

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

HOUSE OF
PRAYER

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PRAYER

2024

FRUITVALE CAMPUS



valleybaptist

HOW TO USE THIS PRAYER GUIDE

As creatures that exist in relationship with God, we depend upon communication. God communicates with us primarily through His Word, but also by the working of the Holy Spirit within our lives. We communicate with Him primarily through prayer and worship.

When we speak with God, almost every expression can fit into one or more of four categories: adoration, confession, thanksgiving, or supplication. Adoration is praising God for who He is and what He has done. Confession is agreeing with God about the wrong He already knows we have done or the crying out to Him about that which tempts us. While there are corporate expressions of these first two, they are most often expressed personally, between self and God. The last two categories are often broader and more easily shared for corporate prayer.

This year, we have listed the major prayer points for each of our ministries in the last two of these groups — thanksgiving and supplication. These are, respectively, expressing gratitude for His blessing and requesting His provision.

It is our desire that you join with us as your church family in making these praises and requests a part of your regular time with God and prayer life. Thank you for making 2024 another year of Valley Baptist Church faithfully praying to our good and gracious Lord.

Pastor Ty Barksdale

Care Pastor

PRAYER TOOLS

A.C.T.S.

ADORATION

When we pray, our minds and hearts should be in the proper state as we approach the throne of our most holy and high King. Give Him the praise and honor He is worthy of receiving.

Psalm 145:1-7

I will extol You, my God, O King,

And I will bless Your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless You,

And I will praise Your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised,

And His greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall praise Your works to another,

And shall declare Your mighty acts.

On the glorious splendor of Your majesty

And on Your wonderful works, I will meditate.

Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts,

And I will tell of Your greatness.

They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant goodness

And will shout joyfully of Your righteousness.

CONFESSION

Be honest with yourself and God. He already knows all we have ever done and will do. Unconfessed sin inhibits our intimacy with God. Humble yourself and give Him everything. Ask Him to restore you.

Psalm 51:1-4, 10-12

*Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;
According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my
transgressions.*

*Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity
And cleanse me from my sin.*

*For I know my transgressions,
And my sin is ever before me.*

*Against You, You only, I have sinned
And done what is evil in Your sight,
So that You are justified when You speak
And blameless when You judge.*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

*Do not cast me away from Your presence
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.*

*Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
And sustain me with a willing spirit.*

THANKSGIVING

The Lord has blessed us with so much — more than we can fathom. Having and displaying gratitude towards Him draws us closer and helps us walk with God.

Psalm 100

Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness;

Come before Him with joyful singing.

Know that the Lord Himself is God;

It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving

And His courts with praise.

Give thanks to Him, bless His name.

For the Lord is good;

His lovingkindness is everlasting

And His faithfulness to all generations.

SUPPLICATION

This is where we ask the Lord to supply our needs. We can ask for anything and everything, with boldness, according to His will.

1 John 5:14-15

This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

Hebrews 4:16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

PRAY THE PSALMS

There are times when we want to pray to our Lord, but we cannot find the right words. God has provided His perfect Word and we can use it in our prayers back to Him.

- **PSALMS OF LAMENT:** expressing our need for His rescue: 3-7; 12; 13; 22; 25-28; 35; 38-40; 42-44; 51; 54-57; 59-61; 63; 64; 69-71; 74; 79; 80; 83; 85; 86; 88; 90; 102; 109; 120; 123; 130; 140-143
- **PSALMS OF THANKSGIVING:** awareness of God's provision and blessing and expressions of gratitude: 8; 18; 19; 29; 30; 32-34; 36; 40; 41; 66; 103-106; 111; 113; 116; 117; 124; 129; 135; 136; 138; 139; 146-148; 150
- **PSALMS OF ENTHRONEMENT:** declarations of God's sovereignty: 47; 93; 96-99
- **PSALMS OF PILGRIMAGE:** preparing for worship: 43; 46; 48; 76; 84; 87; 120-134
- **PSALMS OF ROYALTY:** reverence toward God as our King: 2; 18; 20; 21; 45; 72; 89; 101; 110; 132; 144
- **PSALMS OF WISDOM:** instructions in obedience: 1; 37; 119

SPEAK FROM YOUR HEART

God is kind and gracious — He does not require some special combination of words or incantation. We can come before Him with boldness, sharing with Him whatever is on our minds and hearts. Some things to remember:

- **BE REVERENT.** God is holy and we are to approach Him as such. Speak to God with respect, honoring Him as Creator, Lord, and Savior.
- **BE APPROPRIATE.** We cannot ask God for anything sinful or opposed to His will and expect that He will grant our request. But we can pray according to His nature and character, and trust that He will always do what is best.
- **BE HUMBLE.** Do not come to God with a proud heart, demanding He submit to you and your will. Humble yourself — like a subject kneeling before a king — and magnify God.
- **BE HONEST.** God cannot be fooled by crafty speech or omission of fact.
- **BE LIKE THE TAX COLLECTOR** in Luke 18 who, “standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’” This man approached God with a proper heart and attitude, and in complete dependence.

PASTORS & THEIR FAMILIES

THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for raising up and calling out young men from our church to become pastors.
- Praise God for three young men serving as directors on our staff who are showing great promise to become pastors for our church in time.
- Praise God for the team of pastors that we have a Valley Baptist, a plurality of leadership.
- Praise God for the new pastors we've added to our church in the last year (Pastor Matthew Spradlin and Pastor Nick McNeill).
- Praise God for our church's love and support of our pastors, both spiritually and physically.
- Praise God for gifting each of our pastors with a wonderful, God-honoring, and supportive wife.
- Praise God for the space our church gives our pastors' wives, recognizing that while pastors' wives are to be involved members of the church, they aren't expected to be a co-pastor with their husband.
- Praise God for the dozens and dozens of children God has blessed our pastors' families with.
- Praise God that many of our PK's (pastors' kids) have already personally trusted Jesus as their Savior and Lord.
- Praise God for our church having realistic expectations of our pastors' kids, recognizing that while they grow up in a godly home, they are like the rest of us — sinners who need to be saved and sanctified by God's grace.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray that our pastors and their wives would never leave their first love, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Pray that our pastors and their wives would have an ongoing daily walk with God that is personal and vibrant.
- Pray that God would deliver our pastors from the evil one, and that they would not fall into the snare of the devil.
- Pray that our pastors will daily put on the full armor of God.

