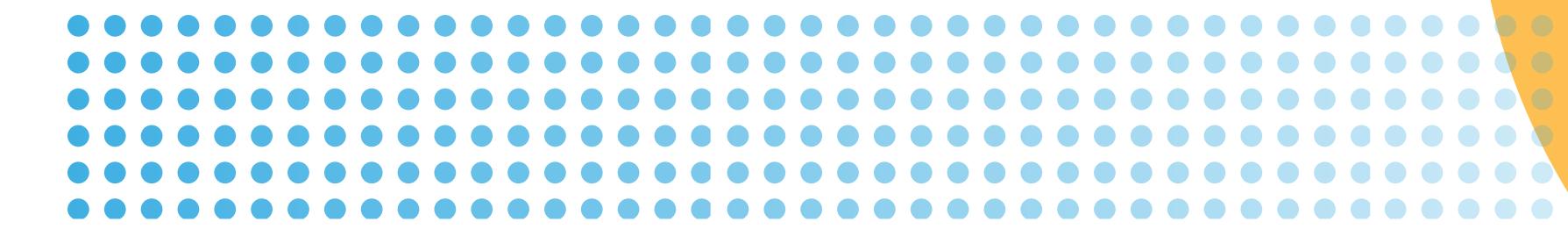
We pray specifically for District Superintendent (DS) Nate Rovenstine and the Kansas District; as well as DS Aaron Sherman and the Kentucky-Tennessee District. You placed them in the position of superintendent of these districts where they make disciples, baptize them and teach them to obey your commands. May you empower DS Rovenstine, DS Sherman and the body of Christ in these districts to walk in the fullness of the Great Commission, so that the disciples they make, will make more disciples, who in turn, make even more.

We ask that as these disciples grow and mature in the Kansas and Kentucky-Tennessee Districts. Equip them, Father, for works of service that lead to unity in the faith and a greater knowledge of the Son of God. May this service not exclude the laity who are also called to share the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ where they live, work and study. All these marketplaces can only be reached through the ***prayerful and intentional efforts*** of the entire body as guided by you.

Lord, we ask that you pour out your Holy Spirit for this purpose as DS Sherman and DS Rovenstine lead the congregations in these districts to empower their members to boldly embrace the mission of the Great Commission. Amen.



Earl McJett



PRAYER FOCUS: For Wesleyans to boldly embrace God's mission in here, near, hard and far places in the Mountain Plains and North Carolina East Districts.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:18-20

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations ... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (vv. 19-20)

We thank you, Lord Jesus, for the call and privilege, as your body and church, to join in your redemptive ministry in the world. We also thank you for the leadership and empowerment of the Holy Spirit as we, The Wesleyan Church, seek to obediently carry out this ministry, making disciples that make disciples where we live, work and play, and to the ends of the earth.

Grant us boldness, Lord, that we might stand up under the challenges facing the church today and effectively witness to the **hope and holiness found in you**.

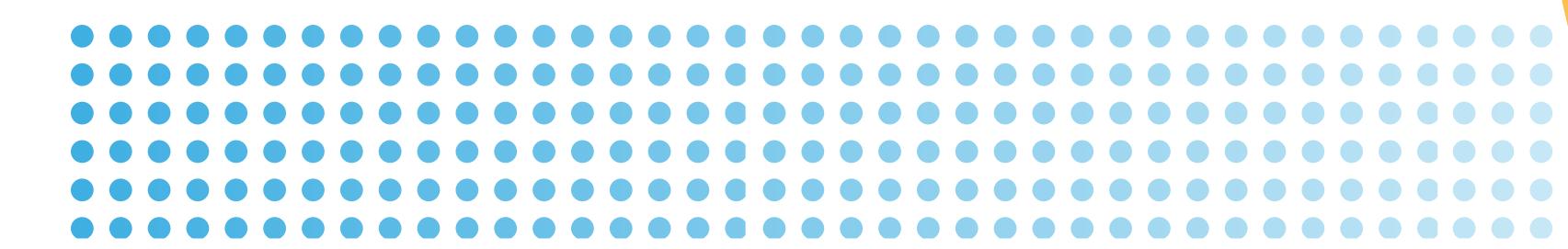
We also pray for District Superintendent (DS) Billy Wilson and the Mountain Plains District, and DS Tim Jones and the North Carolina East District. We ask you to anoint and direct the leadership of these two superintendents and to bless the ministry of these districts' churches. Lord, **send a fresh outpouring** of your Spirit upon them, evidenced by unity in faith and mission, effective evangelism and discipleship, the revitalization of churches and the planting of new churches.

