

OUR CHURCH'S MISSION DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

By Heidi Unruh

PERSONAL PRAYER TIME

In everything give thanks (1 Thess. 5:18)
Lord, I thank you for ...

Be anxious for nothing (Phil. 4:6)
Lord, I give you my burden of worry about ...

Ask, and it shall be given to you (Matt. 7:7)
Lord, I ask you in Jesus' name for ...

Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand (Matt. 4:17)
Lord, I need you to save me from ...

Be a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1)
Lord, I offer to you ...

Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening (1 Samuel 3:10)
"What do you want from me?" (Isaiah 6:8)
"Is there any wicked way in me?" (Ps. 51)
"How will you use me to bless all people?" (Gen. 12:3)
"Am I an answer to a prayer (mine or someone else's)?"
(Matthew 9:38)
"Is Your will being done in my life as it is in heaven?"
(Matthew 6:10)

MISSION SCRIPTURES

The following passages address our calling to mission as individuals and as a family of faith. Ask God that our church may share the vision of the Word of God, and be transformed and empowered to embody it.

Blessed to be a blessing
Gen. 12:2-3

Speak up for the poor
Prov. 31:8-9

Put people's needs over profit
Lev. 19:9-10

Our calling to redemption
Isa. 42:6-7

God cares for the vulnerable
Deut. 10:17-19

The Suffering Servant
Isa. 52:13-53:12

Open your hand to the poor
Deut. 15:4-11

The fasting of service
Isa. 58:5-12

Share your resources
Deut. 24:19-21

The anointing of the Lord
Isa. 61:1-9

Encourage people to choose God
Deut. 30:19-20

What it means to know God
Jer. 22:16

God's purpose and timing
Esther 4:13-14

Seek the peace of the city
Jer. 29:7

Love righteousness and justice
Ps. 72

Description of a just person
Ezek. 18:5-9

Worship renews hope in justice
Ps. 73

Let justice flow like a river
Amos 5:21-24

A call for justice
Ps. 82

A vision of shalom
Micah 4:2-5

Tell all people about God
Ps. 96

What the Lord requires of us
Micah 6:6-8

Lend to God by helping the poor
Prov. 19:17

Fishers of people
Matt. 4:19

God defends the vulnerable
Prov. 22:22-23

Salt and light
Matt. 5:13-16

Love your enemies
Matt. 5:38-48

Invite those in need to the feast
Luke 14:12-23

Be steadfast in the Lord's work
1 Cor. 15:58

Prayer that our love may abound
Phil 1:9-11

The Lord's prayer
Matt. 6:9-15

Jesus shares Good News
John 4:7-38

Competent to minister through God
2 Cor. 3:2-6

Have the mind of Christ
Phil. 2:5-11

Pray to the Lord of the harvest
Matt. 9:35-10:1

Love shows we are disciples
John 13:34-35

Treasure in earthen vessels
2 Cor. 4:5-7

Working out our salvation
Phil. 2:12-16

Fruitful soil
Matt. 13:3-23

We do the work of Jesus
John 14:12-13

Ambassadors for Christ
2 Cor. 5:14-20

Prayer for fruitfulness
Col. 1:9-12

Parable of the talents
Matt. 25:14-30

Abide in Jesus to bear fruit
John 15:1-8

The grace of giving
2 Cor. 8:1-16

Prayer for witness and protection
2 Thes. 3:1-3

Parable of the sheep and the goats
Matt. 25:31-46

Unity in Christ is a witness
John 17:20-22

Generosity leads to thanksgiving
2 Cor. 9:6-15

Pure religion
James 1:27

The Great Commission
Matt. 28:18-20

Sent by Jesus
John 20:21-23

Destroying strongholds of evil
2 Cor. 10:4-5

Guard against prejudice
James 2:1-9

Christ-like servanthood
Mark 10:42-45

Sharing and growth in the church
Acts 2:42-47

Do good to all
Gal. 6:9-10

Show your faith by your good works
James 2:14-17

The Great Commandment
Mark 12:29-31

None in need
Acts 4:32-35

Prayer for wisdom and power
Eph. 1:15-23

Use your gifts to serve others
1 Pet. 4:10-11

Share the Gospel with power
Mark 16:15-18

Prayer for boldness and power
Acts 4:24-31

Created for good works
Eph. 2:10

Love in word and deed
1 John 3:16-18

Jesus' declaration of mission
Luke 4:16-21

People need to hear the Word
Rom. 10:13-15

Prayer to be rooted in love
Eph. 3:14-21

Multicultural worship in heaven
Rev. 7:9-10

Love "sinners"
Luke 6:27-38

Living sacrifices
Rom. 12:1-2

Unity and gifts for ministry
Eph. 4:1-16

The new city
Rev. 21:1-5

Evidence of Jesus' Lordship
Luke 7:20-23

A life of service and goodness
Rom 12:3-21

Walk in love
Eph. 5:1-2

Other Scriptures / Notes

Parable of the Good Samaritan
Luke 10:25-37

Love — the greatest command
Rom. 13:8-10

Our struggle against spiritual evil
Eph. 6:10-20

Jesus' love for the lost
Luke 13:34

Spiritual gifts for ministry
1 Cor. 12

God will complete His work in us
Phil. 1:3-6

IMAGINE YOUR CHURCH ...

Imagine what your church would be like if its entire life was consumed by finding ways to mirror God's love, as taught and modeled by Jesus.