- Pray that when our pastors sin, the Holy Spirit will quickly convict, and that they will be quick to confess and repent.
- Pray that our pastors will be examples of heartfelt sacrifice and generosity.
- Pray that God would give our pastors people whom they are able to confide in and be transparent with in times of pain or struggle.
- Pray that our pastors will love their wives unconditionally.
- Pray that our pastors will love, discipline, encourage, and teach their children with all diligence, without provoking them to anger.
- Pray that our pastors will rightly divide the Word of truth.
- Pray that our pastors will have a shepherd's heart, flowing from the heart of our Great Shepherd, the Lord Jesus.
- Pray that our pastors will excel in time management and setting priorities.
- Pray that our pastors will love the least of these.
- Pray that our pastors will help restore those overtaken in sin, in a spirit of gentleness.
- Pray that our pastors will do the work of an evangelist.
- Pray that our pastors' wives will love and respect their husband, following their leadership as to the Lord.
- Pray that God would give our pastors' wives the desire and ability to support their husband's ministry with prayer and encouragement.
- Pray that God would give our pastors' wives the wisdom and strength to juggle the myriad of unique responsibilities they have as a Christian, mother, church member, and pastor's wife.
- Pray that God would give our pastors' wives peace in the midst of a spotlight of pressure that often shines on them.
- Pray that each and every pastors' kid, without exception, would personally trust Jesus as their Savior and Lord.
- Pray that our pastors' kids would not focus on "looking" Christian as a result of outward pressures, but that their Christian walk would be genuine and the result of inward transformation.
- Pray that our pastors' kids won't get away with anything, but that they will get caught every time they sin.
- Pray that our pastors' kids wouldn't feel pressure to be who their parents are in the church, but exactly who Jesus wants them to be.

VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF

THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for the dedicated service of our church staff, who tirelessly work to advance His kingdom.
- Thank the Holy Spirit for guiding their hearts and minds in the midst of their service.
- Praise God for our church staff's unwavering commitment to manage the work He has entrusted to them.
- Praise God for the gifts and responsibilities He has given to them.
- Praise God for the abundant resources He has provided to the Church.
- Praise God for the sacrifice and support of our members.
- Praise God for volunteers from our precious church family who work beside our staff, helping, encouraging, and supporting ministry.
- Praise God for the beauty of the facilities entrusted to us.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for wisdom and discernment in making decisions that align with God's will and benefit the church.
- Pray for staff's spiritual growth to be nurtured through prayer and study of God's Word.
- Pray that their relationship with God would deepen and flourish.
- Pray that we would be bound together in one purpose and mission, fostering unity and love among us as we serve Your kingdom.
- Pray for humility in staff's hearts, seeking the greater purpose and aligning themselves with God's will.
- Pray for preservation of their health in mind, body, and spirit as they serve each other and the ministries of our church.
- Pray that their homes, marriages, and children would be blessed.
- Pray for balanced lives — fulfilling their call to ministry while nurturing their families.
- Pray for volunteers to join our church staff — offering support, encouragement, and assistance.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THANKSGIVING

- Thank God for His loving care of our church family during Pastor Roger's final illness and homegoing.
- Thank the Holy Spirit for His guidance as the spiritual baton of leadership was passed to Pastor Andrew and Pastor Brian.
- Praise God for the sweet unity and singleness of purpose at Valley Baptist — it's all about Jesus!
- Thank God that Sunday morning attendance has increased by more than 1,000 in the past year.
- Praise God that more than 500 new folks are attending Life Groups each week.
- Praise God for blessing us by calling Pastor Matthew Spradlin to take on the responsibility of leading Valley Baptist's Life Groups.
- Thank God for the new ministries at Valley Baptist that He is using to change lives, such as Marriage Mentoring.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for wisdom and guidance as we prayerfully plan to grow our facilities in the future.
- Pray that God will call out Life Group leaders who have a desire to shepherd a small group.
- Ask God to bless our dedicated staff with love for Jesus, love for each other, and love for the lost.
- Pray for strong marriages and families in our church.
- Pray that every member at Valley Baptist would be involved in active service — following Jesus is not a spectator sport, it is active, joyful work!
- Ask God to do great things at and through Valley Baptist in 2024!

DEACONS

THANKSGIVING

- Thank God for a godly group of men (27 Deacon-Elect candidates and 30 Deacons) that love God and serve Him, our church, its members, and our pastors.
- Thank God for the godly legacy of service by deacons throughout the history of the Church.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray that all of our Deacons and Deacons-Elect will walk with God daily and find their strength in the Lord.
- Pray that they will guard their hearts and lives to be above reproach both publicly and privately.
- Pray that they serve as an example by loving others and serving in the various ministries of the church.
- Pray that their service for the Lord would flow out of love for Him.
- Pray that they would serve in humility before others and seek God's greater purpose.
- Pray that God would show them opportunities to meet physical and spiritual needs.
- Pray that God gives them wisdom in how to best support our pastors.
- Pray that they would endeavor to maintain the unity of the church and fight against division.
- Pray that God will break their hearts with the things that break His.
- Pray that God gives them wisdom when called upon to assist in matters of church discipline.
- Pray that God would bless their homes, marriages, and children, and that they would have a balanced life with family and ministry.

OLIVE DRIVE CAMPUS

THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for the incredible team of staff and volunteers we have.
- Praise God for such a gorgeous campus.
- Praise God for our two incredible worship services.
- Praise God for our 27 awesome Life Groups.
- Praise God for the growth we have seen in worship attendance, Life Group attendance, and baptisms at Olive Drive.
- Praise God that our middle school and high school Life Groups have almost doubled since bringing on Sammy Dickinson as our Olive Drive Student Ministries Director.
- Praise God for the new technology we've been able to install in our Worship Center.
- Praise God for the food distributions that happen three times a month at the Olive Drive campus.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray that God strengthens our existing leaders and helps us to recruit more leaders.
- Pray that God helps us to lead more lost people to Christ.
- Pray that God helps us to baptize more believers.
- Pray that God helps us to get more people connected to the Life Groups we already have.
- Pray that God helps us to start more Life Groups.
- Pray that we can successfully renovate Building 11 to hold more Life Groups.
- Pray that the people who attend worship or Life Groups at Olive Drive will continue to want to draw closer to Jesus, hunger for God's Word, and be committed to carrying out His mission.