Empower and resource your people to boldly embrace the mission to make disciples that make disciples!

In Jesus' name we pray, amen.



Matthew Pickering



PRAYER FOCUS: For Wesleyans to boldly embrace God's mission in here, near, hard and far places in the North Carolina West and Northeast Districts.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:11-16

Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. (vv. 11-12)

Lord Jesus,

You have all authority in heaven and on earth. You call us not to comfort but to courage — sending us to make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching in your name. You have given leaders to the church to equip the saints for works of ministry, so that the body might grow in unity, maturity and love.

We lift up the North Carolina West District under the leadership of District Superintendent (DS) Jerry Lumston and the Northeast District under DS Karl Eastlack. Lord, give these district superintendents ***fresh vision*** and ***unwavering faith*** to equip your leaders. Strengthen their teams to lead boldly and shepherd wisely so that your body may be built up to live with an urgency to carry out the Great Commission.

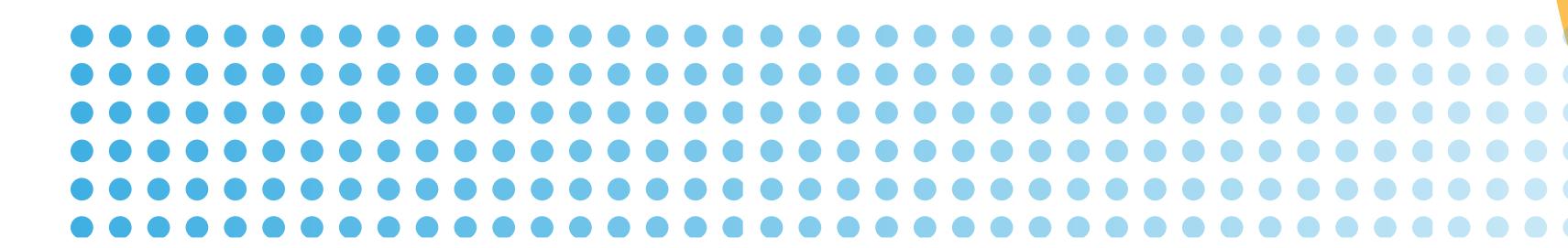
For every pastor, church planter and ministry leader in these districts, we pray that they would not shrink back but step forward in obedience. Let the gospel be proclaimed clearly, disciples multiplied and communities transformed. May fear give way to faith, and hesitation give way to ***holy boldness***.

Lord, open doors for the message of Christ in every town, city and neighborhood they serve. ***Fill*** your people with the Spirit's power so that they may be light in the darkness, hope in despair and love in a divided world.

We embrace the mission you have given — not as a burden but as the greatest joy. Make us faithful witnesses, built up, for reaching and transforming hearts. Amen.



Peter Moore



PRAYER FOCUS: For Wesleyans to boldly embrace God's mission in here, near, hard and far places in the Northwest and Pacific Southwest Districts.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:18-20

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations ... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (vv. 19-20)

Father,

I come before you reflecting on the recent words I have heard you speak to my heart, "Go, my beloved, go." I've heard you in my prayer life as the Spirit prompts me to be bold, through my pastor's sermons as he reminds us of our calling, and in the worship music I hear. You are simply urging me "Go, my beloved, **go boldly.**" I read your words in Matthew 28:19, telling tell us to "Therefore go and make disciples ..."

