



40

DAYS OF
PRAYER

2025

JANUARY 6 - FEBRUARY 20

 **TeachBeyond**

IN HIS NAME TO ALL NATIONS

(Luke 24:47)

As we approach 40 Days of Prayer 2025, we will focus on praying **“In His Name to All Nations (Luke 24:47)”** using Luke 24 & the book of Acts. We will use the words God has given us in His Word to deepen our conversations with Him. We want to continue to establish prayer as the foundation to the way TeachBeyond carries out our mission. As TeachBeyond, we want to foster communities of prayer for all members.

God’s Word is so rich and full, providing us with wonderful opportunities to saturate our lives with His thoughts and ways. Each weekday we will focus on a passage from Luke 24 or the book of Acts. Saturdays we will share stories of answered prayers of faith in His name to all nations. Sundays, we encourage everyone to pray and worship in community wherever you are.

How to Engage in Prayer

Use 40 Days of Prayer 2025 to deepen your prayer life, the ways you listen to God, and the time you spend in His Word. Invite a friend to join you and create a chat group together, or just talk about it as you walk to school! Invite family members to join you and have this be a part of your day together, around the dinner table, on a video call, or at bedtime. Invite ministry partners to join you in prayer using the guide together. Read the passages with friends or in your class over the next 40 days. Let 40 Days of Prayer 2025 impact your team meetings, use it for staff devotions, share it with your sending church. Create or enhance a habit of prayer at the beginning of this year!

You’re invited, not just to a 40-day organizational experience, but into intimate communion with the God of the universe, your Maker, Redeemer, and Heavenly Father, whose heart is for the nations.

Let’s pray together, grow together, share stories together, and give God the glory for the transformation He has for us.



David Durance
President



Brian Delamont
Executive Vice President



Mark Giebink
Global Member Care Director

MONDAY 6 JANUARY



"Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen"

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY, BCP 124

Pause for 2 minutes. Quietly listen for God's personal message to you. If no message comes, delight in His love for you and His knowledge of your heart.

Scripture

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words.

Luke 24:1-8

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. Pay attention to what stands out for you. Write it down.

What picture of Jesus comes to mind? Ponder this.

THE TABLES HAVE TURNED

The resurrection of Christ is not a memory of a historical fact, it is the reality of a presence. It is not a cold protocol of theological reflection, but a power that works in the life of the Christian.

It is the appreciation of this truth that makes the difference between an indifferent believer and a committed disciple. It would be healthy to begin every day as we did on that Sunday, and as a spiritual discipline, to say to ourselves: "He is not in the tomb, He is risen".

This precious awareness has the power to breathe life into everything we touch. The resurrection has changed the game! Everything is for us. Everything in us is bursting with life.

Through it we can let die what needs to die: ingrained habits, tired ideas, a time gone by, and certainties that have turned to dust. Though broken, we have the courage to proclaim: God's life will triumph.

I remember, like it was yesterday, when I was disillusioned at the sight of my plans turned to dust. A teacher friend of mine said to me: "Fabiano, do you think God's plans are so fragile?" His answer didn't make my life any easier, but it turned out to be the truth. Life had triumphed.

Another precious unfolding of what happened in that tomb is that we are never alone. This is the greatest reward of God's children that begins here. If I allow my heart to be still, attentive and teachable, I will be able to receive His instructions and enjoy His presence.

The Resurrection has changed everything!

Fabiano Bohi Goulart, Member Care Latin America, Brasil

Get ready to move. 'Almighty God, what is your invitation to me today?'

TUESDAY 7 JANUARY



"O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

A COLLECT FOR PEACE, BCP 23

Pause for 2 minutes. Hold the word or phrase that stood out to you in the prayer. Listen for God's message.

Scripture

We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel.

Luke 24:21a (Read Luke 24:13-24)

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. Notice what stands out for you. Write it down.

What inspires you to know God better?

WE HAD HOPED

Gut-wrenching disappointment – we've known it. When we hear, "The treatment isn't working," or "I don't want to be in this marriage anymore." When our kids reject us or the beliefs and values we hold dear. When our prayers seem to go unanswered or even unheard.