Imagine your church, filled with God's spirit, being of one mind and one body as it brings its life into line with God's great dream of restoring the world under the lordship of Christ. Imagine every one of your church's members fully committed to seeing God's dream become a reality.

Imagine your church having one central objective for every Sunday-school session, small group and committee meeting it sponsored: to equip its members for living and sharing more effectively God's love in the world.

Imagine your church joyfully recognizing and putting to full use the gifts and capacities God has given you. And imagine yourself desiring nothing more in life than to develop those gifts for the purpose of offering them back to God in passionate, life-long witness and service to others.

Imagine your church being so welcoming of sinners, so filled with compassion for the lost, the last and the lonely, that word of your love and care spread throughout your community, and even around the world.

Imagine your church designing and conducting worship experiences that celebrate what God is doing in your neighborhood and around the world, and that regularly invite each member to explore and expand their participation in these God-inspired initiatives.

Imagine your church being committed to daily intercessory prayer for your neighbors, your co-workers, your colleagues and friends.

Imagine your church being sought out by those experiencing injustice, because you have become known for insisting on fair and just relationships, and for loving your enemies.

Imagine your church being the best window that seekers have into the life God intended.

Imagine your church so in touch with people that you begin to reach their deepest hurts and needs, offering healing to the broken and extending open arms to people of diverse racial and cultural backgrounds.

Imagine learning that other churches are experiencing new life in Christ just as you are. That a neighboring congregation shares its experience with your church. And you find that both of you are catching the vision to reach out together. And a third church, then a fourth, links with you. And this community of churches begins calling out people from among you to share God's mission in neighborhoods both near and far.

(Adapted from James Krabill, "Does Your Church 'Smell' Like Mission?" Reflections on

Becoming a Missional Church, MissioDei #2, Mennonite Mission Network, 2003).

MISSION PRAYER GUIDE

Prayer is at the heart of mission. Through prayer we participate in God's work of transformation in our communities, and we ourselves are transformed. Prayer frees us to witness, empowers us to do good works, guides our ministry decisions, and renews our hope. Here are some suggested prayer points.

Pray for our church:

- ❖ Pray for a spirit of love, unity and harmony around our church's mission (John 17:21, Phil. 1:1-2).
- ❖ Pray for vision, wisdom and discernment in making ministry decisions — that church leaders and the congregation as a whole would do God's will in God's way (Col. 1:9-10).
- ❖ Pray that we would be guided by Christ's example: that we would be renewed by having the mind of Christ, see our world through the eyes of Christ, serve with the love of Christ, and seek God's Kingdom with the humble obedience of Christ.
- ❖ Pray that God would give us a burden for the things that grieve the Spirit, and the courage to act.
- ❖ Pray that we would serve in the power and love of the Spirit, not merely in human strength and goodness (2 Cor. 4:7).
- ❖ Pray that God would overcome any obstacles to effective ministry, and that we would be convicted of attitudes and actions that hinder God's will being done among us.
- ❖ Pray that God continues to work in and through our church to break down barriers of race, gender, class, and culture.
- ❖ Pray that we would be equipped to use the gifts God has given us for ministry, and would be faithful stewards of the resources God has given us to bless others (1 Peter 4:10-11).
- ❖ Pray that we might deepen our faith and grow in Christ's love as we serve those whom Jesus names as his family (Matt. 25:40).
- ❖ Give thanks for what God is doing in and through our church's witness and service to spread the aroma of Christ and bring glory to the Father (Matt. 5:16).

- ❖ Thank God for the power at work within us to accomplish far more than we can ask or even imagine (Ephesians 3:20-21)!

Pray for our ministry community:

Prayer may focus on the neighborhood where the church is located, the neighborhood(s) where members live, another specific area, and/or a specific people group.

- ❖ Pray for those individuals and families whom we are seeking to reach with the Good News and good works of Christ.
- ❖ Pray for specific needs and issues that we see around us or in the news.
- ❖ Pray for neighbors – where we live and where we worship.
- ❖ Pray for other churches and agencies in this area; ask God to lead our church into fruitful partnerships.
- ❖ Pray for schools, hospitals, government social service offices, the police, courts, and other institutions that serve our community.
- ❖ Pray for leaders who hold power within our community or make decisions affecting this area.
- ❖ Pray for the "invisible" people, those who are on the margins of our community, whose hurts are hidden from others, and whose voices are seldom heard in places of power.
- ❖ Pray that God's justice and righteousness would increasingly reign in our community — that God's will would be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:10).
- ❖ Pray with confidence that our Lord would triumph over spiritual principalities and powers set against God's good plan for our community, and that God's people would be delivered from evil (Eph. 6:12, Luke 11:4).
- ❖ Ask God to search our hearts and lives, and ask forgiveness for any ways that our own actions, lifestyle, or prejudices may have contributed to problems in our community and world.
- ❖ Give thanks for those who in ways big and small are sharing God's love and serving this community.
- ❖ Thank God for the positive aspects of our community, for the God-given uniqueness and giftedness of each resident, and for all there is here that brings delight to people and glory to God.
- ❖ Praise God for His amazing love and grace for the world — and for all of us — in Christ Jesus.

OUR CHURCH'S MISSION STATEMENT:

Now to God who, by the power at work within us, is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine – to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
(Ephesians 3:20-21)