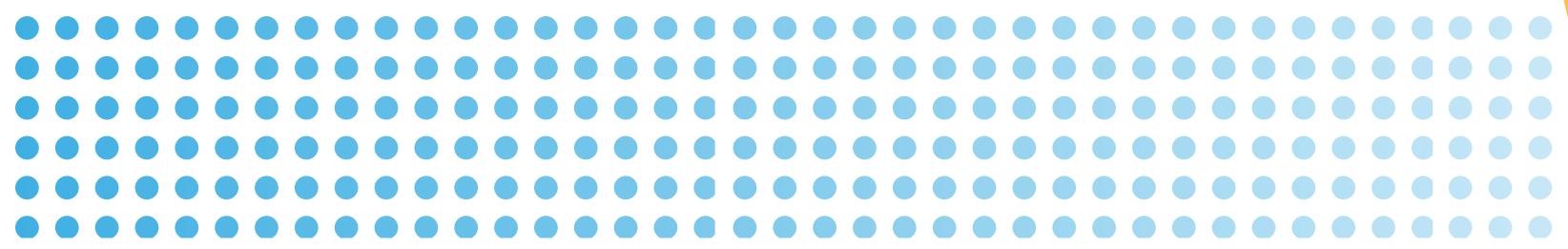
I recognize you at work all around me. Many are going boldly into the community. They aren't traveling far away, just BOLDLY going into our community. Help me to join them, Father. May I see the lost nearby and walk with them as we travel the path of faith together. Give me compassion for their situations. Form the words I should say when needed and the knowledge to know when to keep my mouth shut. May they **see your light** in me.

As The Wesleyan Church, we bring our leaders before you. Specifically, we lift our Northwest and Pacific Southwest district superintendents, Wes Smith and Mike Skor, to you. As we enter this new quadrennium, would you prepare them to lead boldly. May they guide their districts with wisdom, compassion, passion and understanding. Open their eyes that they may see you at work and join the Holy Spirit who is already at work. Awaken and stir your people in the districts to go where you are leading, confident that you are always with them on mission in our world.

In the precious name of Jesus we pray, amen.



Kathy White



21
day

PRAYER FOCUS: For Wesleyans to boldly embrace God's mission in here, near, hard and far places in the Penn York and Shenandoah Districts.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:11-16

Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. (vv. 11-12)

Father,

We pray for an **outpouring** of Holy Spirit, in power, on the Wesleyan churches and people of the Shenandoah and Penn York Districts, stretching from the coalfields of western Pennsylvania and West Virginia to the tidewater of Virginia, and from the Blue Ridge Mountains of southern Virginia to the historic "burned over" regions of central New York. As you empowered those early New York reformers and revivalists to spread the fire of biblical **holiness** to a fallen 19th century America, Father, we pray that you will raise up leaders in these latter days who will equip your people for works of service to transform a fallen 21st century America. Give your people moral clarity and maturity to respond to those who would pervert Scripture in pursuit of power and personal gain.

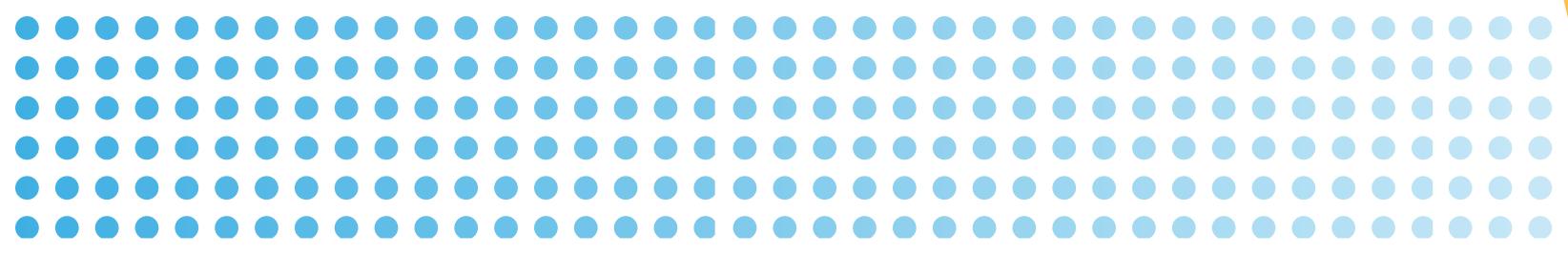
Father, we lift up Matthew Pickering, our Penn York superintendent. Use him to bring unity among Penn York Wesleyans, inspiring and spurring them on to full maturity. Remind him that Christ is both the head of the church and still the servant of all.