Those who followed Jesus while He was on earth had put all their hope in who He claimed to be – the Son of God, Messiah. This was not a *make a wish before you blow out your birthday candles* kind of hope. Rather, it was an *I'm all in. I'll follow you anywhere, no matter what.* And now... He was dead, at the hands of those He came to save. Following Him had led to the cross, a dead end – to death. It made no sense.

Two disciples took a walk – to get away, do something, exhausted, yet restless in their pain. With their words they were still trying to make sense of what had happened, rehearsing the events of the last three days.

I know in my life that God often doesn't behave how I think He should. His ways don't make sense to me or align with my desires. He leads me through dark places to the cross. And it seems like He's left me.

And into our confusion, into our pain walks Jesus. He is life. And He's not abandoned us.

Mark Giebink, Global Director of Member Care, USA

Get ready to move. 'Loving Lord, what are you inviting me to ponder and follow through on today?'



WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY

"O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

A PRAYER FOR QUIET CONFIDENCE, BCP 78

Pause for 2 minutes. Talk to God about your experience in the silence and quietness. Listen for His encouragement.

Scripture

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

Luke 24:25-32

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. What catches your attention? Write it down.

How can you integrate this truth into your prayers?

AN EXPERIENCE OF WONDER

Two men journey on a dusty road. They encounter a third man, who walks with them. They do not recognize him even though he is someone they love. The man listens to them as they share their sadness and confusion at recent events. The strange man gently rebukes them for not believing what the prophets spoke and surprises them with a meaningful explanation of their holy text. When he makes a motion to continue in his journey, they invite him to remain and share a meal. As this man takes bread, blesses it, breaks it and gives it to them, their eyes are finally opened, and they recognize their beloved rabbi, who instantly disappears. The men are left proclaiming in wonder, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road?" (Luke 24:32).

I invite you to read Luke 24:25-32 with eyes of wonder. Ask questions of the text, pausing in silence without requiring answers, and let the Lord delight in your curiosity about Him. In this way, we provide an opportunity for the Lord to touch our lives through His Word.

Questions of wonder may be:

- I wonder, when have I noticed Jesus walking with me?
- I wonder, what would it be like to hear Jesus explain the Scriptures?
- I wonder, why did the disciples recognize Jesus only after an act of hospitality?
- I wonder, when have I been unaware of Jesus' presence with me?
- I wonder, have I experienced moments when my heart burns within me because Jesus is nearby?

*Tessa Tubbs, Spiritual Direction and Formation
Coordinator, Global Member Care, USA*

Get ready to move. 'God, my Father, what are You asking me to notice today about Your movement in my life, or the lives of others?'

THURSDAY 9 JANUARY



*"Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen"*

A COLLECT FOR GUIDANCE, BCP 23

Pause for 2 minutes. What do you notice happening in you as a response to God?

Scripture

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. 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."

Luke 24:45-49

Read the scripture passage again slowly. What word or phrase lights up for you? Write it down.

What does this say to you about praying for others?

THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER

When we read the portrayal of the disciples in the gospels, it is striking just how flawed they were in their character and relationships. They all abandoned Jesus in His hour of greatest need, and Peter even publicly denied Him three times in spite of the fact that they all swore they were prepared to die with Him if necessary.

After His resurrection, Jesus does not chastise them for their faithlessness. Instead, He promises them something that will change them forever into people who will go on to turn the world upside-down (Luke 24:49; see also Acts 17:6). One can almost read the sub-text of the command to stay in the city until they had received the Holy Spirit: Don't go out in your own strength or you'll fall flat on your faces. Again.

We stand no less in need of the power of the Holy Spirit than the disciples did. The Holy Spirit is the real change agent that transforms us into the likeness of Christ. It is also the Holy Spirit that empowers us for the service of proclaiming the message of repentance for forgiveness of sins (Luke 24:47). We need supernatural power for this because the message faces supernatural opposition.

The promise of the Holy Spirit is for all believers. This is not a one-time thing, but we are called to continuously be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18). Let us seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit today and every day (Luke 11:13).

John Fraser, Team Lead, Hungary

Get ready to move. 'Jesus, what can I do to move towards You in my heart posture today?'

FRIDAY 10 JANUARY



"Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. Amen"

A COLLECT FOR FAITH, BCP 50

Pause for 2 minutes. What do you hear God speaking to you? Receive His love.