ESPAÑOL & MT. VERNON CAMPUS

THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for what He is doing in our Español services — we have seen many come to know Him as Savior.
- Praise God for the blessing of having campuses where the Bible is being taught in Spanish.
- Praise God that our Mt. Vernon campus was able to host two food distributions, providing nourishment for over 100 families from Mt. Vernon Elementary.
- Praise God that we had 400 people attend our Español Christmas program at the Fruitvale campus, and 17 people made professions of faith that night.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray that people's hearts will overflow with God's love this year.
- Pray that members of our church continue to desire to reach the lost.
- Pray that we start another Español Life Group.
- Pray that more men feel the call to lead.
- Pray that we continue to be salt and light to our county and state.
- Pray that more have a desire to go on mission trips.

McKEE ROAD CAMPUS & SET FREE MINISTRIES

THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for two years at the McKee Road campus.
- Praise God for the continued growth McKee Road and Set Free are experiencing.
- Praise God for how we have been able to reach those in the neighborhoods around the McKee Road campus.
- Praise God for people who have a servant's heart.
- Praise God for all of the street outreaches we were able to do this year — "Reaching the lost at any cost".
- Praise God for all of the support we receive from Valley Baptist.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray that more volunteers would step up to help in the ministry.
- Pray that we would be able to raise up more servant leaders.
- Pray for God's favor to continue doing our ministry work.
- Pray for quick recovery from health issues.
- Pray that Set Free Church would continue to impact the community around McKee Road and beyond, winning people to Christ and increasing our church.

FILIPINO MINISTRY

THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for new people and families that joined us this year — there has been a significant increase in attendance for our Sunday services, home Bible studies, and Life Groups since April 2023.
- Praise God for our baptisms — we baptized some youth and an entire family in 2023, with more who have indicated a desire to be baptized in 2024.
- Praise God for some newly-opened home Bible studies for young couples and new attenders, as well as more kids age nine and below.
- Praise God for a successful evangelistic concert in September that brought new families to our church.
- Praise God for bringing Filipino students and young adults into our midst, that we were able to gather them twice (with more planned in 2024), and get some plugged in with Student Ministry. Some are also starting to use their gifts in Music Ministry and are excited to contribute more.
- Praise God that more people now volunteer to help with set-up and clean-up.
- Praise God for our worship team — the worship leaders, vocalists, instrumentalists, and technical personnel who tirelessly support us during Sunday worship services and other events.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for salvation and continuous spiritual growth for our new members as they experience God and His Word, and that they would feel a sense of belonging in the Filipino Ministry and Valley Baptist as a whole.
- Pray that those who desire baptism will resolve any concerns and be able to arrange their schedules so that there will be no hindrance to their obedience. Pray that they continue to grow in the Lord and find their gifting for service.
- Pray for more home Bible studies as we see more families coming in.
- Pray for more events that can bring people to the Lord.

- Pray that our students and young adults would know Jesus more as they study the Word, get to know one another better, and serve together in the Lord.
- Pray for the leadership of the Filipino Ministry — for Pastor Dennis Asuncion as he leads the church to continually grow in their love of the Lord and His Word. Pray for his physical and spiritual health and wellbeing, especially during this period of unprecedented growth in the church and during more stressful times in ministry. Pray for wisdom and the Holy Spirit's power and guidance as he prepares and preaches his Sunday sermons and Bible study lessons. Pray for his wife, Rose, as she helps in the ministry as a Bible teacher and Life Group co-leader, worship leader, and instrumentalist. Also pray as she takes on the role of Admin Assistant, as well as Special Events Coordinator. Pray for her continued health and strength as she also serves in the Olive Drive 8 AM service choir and vocal team.
- Pray that our volunteers continuously find joy in the Lord as they do His works in the building of the church.
- Pray that more people will get involved in missions, giving, home visitation, discipleship, and various church trainings and workshops.
- Pray that our worship team would be able to balance their schedules between jobs, family responsibilities, and commitment to the ministry. Pray that we would be able to inspire the people together to be united and resolved to have a reverent, meaningful, and joyful worship of our Lord, an experience that builds up and brings about transformation in our lives.
- Pray for continued wisdom, patience, loving care, and compassion to the spiritual leaders as they shepherd the flock — counseling, resolving conflicts, instructing, exhorting, and correcting — that it would bring about humility and restoration, healing and reconciliation. Pray that the Lord would intervene in confidential matters, protecting all involved from the deceit of the enemy.
- Pray for the upcoming mission trip in the Philippines — that those who plan to join can arrange their schedules and raise the resources to meet expenses, for safe travels and souls to come to know the Lord Jesus and that this trip will leave a lasting impression on all involved.

ARABIC MINISTRY

THANKSGIVING

- We are so thankful to be a part of Valley Baptist Church.
- Praise God that we are able to serve our Lord Jesus Christ and the Arabic people.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for our TV ministry/Al karma TV — translation and dubbing for Today's Walk program (Meshwar El youm) — and for the millions of people all over the world that it reaches, including those in Middle Eastern countries, North Africa, and Arab gulf countries.
- Pray for Arabic people in Bakersfield and that they would come to the church.
- Pray for our Facebook ministry and the hundreds of people who follow the Sunday ministry on Facebook.
- Pray for Pastor Ghassan Al-Nimri and his family — for their health and that they would keep strong in serving the Lord.
- Pray for outreach to people who don't know Jesus in our community.
- Pray for peace in the Middle East.

VBU (VALLEY BAPTIST UNIVERSITY)

THANKSGIVING

- Praise God that since its inception in 2022, this ministry has increased traffic on Valley Baptist's website by over a million people, along with triggering the addition of hundreds of new YouTube subscribers each month.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray that as new series are filmed and released online, there would continue to be exponential growth in web traffic and subscribers.
- Pray that God will providentially expose the right people to the right segments.
- Pray that the segments will extend the reach of Valley Baptist's ministry for biblical truth.
- Pray that this resource will be an additional help for Valley Baptist attenders to be even better grounded in their understanding of the Bible in order to grasp and articulate a Christian worldview.
- Pray that the upcoming apologetics series will engage skeptics and strengthen believers.
- Pray that hot topics can be addressed with compassion and clarity.
- Pray that marriages and families will be strengthened as more material becomes available on relevant subjects.
- Pray for the upcoming podcast format to start smoothly and extend the impact of VBU.
- Pray for staff schedules and workload to be able to accommodate the time and effort required to continue to grow this ministry.