We pray for Janet Guthrie, our Shenandoah district superintendent. Father, use her to strengthen Shenandoah Wesleyans, empowering them to oppose false teaching and deceitful scheming prevalent in today's culture. Remind her of the authority she received in her ordination, Christ's authority, yet even Christ humbled himself as a servant to the point of death upon the cross (Philippians 2:8).

May we all **boldly pursue unity and maturity** in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Scott Drury



22
day

PRAYER FOCUS: For Wesleyans to boldly embrace God's mission in here, near, hard and far places in the South Carolina and South Coastal Districts.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:11-16

Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. (vv. 11-12)

Jesus,

You told us that all authority in heaven and on earth belongs to you. And in that authority, you called us to go — make disciples, baptize and teach all you've commanded (Matthew 28:18-20). Today, we set our eyes and hearts on that mission with fresh courage, determination and joy.

Thank you for the leaders and gifts you've placed in your church to equip us for serving, so that together we can build up the body of Christ (vv. 11-12). Help us to serve faithfully, speak truth with love, and grow side by side in unity, maturity and purpose.

Lord, we lift up South Carolina District Superintendent (DS) Richard Hall. Fill him with wisdom, endurance, and Spirit-led boldness as he leads your people to live out this mission with passion and vision. We also pray for South Coastal DS Tim Fox. Strengthen him to inspire leaders, equip believers and guide churches into a deeper, more committed life of disciple-making.

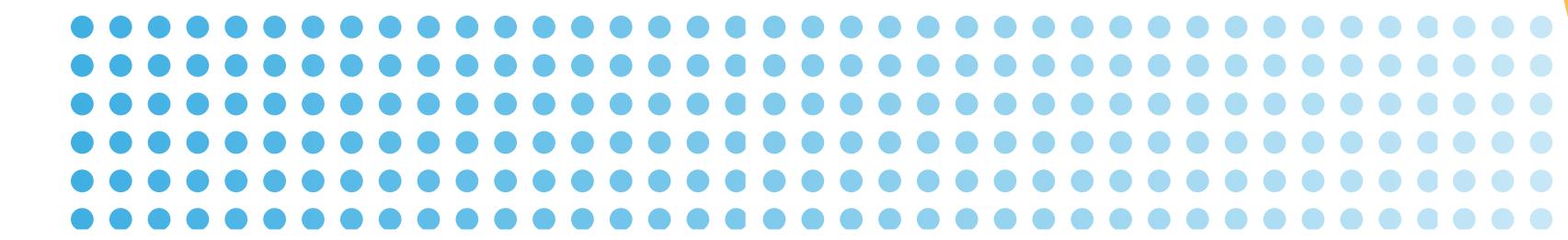
Holy Spirit, stir up in us a **fearless faith** — a boldness that moves us past our comfort zones to **speak the truth** of the gospel and **love** people into your kingdom. Let us move forward with confidence, knowing you are with us always and forever.

We place our plans, fears and limitations in your hands. Your mission will not fail. May our lives shine brightly with your glory and bear fruit that lasts.

In Jesus' name, amen.



Sherry Keye



PRAYER FOCUS: For Wesleyans to boldly embrace God's mission in here, near, hard and far places in the Tri-State and Western New York Districts.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:18-20

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing ... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (v. 19-20)

Father,

We thank you for privilege of inclusion in your mission and your divine plan. As we endeavor to faithfully "make disciple of all nations" (v. 19), please go before us. **Empower** us to go forth boldly and to **share** the lifegiving message of the gospel, with the power and authority you have given to us.

Lord, we thank you for the gift of our leaders. We are reminded in your Word that it is you who provides leaders for us; "... the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-12, ESV).

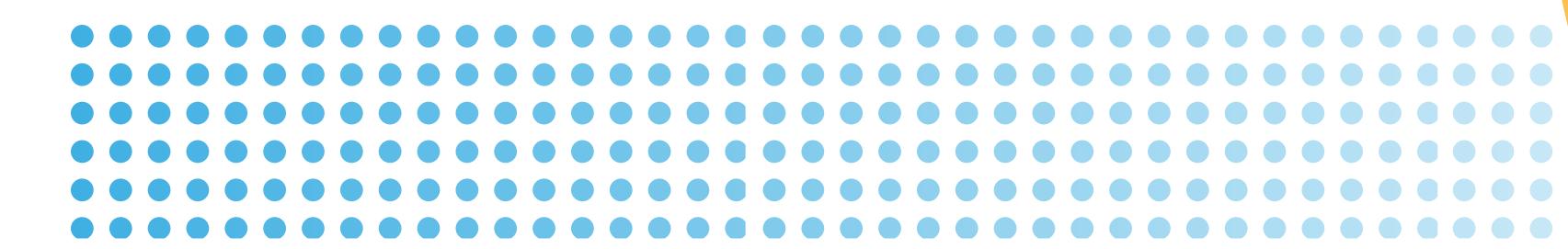
We thank you especially for the hearts and gifts of Superintendents Devon Smith in the Tri-State District and Joey Jennings in the Western New York District. Thank you for their callings, willingness to serve, and for their families and loved ones who support and love them on good days and challenging ones. We ask that as they continue the work of leading and equipping, that you would encourage their hearts and give them strength and boldness to stand, even when opposed, with hearts overflowing with love and compassion for your people.

We thank you for the leaders you are calling across the Tri-State and Western New York Districts, clergy and lay, young and seasoned. Please give them **boldness and conviction, wisdom and discernment**. Give them courage to stand and endurance for the race. May they always feel and be comforted by your presence and your power.

We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior, amen.



Wayne D. Lewis, Jr.



PRAYER FOCUS: For The Wesleyan Church to boldly embrace God's mission as one body, united by one faith, serving One Lord.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 1:4-8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses ..." (v. 8)

Jehovah Sabaoth, Lord of Hosts,

You alone are King of kings and Lord of lords. You are sovereign over all.

We come before you with gratitude for all you've done in and through our denomination. We lift our denomination before you as we prepare to enter a new quadrennium. We're not content with status quo faith or merely holding the line — we long for more of you, your presence, power and purpose.

Lord, unite us — leaders, pastors and congregations — with one heart and vision, anchored in biblical truth.

Holy Spirit, give us **boldness** to fully embrace the mission you've entrusted to us. We give you full access to lead, fill and empower us to bring hope, sharing about your transformative power with a hurting world.

Revive our pastors. **Reignite** our churches with your holy fire. **Renew** us all.

May people see something unmistakable in us — something holy, alive and clearly from you. Draw the lost and broken through the witness of your people. Let The Wesleyan Church be a denomination where women and men of every background, generation, ethnicity and income level are welcomed, discipled and sent.

Let **unity, grace** and **holy love** be what mark us.

We surrender our denomination to you — every plan, every leader, every church. Guide Dr. Wayne Schmidt and the current General Board to finish well and raise up the leaders you've chosen for the next quadrennium.

Jehovah Sabaoth, you reign over all — creation, justice, righteousness and peace.



Marsha Flinchum

PRAYER FOCUS: For The Wesleyan Church to boldly live as a holiness movement in our day and time.

SCRIPTURE: John 17:15-19

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." (v. 17)

I'm not sure if I'm still ordained. Full disclosure, I am one signature short on my certificate. It was there when I got ordained but has completely faded away over the years.

Something else has faded away within our movement. It's the connection between a **holy life** and **effective evangelism**. In John 17, Jesus is praying that his followers will live in the "sent mode." Then he notes that the most effective "sent people" are those who are sanctified (holy) — set apart. He's quite clear on the connection.

These favorite phrases — holy life and effective evangelism — seem to be often used but rarely connected. That wasn't always the case — we used to have a sharper understanding of this vital link.

The foundation of our Wesleyan belief is that Jesus wants to do more for us than provide a future ticket to a pleasant eternity. We want people to know the full truth — that he desired to **do a second work** in our lives — a work of the Spirit that empowered us to be able to say no to the sins he saved us from so we might live a holy life. We recognized that it was confusing for people to be rescued from sin and set free only to find that their new lease on life had not removed their trials and temptations.

I think my ordination is secure — even with the faded, missing signature — but I don't believe evangelism will fare as well without a clear holiness message and messengers who are holy and **set apart**.