COMMUNICATIONS

THANKSGIVING

- This past year has been a wild year for our church and a wild year for our Communications team. We're so grateful for all that God has done in reaching people quite literally across the globe. Our church's communications effort stretches across multiple platforms and in 2023, we saw explosive growth that we've never seen before. We're praising God that He continues to use Valley Baptist Church online to draw people to Himself.

SUPPLICATION

- Locally: We have more people engaging with our church online than ever before. Pray that the people who encounter Valley Baptist online here locally would take a next step of rooting themselves in our church community.
- Globally: As our church's sermons and other content reach people all across the globe, pray that it would plant seeds of faith in the lives it reaches. Pray that people would grow closer to the Lord as they watch or listen to Valley Baptist's message of hope in Jesus. Pray that they root themselves in the Word of God and find a great local church to serve in.

BROADCAST MINISTRY

THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for the freedom we have to broadcast God's Word into homes and hearts all around the world through television, the internet, and radio.
- Praise God for the many partners we have locally, nationally, and internationally that trust the broadcast ministry of Valley Baptist Church to continue to provide sound biblical teaching.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for the broadcasts that go out beyond our walls and the hearts of people in places we will never know who might be reached by them.
- Pray that the staff and volunteers for broadcast and production would always remain diligent in excellence.
- Prayerfully consider how God could use you in this ministry - whether through volunteering, financial support, or partnering in prayer for people that need a message of grace.
- Pray that God can use this ministry to reach the unknown person who flips a switch at a dark moment of life and discovers Christ on radio or TV.

MUSIC MINISTRY

THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for ministry growth – we have seen an incredible increase in each aspect of our ministry. Choir is growing, the orchestra is growing, Kids' Worship Choir is growing, and we have added a number of new musicians to our worship bands.
- Praise God for the amazing things He's been doing in the life of our church and the fact that we (the people of Valley Baptist) have responded corporately with praise!

SUPPLICATION

- Pray that the Holy Spirit would fill our church each time we gather.
- Pray that each member of our church would choose to "teach and admonish one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs" (Colossians 3:16) as we gather each week.
- Pray that our volunteers' love for the Lord would grow daily.
- Pray for our volunteers' musical and vocal gifting(s) to flourish as we continue to follow Psalm 33:3 and "play [and sing] skillfully" to the Lord.
- Pray for our worship leadership on the platform to continue to be an overflow of our worship off of the platform.
- Pray for the leadership team's creativity and innovation as they plan worship gatherings that will be impactful encounters with God Almighty.
- Pray for Pastor Matthan, Charlin Neal, John Biller, Jonathan Weinmann, Ken Gross, and LeAnn Thomas, for endurance in "equipping the saints for the work of the ministry" (Ephesians 4:12).

AVL TEAM

(AUDIO/VISUAL/LIGHTS)

THANKSGIVING

- Resources — God has blessed Valley Baptist with an unusually generous congregation that recognizes the value in local, regional, and global outreach. Praise God for His provision through His people that makes the fulfillment of His mission a reality.
- Diversity — Valley Baptist just celebrated its 38th birthday and is blessed to have a multi-generational, multi-cultural body of believers. Praise God that our church family can experience worship in a variety of ethnic and stylistic preferences and still come together as one church, under one God.

SUPPLICATION

- Wisdom — Pray for our team to seek God for wisdom as we encounter areas of need for equipment and that we will be good stewards of the resources we have been blessed with.
- Unity — Pray that all ministries of Valley Baptist will continue to work together with the singular objective of advancing God's kingdom and reaching every lost person with the Gospel.
- Volunteers — Pray that God will provide volunteers for our ministry that have a willing heart and desire to serve. Pray that our team will continue to grow — both in width (quantity) and depth (spiritually and technically).

MISSIONS & MISSIONARIES

THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for all of the missionaries who have been sent out from Valley Baptist over the last 38 years.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for a new wave of Valley Baptist members to take the Gospel to the nations as full-time missionaries.
- Pray for Drew, Sarah, and their kids – serving in East Asia
 - » For the unreached Muslim people group they are trying to reach with the Gospel
 - » That they would wisely and effectively share God's Word with Muslims through their digital platforms
 - » For their new teammates
- Pray for Josh, Sarah, and their kids – serving in Central Asia
 - » For them to learn this new language quickly
 - » To build community in this new country
 - » For them to be able to stay in their new location long term
 - » For their son who is now in college
- Pray for the Kerns – serving in Central America
 - » For God to continue to use them, as well as the staff and members of Vida Nueva, to reach the multitudes in the seven countries where they have planted churches
- Pray for the Rimestads – serving from Bakersfield now, mobilizing believers from the US to take the Gospel to the unengaged people groups of the world
 - » For physical healing for their entire family
 - » For the Maliyali people they had to leave in Papua New Guinea:
 - ◇ Spiritual growth for those that gave their hearts to the Lord
 - ◇ Repentance and belief for those yet to give their hearts to Him

OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for the 4,232 individuals who made professions of faith during our short-term mission trips in 2023.
- Praise God for the 12 mission teams who went on short-term mission trips in 2023.
- Praise God for the 7,128 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes that Valley Baptist members packed for Christmas Connection in 2023.
- Praise God for all of the migrant workers who gave their lives to the Lord in 2023 at the Shafter Laborer's Festival.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for those who made professions of faith to get connected to the local church, start growing in their faith, and be discipled.
- Pray for more workers from our church to be sent to the harvest to share the Gospel with the lost in 2024.
- Pray for every short-term mission trip planned in 2024 to go well and for a plentiful harvest.
- Pray for all the follow-up work that will be done with those who make spiritual decisions.
- Pray for more Life Groups to lead mission trips together in 2024.
- Pray for the safety of all our teams going on trips this year.
- Pray for our members to share the Gospel with more lost people this year than ever before.
- Pray that the OCC boxes arrives safely, the children who receive them believe the Gospel when it's presented to them, and they get connected to a local church to be discipled afterwards.
- Pray for the Shafter Laborer's Festival to go well in 2024 and for many migrant worker families to come to know Christ as a result.
- Pray for Valley Baptist members to reach their streets with the Gospel.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership at Valley Baptist has always been important. This past summer, God led our staff to take another step in emphasizing the importance of membership and Pastor Luke Neighbors was asked to become the Membership Pastor. Our goal is to help new members get connected and current members continue to grow in their walk with God. We want every member to be a functioning member – having a private, personal walk of prayer and Bible study, attending worship regularly, attending Life Group regularly, tithing, and serving in some capacity.