PRAYER PROMPT: Lord, you have not only called us to live as sent people but as a holy people, set apart for your purposes and glory. Awaken us to our need for your sanctifying work and perfect love within us, individually and corporately. May we seek this sanctifying work so we might be empowered to boldly live as a holiness movement today. Amen.



Jerry Lumston

PRAYER FOCUS: For The Wesleyan Church to be filled with the Spirit.**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 2:17-18

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people..." (v. 17)

The day of Pentecost marked a pivotal moment in the church's history. It was the fulfillment of ancient prophecies, a **dramatic outpouring** of the Holy Spirit that transformed a group of fearful disciples into bold witnesses for Christ. Peter, standing before a large crowd, quoted the prophet Joel to explain what they were observing: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people."

This passage from Acts 2:17-18 is a powerful declaration of God's all-encompassing plan for his Spirit. It denies any preconceived notions that the Holy Spirit is reserved for a select few, or for a specific age group, gender or social status. The promise is truly for "all people." As a believer, I have to admit, there is a temptation or desire to seek the dramatic in my spiritual journey, rather than allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through me in everyday life!

For us today, this passage is an invitation and a challenge. A Spirit-filled life is not about seeking dramatic experiences for their own sake, but about **living in constant reliance** on God's indwelling Spirit by being open to God's voice, seeking inspiration for witnessing, finding harmony in diversity and living in "the last days" with urgency and the ability to offer hope.

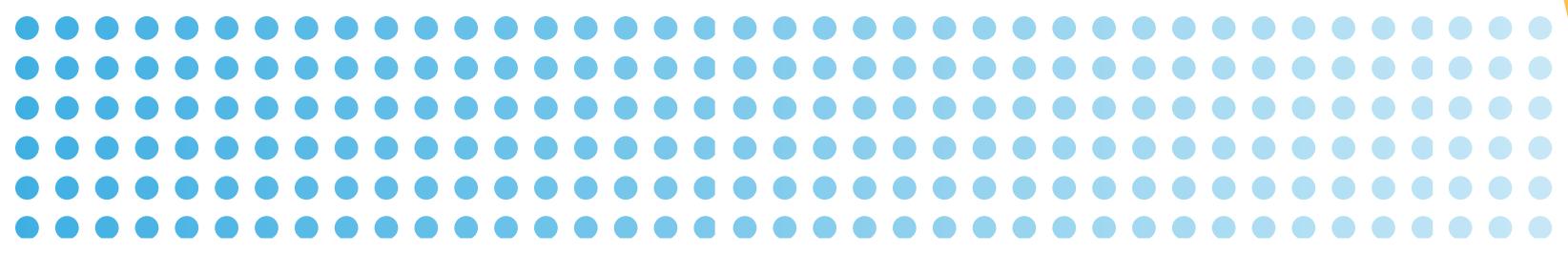
Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to fully dwell in you, to guide your steps, and to empower your life? God's promise is for you. He desires to pour out his Spirit on you, enabling you to live a life that glorifies him and impacts the world.

PRAYER PROMPT: Heavenly Father, thank you for the precious gift of your Holy Spirit. We praise you for your promise to pour out your Spirit on all people, regardless of age, gender or status. Fill us afresh today. Open our hearts and minds to hear your voice, see your visions and to dream your dreams. May we as Wesleyans truly live a Spirit-filled life, for your glory and the advancement of your kingdom.

In Jesus' name, amen.



Rick Christman



27
day

PRAYER FOCUS: For The Wesleyan Church to be empowered by the Spirit.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 4:16-18

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me..." (v. 18)

My wife and I co-planted Ransom Church in 2009. Ever since that time, I'm drawn to the places in Scripture where there is a call to "set the captive free." The original context of this verse is found in Isaiah, where the prophet relays the words of what the future Messiah will be anointed to do. The Messiah claims he will literally undo the damage sin brings.

Sin impoverishes us — the Messiah brings life through the gospel. Sin breaks hearts — he heals. Sin blinds us — he comes to bring sight to the blind. Sin oppresses — he brings freedom. And nearest and dearest to my heart, sin makes people captive — the Messiah sets captives free.