THANKSGIVING

- This year, we have a lot to be thankful for! God is blessing Valley Baptist, as we've seen 476 people join the church in the last year.
- We have also seen an increase in church attendance – give thanks for all the people that God is sending our way.

SUPPLICATION

- Please continue to pray for all of those who are looking for a church home – that God will lead them to a place they can connect and continue to grow in their walk with God.
- Pray for our staff as we welcome new visitors and help them get connected.
- Pray for current members who are in the process of taking next steps of faith – may they be encouraged to grow.

HOSPITALITY

THANKSGIVING

- We thank You, Lord, for the blessings You have poured upon Valley Baptist Church's Hospitality ministry.
- Thank You for each hand that serves, for the smiles shared, and for the community fostered within our church walls.
- We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve others in Your name and for the joy and fellowship it brings to our congregation.

SUPPLICATION

- Lord, we humbly ask for Your guidance and strength in our ministry.
- Help us to serve with hearts full of joy and hands ready to help.
- Grant us wisdom to meet the needs of our church family and guests with compassion and efficiency.
- We pray for unity among our Hospitality team members and ask that their service be a testament to Your love and grace.
- May our actions draw others closer to You, shining Your light in all we do.

NEXT STEPS DIVISION

THANKSGIVING

- We are grateful for all that the Lord is doing in and through Valley Baptist! It truly is an exciting time for our church.
- We want to take this time to pause and thank the Lord for all the new people that He has been bringing onto our campuses! It is our hearts' desire through our Next Steps ministry to create an experience — from Sunday mornings, to mid-week activities, and at churchwide events — that communicates to every person who walks onto our campus that they are valued and important to us here at Valley Baptist Church. We want to extend the love of Christ through our hands, to create a welcoming experience, reducing any distractions and/or barriers for them to meet Jesus. We do our best each week to help create an atmosphere of warmth and acceptance while providing a "safe" environment for people to take their next step toward a relationship with Christ. We always want to exceed the expectations of our guests and church family by serving the Lord with excellence, giving Him our best through creating "WOW" experiences of giving and sharing Jesus to everyone entering our doors that goes beyond the norm.
- We are also incredibly grateful to the Lord for the 100+ volunteers we have serving on our Hospitality and Events teams. They faithfully serve week after week to create this type of experience and expectation for every person that walks on our campus. We couldn't do this without them!

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for all of our new guests — that the Lord would help our different teams to minister to their needs and encourage them to take their next step in their walk with the Lord here at Valley Baptist as we reach more people for Christ.

- Ask the Lord to stir up hearts for the lost within our church so we can grow our ministry of volunteers and continue to best serve both the people that are here at Valley Baptist Church, and those not yet.
- As we work to improve our campuses and facilities to create that experience, we ask the Lord for His direction, wisdom, and help in this process — may we not get stuck in our ways or comfort, but instead trust His way.
- With hearts full of thankfulness for our volunteers, we also ask that the Lord continue to energize, strengthen, sustain, and give a deep passion for our volunteers and leadership team to serve our people with joy and humility.
- Pray for flexible hearts within our ministry. As we grow and figure out how to best serve the people that God brings to us, we pray that the Lord would help us to be flexible to His leading and His plan. We want to be led by the Holy Spirit in all that we do — from taking time to truly minister to the immediate needs of our guests, to adjusting how we carry out our systems and processes so people do not fall in the gaps and get missed, we want to be good stewards of the people the Lord brings us.
- Please keep our Next Steps team and their families in prayer — that the Lord would help each of us always seek Him first, that our relationships with the Lord would strengthen every day (and as a result, our ministry would be strengthened), for our roles not only as leaders at the church but also as wives and mothers (we want to serve our church well and also make sure we are serving and pouring faithfully into the ministry of our families just as much), and for protection over our families.
 - » Lynn Bradshaw, Next Steps Director
 - » Kayla Rivera, Hospitality Director
 - » Rachel Clayton, Olive Drive Administrative Assistant
 - » Megan Vangel, Next Steps Administrative Assistant

FACILITIES TEAM

THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for the beautiful campuses He has blessed us with to facilitate and maintain.
- Thank God for our Facilities volunteers – members willing to serve to help keep our campuses beautiful.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for the health and endurance of our Facilities team.
- Pray for a cohesive goal amongst the team – to remove all distractions on our campuses so the Gospel can be the focus.
- Pray that God would send even more volunteers for our team.
- Pray for our vendors – that we have the opportunity to share the Gospel with those we work with on a weekly basis.
- Pray for each of our campuses (Fruitvale, Olive Drive, Mt. Vernon, and McKee Road) – that God will use these properties to be a welcoming place for our community.

SAFETY MINISTRY

THANKSGIVING

- Thank You, God, for the blessings of this past year and the aches as well. As the Word tells us, all things are intended for Your glory, and whether a blessing or what appeared to be an ache, we are grateful, knowing You will use it all for the expansion of the Gospel.

SUPPLICATION

- Father, please place a hedge of protection over Valley Baptist Church. Please allow the members of the Safety ministry to be clear and decisive in thought and action if and when they have to step in to mitigate and resolve any safety concern, whether big or small.