In Luke, Jesus would open the scroll, read these words and point the people to himself: "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (v. 21). In that place, he proclaimed those words and then through the cross, Jesus would fulfill them. But perhaps most importantly, in Acts 2, Jesus kept his promise and sent his Spirit, the same Spirit that was upon him, to **empower us** to proclaim this same good news. This is now our calling. This is our proclamation: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me and you. So **GO ... set** the captive free.

PRAYER PROMPT: Father, help us live lives empowered by the same Spirit that moved upon the face of the waters, that descended upon your Son, and that anointed Jesus to proclaim the good news. Help each of us, your church, to take up the calling ourselves to set captives free — not in our own strength, but as a people empowered by your Spirit. Amen.



Phill Tague

PRAYER FOCUS: For The Wesleyan Church to have wisdom and discernment in pursuing God's vision into the future.

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 1:9-11

So that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best ... (v. 10)

Early in my Christian life, leaders around me shared a teaching and passion for wisdom. I remember that first time I was told to read the book of Proverbs and was overwhelmed by the depth of practical wisdom for living the Christian life. Someone encouraged me to regularly read the entire book of Proverbs at the beginning of each year—one chapter a day in January. I've continued that practice for over 45 years and encourage others to keep it as well. **Wisdom** has marked me significantly in seeking and following Christ in life and leadership. She not only keeps us on the straight and narrow, but wisdom also keeps us from the wide and destructive.

As valuable as wisdom remains, I've discovered an even greater value in the element of *discernment*. Wisdom is a body of information that leads to practical application. **Discernment** leads to personal (and corporate), practical expressions of seeking and finding guidance from Holy Spirit. Wisdom flows from information. Discernment flows from a relationship of love.

Philippians 1:9-11 especially captures the essence and engagement of discernment. I love how Paul initiates the concept of discernment as an ***outflow of prayer and an abounding love*** that grants both knowledge and depth of insight to discern what is best.

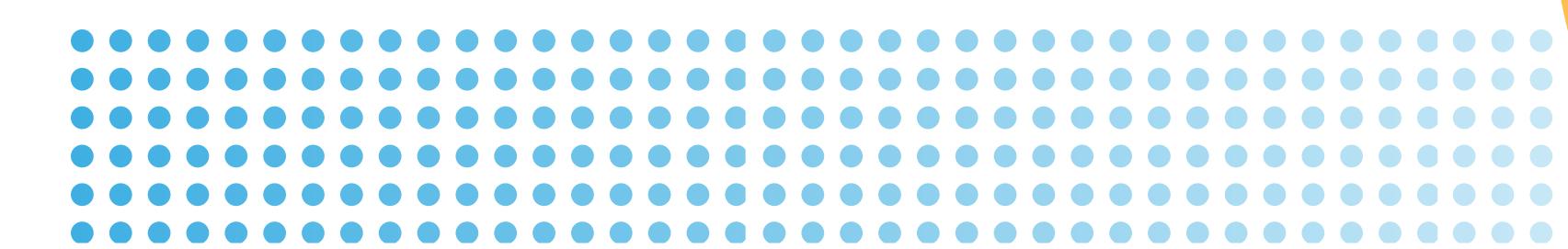
Wisdom is tied to clear practices. Discernment seems to be an overflow of prayer and love leading to promptings and leadings that are more personally communicated from the heart of God through Holy Spirit.

Over the years, I've found myself grounded in the wisdom of God. Even more in the unique realities of these days, I find myself ***lovingly bound in the practices*** of seeking and living in the discernment of the leading of Holy Spirit.

PRAYER PROMPT: Holy Spirit, we recognize the limits of earthly wisdom and discernment. For us to bring God glory and praise, we need more of you. As The Wesleyan Church guides us, granting us the wisdom and discernment we need to fulfill your mission. Amen.



Dennis Jackson



PRAYER FOCUS: For The Wesleyan Church to have the Spirit of unity and peace as one church, pursuing God's mission into the future.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:2-6

Be completely humble ... Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (v. 3)

Dr. Ron Miller, a Christian counselor, taught me that the first evidence of anger, is avoidance. Whenever someone is offended or hurt by the actions of another, the first thing that happens is the hurt person will intentionally avoid being near the other person.