THANKSGIVING

- Praise God that we were able to transfer our Rock licensed space from the T-buildings to the second floor of the Children's Building in June! We now have all of our children under one roof in the access-controlled building, providing greater safety.
- Praise God that with the number of staff members we currently have, our rosters are at capacity.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray that the seeds of faith being planted would be watered and cultivated throughout the children's lives and God would bring them to salvation.
- Pray that as the children go home with spiritual songs and stories, God would use the words of these children to prick the hearts of any unbelieving family members.
- Pray that our staff would have opportunities to influence our grade school children with the Gospel.
- Pray for the physical health of our staff.
- Pray for the health and safety of the many families that we serve each day.
- Pray that the Lord would bring us more teachers who love Him.



THANKSGIVING

- We have much to be thankful about with the youngest generation of our church!
- Praise God that we started eight new classes across our campuses in 2023.
- Praise God that we've seen over 70 kids get baptized this year.
- Praise God that since the beginning of the school year, over 300 babies and kids have visited our campuses.
- Praise God that we had our highest-ever attendance for VBS in 2023 and many "re-visits" afterwards.

SUPPLICATION

- With all of these things to be thankful for, it has created some large needs.
- Pray that not only would we be able to provide more classes to accommodate the new visitors, but that faithful volunteers would step up who are committed to teach them.
- Pray that as we begin planning for VBS and summer camp, that God would start preparing the hearts of both the volunteers and students.
- Pray for the leadership of the Kids ministry – that our team would seek God's wisdom and direction first, continually remembering that the Lord is Provider, and that we would be diligent to recruit and train our volunteers to help us reach and teach.

Bus Ministry

THANKSGIVING

- Praise God that we have had over 20 baptisms from Bus ministry in 2023, and many professions of faith.
- Praise God for the several new kids who have joined the Bus ministry this past year.
- Praise God that we were able to deliver presents to 90 kids in Oildale at Christmas, sharing the Gospel with them and their families.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for Bus ministry students who have not yet accepted Jesus Christ into their hearts.
- Pray for the kids who have accepted Jesus in their hearts — that He can guide their lives.
- Pray for the kids we haven't been able to reach yet — that their hearts will be open to the Word.
- Pray that our staff and volunteers give extra patience and understanding as they teach these students about Jesus.
- Pray that God will bring more volunteers to our growing ministry.
- Pray that God uses our current volunteers to shepherd these kids and that they can stay strong and healthy in their own faith.
- Pray for the Oildale community and the drug epidemic — that the kids resist temptation and grow in their faith.
- Pray for the jobs/job searches of these kids' parents.
- Pray that these families grow to know Jesus and have peace in their homes.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for the remarkable resurgence we've witnessed in our students' faith!
- Over the past year, Valley Baptist has taken more students to camp than ever before and our VBS reached record attendance. It's evident that God is showering our church with blessings through an increase in students and their decisions!

SUPPLICATION

- Pray that God would send dedicated leaders to walk alongside these students, nurturing and guiding them in their faith journey – there's a tremendous harvest waiting, but the challenge lies in the scarcity of workers willing to assist. May God bring forth laborers to support and disciple these young individuals.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

THANKSGIVING

- We are super thankful to have seen God bringing new students to our Wednesday evening services as well as our Sunday Life Groups! It's incredible to see that the Lord is working through the STUDENTS to bring the new students to our ministry.
- Praise God for the mighty work He is doing in the lives of each of our students, as well as through the student leader ministry.

SUPPLICATION

- Our teenagers are adjusting back to life as normal – pray that they would balance their time between everyday things (school, sports, and extracurriculars) with digging into God's Word, getting involved in a Life Group, attending the mid-week worship service, and sharing their faith with friends and family.
- Pray for more leaders to have a passion for the next generation and future leaders within the church.
- Pray for wisdom for our leaders as they tackle an abundance of issues facing today's teens, such as social issues, body image, massive workloads at school, and mounting pressures to leave their faith.

COLLEGE MINISTRY

THANKSGIVING

- Thank God for His faithfulness to His people and His church.
- Thank God for His goodness and steadfast love.
- Thank God for His blessings on the College ministry.
- Praise God that we have been able to baptize over 40 college-age students in 2023 and many of them have joined a Life Group.
- Praise God for amazing volunteers who love college students.
- Praise God for the many college students He has been bringing to Valley Baptist — on any given Sunday this past year, there has been at least one college-aged person who visited one of our worship services. A total of 181 college-age students visited for the first time in 2023.
- Praise God that college students are being disciplined and growing! Many are serving, volunteering, and teaching student Life Groups.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for the hearts of college students, leaders, and the College Director — ask God to cause His love to overflow from them.
- Ask God to give leaders His eyes and heart toward college students.
- Ask God to break leaders' hearts for the things that break His.
- God has been working in young people's hearts and many have a hunger to know Jesus in a personal way, with many interested in baptism. Pray that God will continue to work in their hearts and they will continue to hunger after Him — ask that God will intensify that hunger in their lives.

- Ask God to give college students the diligence to attend Life Group. Many express a desire to get connected, but few come. Ask Jesus to work in their hearts so that they would get involved and be serious about following Jesus.
- Pray that God would bring even more college students to visit Valley Baptist in 2024 and provide the resources to reach them more effectively.
- Pray that college students would not fall through the gaps but that every student would be reached with the Gospel.
- Ask for God's hand of blessing on the new outreach strategy and pray that God will use it to help get more students connected.
- Pray that God would protect against sin within the lives of College ministry leaders.
- Pray that God would raise up leaders within the church to minister to college students, working in the hearts of those that can help invest in and disciple college students.
- Pray that God would continue to bless the College ministry – that more students would be saved, baptized, and connected to a Life Group.
- Pray that Life Groups would grow to reach more college students.
- Pray that God would protect the College Director from sin.
- Pray that God would help the College Director to lead the College ministry in a way that would bring God glory.

YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY

THANKSGIVING

- Within our Young Adults ministry (The Table), young adults from completely different vocational backgrounds and personality types are gathering weekly to foster authentic and Christ-centered relationships.
- Young adults are beginning to find their identity in Christ and not in the world.
- The level of authenticity within our group is INSANE(ly cool).
- Young adults are so cool! They are so excited about the ministry and what God is doing, that they are proactively taking steps to serve and inviting their friends to The Table.
- Every week, every young adult in our Life Group commits to praying for another member of the group throughout the week (although we have some overachievers who pray for more...#oversaved).