Several years ago, two ladies in our local church got on the wrong side of each other. I genuinely do not remember what the issue was, but it was obvious to everyone that there was real tension between them, and they were going out of their way to avoid each other.

One Sunday, one of the ladies became convicted of her bad attitude towards the other lady and approached me to say she wanted to try and **reconcile** with the other lady but did not know how to go about it. I pointed her to Proverbs 21:14 that says a "*gift given in secret soothes anger.*" I suggested she needed to humble herself and make the first move by going and buying an inexpensive, yet meaningful gift, and give it to the other lady in private. I made it clear, the gift giving had to be done without anyone else seeing or knowing about it.

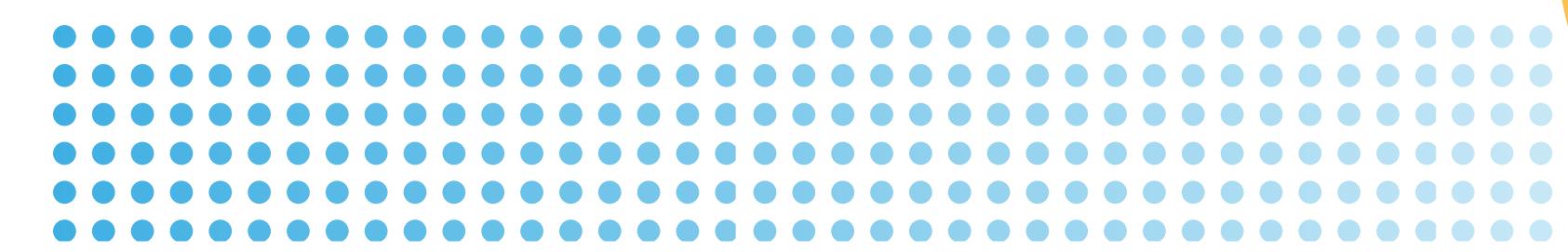
She made a purchase and went to the other lady's home on that Sunday afternoon. She started by saying she missed the other lady's friendship and was sorry for anything she had done that had contributed to their fractured friendship, gave her the gift and the relationship was beautifully restored.

Relational unity requires effort and humility; it does not just happen.

PRAYER PROMPT: Dear Lord, I am willing to do my part to help keep unity within the family of God. Help us together to extend the bond of peace to our brothers and sisters so we might live unified for the sake of the kingdom and the glory of your name, amen.



Stephen Elliott



PRAYER FOCUS: For The Wesleyan Church to boldly embrace God's mission in here, near, hard and far places.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 1:4-8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses ..." (v. 8)

In the eight "Mission Impossible" blockbuster movies, just like the 1960s TV show from which they are inspired, the famous words, *"this mission, should you choose to accept it ...,"* are heard. Once *the mission* is accepted, the rest of the movie is a living out of the implications of that decision. Members of the team, equipment, travel plans, strategy and escape routes are all down river consequences of choosing to accept *the mission*. If there were no mission, there would be no IMF (Impossible Missions Force) and all the decisions we see lived out on the screen would not exist. There would be no story. There would be no movie.

The mission is the organizing principle for everything.

And so, it should be for followers of Christ. In Matthew 28, the disciples receive part of the mission: "Go ... make ... baptize ... teach." Now in Acts 1:8 the disciples receive the second half of the mission. Empowered by the Holy Spirit they are ***to be witnesses*** throughout the world, or as John Wesley would famously state, "the world" was to be their parish. And this twin-headed mission of "bearing witness" and "making disciples" was THE organizing principle for the early church. Literally, everything they did was done in support of THE mission.

The characters in "Mission Impossible" never forgot the mission. Nor should we. We are called by a Holy God to ***spread the hope of salvation and the message of holiness*** to a world that is lost and in need of more than a salvation that only works for the next life but offers little for this one.

We need to ***boldly embrace*** our MISSION.

PRAYER PROMPT: God, you have invited us into your mission. For those of us who have chosen to accept this mission, we ask that you empower us as your church once again by your Holy Spirit to be witnesses of your hope and holiness today. In Jesus' name we ask this, amen.



Jon Kulaga