SUPPLICATION

- Pray that His Kingdom come, His will be done, on earth as it is in heaven, and that young adults would have an unquenchable desire to be part of making that happen.
- Pray that young adults would be marked by prayer, authentic relationships, missional living, biblical perspective, and going ALL IN for Jesus.
- Pray that we wouldn't lose our authenticity as the group grows.
- Ask that more young adults would be compelled by the Gospel to serve.
- Pray that the Lord would continue to guide our decision-making and organization to make the ministry worthy of the Kingdom.
- Pray that our RoundTable discipleship intensive will effectively disciple and equip young adults.
- Pray that seasoned adults in the church would come alongside to disciple young adults and lead them closer to Jesus.

YOUNG FAMILIES MINISTRY

THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for His faithfulness in restoring broken marriages.
- Praise God for His faithfulness in drawing couples closer to Him, and in turn, closer to one another.
- Praise God for His faithfulness in protecting children born with various diseases/ailments.
- Praise God for His faithfulness in raising up and equipping new leaders to lead new groups.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for young families who have been dealing with the sting of addiction.
- Pray for young families who are currently considering divorce.
- Pray that God would continue to draw couples to Himself and that they would be saved and baptized.

LIFE GROUPS

THANKSGIVING

- Thank the Lord for the 120 new Outreach Leaders trained this Fall.
- Thank the Lord for the many people every week hearing the Gospel and getting connected to a Life Group through our new outreach strategy.
- Thank the Lord for the 18 new Life Groups we started this Fall.
- Thank the Lord for the nearly 300 people who weekly attend our new Life Groups.
- Thank the Lord for the new Life Group Teachers who are teaching and shepherding God's people each and every week.
- Thank the Lord for the huge growth in Life Group attendance we are experiencing across all ages and stages of life.
- Thank the Lord for our new Young Adults ministry that is reaching many young singles and couples without kids, training and equipping them to live fully for the Lord.
- Thank the Lord for our Life Groups staff who are working so hard to raise up a generation of new leaders who are committed to being disciple makers.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray that God will provide us more space on our campuses so we can continue to multiply disciples through Life Groups.
- Pray that God will give our Outreach Leaders love, wisdom, and boldness to share the Gospel with the lost and connect them to a Life Group.
- Pray that God will raise up workers for the bountiful harvest He has brought to our Life Groups ministry.
- Pray that in our Life Groups, God will give us grace to be faithful to teach and shepherd people to draw closer to God and live more fully for Him.
- Pray that we will be committed to really care for one another by living out the "one another" commands of Scripture.
- Pray that we will encourage one another in our walk with the Lord and in our service to Him.
- Pray that every member of every Life Group will live on mission by using their spiritual gifts to mutually edify one another and accomplish the Great Commission together.
- Pray that God will give wisdom and grace for our staff to equip all our Life Groups to be healthy, Gospel-centered, disciple-making factories.
- Pray that God will put it in the hearts of our people to multiply disciples by multiplying our Life Groups — that we will have a heart to send and sacrifice.

MARRIAGES & MARRIAGE MENTORING

THANKSGIVING

- Father in heaven, we praise You and thank You for Your written Word that details Your design of a marriage between a man and a woman.
- Praise God for the 42 couples that have participated in the Marriage Mentoring Program with the desire to heal and strengthen their marriages.
- Praise God for the success most of these couples have had to grow in communication with each other and, more importantly, a closer relationship with Jesus.
- Praise God for those who have given their life to Jesus while seeking Him in the mentoring process.
- Praise God for the 25 Marriage Mentor couples that have chosen to invest in the marriages of others, for the glory of God.
- Praise God for the six new couples that are seeking training to become Marriage Mentors.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray that the marriages at Valley Baptist will endure and not be separated by man's own will.
- Pray for those who have not surrendered their lives to God in a way that empowers them to serve their spouse with the love that You have loved us with — may the body of Valley Baptist continue in prayer and support for these couples who continue to resist Your will for their marriages.
- Pray that those who have made spiritual decisions through this process would continue to be connected to the church body to be supported and encouraged to grow closer in their relationship with the Lord.
- Pray for those struggling in their marriages to have the strength and courage to reach out to the Marriage Mentoring Program for help.
- Pray that the Marriage Mentor couples will continue to be strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit so that God's love may overflow to those they minister to.
- Pray that God would continue to raise up laborers for the work of the Gospel and the marriage ministry.
- Pray that the power of the Holy Spirit would move in the hearts of the married men and women of Valley Baptist — that they make God the first priority in their lives to have a marriage filled with His blessings, in which He is glorified to those who observe them.

MEN'S MINISTRY

THANKSGIVING

- Father, we are thankful for the blessings which are ours, to serve our mighty Father and Lord.
- Father, thank You for growing us as men this past year.
- Thank You for showing us those areas in our lives where we need to draw closer to You so that we can best lead our families and lovingly discipline others in our lives.

SUPPLICATION

- Father, please move in a mighty way this year within the men of Valley Baptist and Bakersfield.
- Please heal wounds, repair relationships, and bring us into a more intimate relationship with You so that we can share the hope of Jesus more impactfully within our families and circles of influence.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

THANKSGIVING

- We are thankful for having bold and committed leaders.
- We are thankful for seeing a movement of women who long for Scripture.
- We are thankful for inclusion of ALL women.
- We are thankful for being able to witness authenticity taking a front seat in ministry.
- We are thankful for the prominent willingness to serve others that we see within Women's ministry.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray that we continue to be Gospel-centered.
- Pray that we could witness evangelism grow as the heartbeat of our ministries.
- Pray for continued wisdom in training and teaching.
- Pray for our young women to love God and love others, and to model that ourselves for them.
- Pray that if it's God's will, we would be able to see an organized, parallel Men's ministry develop at Valley Baptist.
- Pray for intentionality in ministry planning.

SENIOR ADULTS MINISTRY

THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for the several senior adults that were saved and baptized this year, one of whom was 87 years old! It's never too late to become a Christian.
- Give thanks to the Lord for Mickey Miller, who serves on our church staff and does a wonderful job ministering to those who are shut-in at home and cannot attend church anymore.
- Praise God for the fun and fellowship we are able to have at our senior adult events throughout the year.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for our senior adults who lost a loved one this past year and had to experience the recent holidays without their loved one.
- Pray for those experiencing grief – Valley Baptist does over 100 funerals a year, so someone is always going through loss.
- Pray for new senior adult converts to grow in their faith and be discipled.
- Pray for God's blessing on the planned spiritual heritage tour to Los Angeles in May 2024.
- Pray for all Care Group Leaders – they are some of the most faithful in our church.
- Pray for strength and endurance for Pastor Ty and Pastor Richard that head up the Care ministry – they are constantly doing funerals and visiting hospitals.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for His faithfulness in the lives of those desperately seeking help.
- Praise God for His goodness in providing new leaders that moved into a role of service after going through the program.
- Praise God that we went from 13 to 35 volunteers faithfully serving, including two new volunteers that work with our youth program and one leader becoming apprentice ministry leader.
- Praise God that this year we celebrated lengths of sobriety by handing out hundreds of 30, 60, and 90 day chips, all the way up to celebrating two individuals with 32 years of sobriety.
- Praise God that we opened the first and only Celebremos la Recuperación in Kern County, running two complete groups.
- Praise God that our average weekly attendance tripled this year.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray that lives will constantly be changed through the Celebrate Recovery ministry, because so many people are hurting right now.
- Pray that new leaders will come out of our Step Study groups.
- Pray that our leaders continue to work on their recovery issues and stay close to the Lord.
- Pray that the CR Leadership Team continues to grow and work together in unity with the mission of CR.
- Pray that the kids who come to CR are protected from their family's recovery fallout and that they see change in their parents.
- Pray that the youth find a safe place to deal with their own hurts, hang-ups, and habits.
- Pray for more volunteers – childcare, youth groups, and kitchen workers.
- Pray for the Spanish-speaking CR leaders – that this ministry can reach the Latino community and bring healing to those families.

FOOD PANTRY

THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for His abundant goodness.
- Praise God for His faithfulness and blessings — generous support from our church family, faithful volunteers and the many hours they give each week, the opportunity to serve more families in our church and community, getting to bless the lives of those in need, and the opportunity to share the Gospel with them.
- Praise God for new opportunities and capacity to increase food inventory — Fresh Rescue program of food donations from local grocery stores, expanded commodity program now serving 150 families per month, and new three door freezer.
- Thank God for the administrative support team.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray that God will fill the need for more volunteers with a heart to serve.
- Pray for the continued health and safety of volunteers and Food Pantry staff.
- Pray for bold confidence to share the Gospel with those we serve, and that their hearts would be receptive.
- Pray that new opportunities would continue to become available that will increase our food inventory and enable us to serve more families.
- Pray for wisdom and strength for Food Pantry leaders as the ministry continues to expand.
- Pray for continued support from our church family to enable us to progress even further in this outreach.

CRISIS DISCIPLESHIP

(Formerly Biblical Guidance)

THANKSGIVING

- Thank the Lord that He has endowed us with the ability to be used by Him to help heal those who are hurting.
- Thank the Lord for those that serve in this heavy ministry — that He has shaped them to be agents of spiritual, mental, and emotional healing.
- Thank the Lord for the hardships in our lives that He uses to draw us close. "I have learned to kiss the wave that throws me against the Rock of Ages." (Charles Spurgeon)

SUPPLICATION

- Pray that those we serve will grow in love, make wise choices, live with integrity, know the true freedom found in Christ, have a purpose for living, and eventually have an eternal home in heaven.
- Pray that those we serve will develop a habit to spend more time daily in reading and studying the Bible.
- Pray for God's power and protection for our volunteers, as well as His grace, presence, promises, purpose, and plan in their lives.
- Pray that God will raise up more laborers to help in this field.

LOSS & GRIEF

THANKSGIVING

- Thank the Lord for your family, friends, and the community He has placed you in — for all those in your life that bless you.
- Thank the Lord for His provision and comfort in times of grief.
- Thank the Lord for Valley Baptist Church — that He has given us the ability to minister to the hurting.
- Thank the Lord that He has promised the Holy Spirit as our Comforter and that He never leaves us.
- Thank the Lord for all of His many blessings — those we still have and those of the past. Thank Him for giving us so many beautiful people and relationships, that we grieve their passing from our lives.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for the peace and comfort of those who have lost loved ones.
- Pray for those attending our GriefShare group, and that they will be able to grieve in a healthy way.
- Pray for salvation of GriefShare attenders who don't know the Lord.
- Pray for our GriefShare leaders — John and Barbara Stone, and Tink and Sherrill Gould.
- Pray that we would be able to minister to those that attend a funeral here, supporting them in their mourning — providing comfort to the hurting, rest for the weary, and salvation for the lost.
- Pray for regular encouragement for the Pastors, staff, and volunteers that serve families through funerals. We often conduct multiple funerals each week, which can be emotionally draining.
- Pray for those grieving the loss or break-up of their marriage, especially those who will be attending our DivorceCare group.
- Pray for our DivorceCare leaders — Cari Frymire, Glen Maestas, and Ralph and Lisa Johnson.
- Pray for those in jeopardy of losing a loved one or marriage — may God be merciful and bring healing while there is still time.

OUR NATION, STATE, LEADERS, & WORLD

THANKSGIVING

- We are grateful that we have both the freedom to practice our faith and the freedom to share Christ with whomever we meet.
- Praise the Lord that He has blessed us to live in our great nation.
- Thank You, God, that You have given us peace in our land and safety in our homes — that war and famine are not on our doorsteps.

SUPPLICATION

- Lord, help us to use our freedoms to glorify You. May we speak about the goodness and greatness of our God — help us to take advantage of our ability to assemble and praise the Light of the World.
- Pray for the peace of the world — that the nations may find Jesus and surrender to Him.
- Pray for our President, his advisors, and all those that rule in our nation — that God may draw them close, convict them of their sin, and grant them supernatural wisdom as they lead.
- Pray for the peace of Israel and Gaza, as well as the rest of the Middle East. Pray for the protection of the innocent. Pray that the wicked who have caused and perpetuated this conflict will surrender to the Lordship of Christ and turn from their wicked ways. Pray for God to use this awful conflict to draw those in Gaza, Israel, and the rest of the world to Himself. Pray for Arab and Israeli Christians in the region to be bold in their faith and grant them protection as they proclaim Christ.



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