Scripture

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:1-5, 8

Read the scripture passage again slowly. Ask God what He wants you to see. Write it down.

How does this direct you towards others?

EMPOWERED TO WITNESS

Have you been given a daunting task that you're not capable of performing without help? Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He gave His disciples a daunting task, "...you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8b). But with such a big task, a bigger promise awaits them, "...and you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you" (Acts 1:8a). But before they would receive this promise, Jesus gave them three important imperatives.

First, they were to *wait* for the promised Holy Spirit. As a result of prayerfully waiting in the upper room where they all gathered, the disciples, including His mother, Mary, were "endued with power from on high" on the Day of Pentecost (Luke 24:49; Acts 2:2-4NKJV).

Second, they were to *receive* the power of the Holy Spirit. The original Greek means not to passively receive, but to *get, take, or lay hold of* something. The disciples didn't just wait idly in the upper room, they were constantly in prayer waiting to *lay hold of* that which was promised.

Thirdly, they were to *witness* to all peoples. The Greek used here is *martus*, one who testifies of what one has seen or heard, but it is also where we get our English word for *martyr*. God empowered His disciples to be faithful witnesses even when they faced violent opposition, and He continues to empower us today to fulfill the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20).

We are all called to be an empowered witness for Jesus and we can't do it on our own. We must wait for the Holy Spirit to guide, strengthen, and give us wisdom to bring the nations to His kingdom.

Rio Handley, Associate Regional Director, East Asia and Oceania, Perth, Western Australia

Get ready to move. 'Lord Jesus, what are ways I can remember Your presence with me throughout the day?'

SATURDAY 11 JANUARY



"Almighty God, who after the creation of the world rested from all your works and sanctified a day of rest for all your creatures: Grant that we, putting away all earthly anxieties, may be duly prepared for the service of your sanctuary, and that our rest here upon earth may be a preparation for the eternal rest promised to your people in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

A COLLECT FOR SABBATH REST, BCP 24

Pause for 2 minutes. How might God be inviting you to rest this coming sabbath?

Now read the story of God's work.

THE HOUR THAT CHANGES THE WORLD

As a high school senior, I was walking with Jesus and staying out of trouble. You know, not committing any of the "big sins." It was then that evangelist Dick Eastman came to our church and spoke on prayer. He didn't just speak on prayer; he challenged us to "Pray an hour a day." My unspoken response was something like, "Whoa there, preacher, it sounded like you said *an hour a day!* My 5-10 minutes could probably be increased by 50% if we're lucky. But an hour a day? You've got to be kidding!"

Actually, he wasn't. He taught how prayer is more than asking God to bless the food and keep everyone safe; it's about *relationship* and *communication*, and there are many components. He listed these: *Praise, Waiting, Confessing, Scripture praying, Watching, Intercession, Petition, Thanksgiving, Singing, Meditation, and Listening*. I was convicted and challenged, and I mustered up the courage to accept the challenge to pray...(deep breath)...an hour a day.

That decision was life-changing! It wasn't long before I committed to serve Him in full-time ministry. Shortly after that, the burden to reach those who had never heard the Good News burned in my heart and I knew I was called to serve overseas.

The discipline of an hour a day in prayer isn't easy, and I usually fall short of that goal. But the Father is patiently waiting to meet us there. He wants to speak to us and pour out His Spirit in and through us if we're just willing to show up.

JA, LinGo Online Coordinator, West Asia

Get ready to move. 'Father God, how do You want to use this story to move in me?' How is God using this story to move in you?

MONDAY 13 JANUARY



"Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen"

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY, BCP 124

Pause for 2 minutes. Quietly listen for God's personal message to you. If no message comes, delight in His love for you and His knowledge of your heart.

Scripture

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Acts 1:9-11

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. Pay attention to what stands out for you. Write it down.

What picture of Jesus comes to mind? Ponder this.

A LIVING PROMISE

The ascension of Jesus marks the end of His earthly ministry and brings an essential promise: Jesus will return, not in an intangible or abstract way, but in the same manner as He was seen ascending. After 40 days of teaching about the Kingdom of God, He was taken up before the eyes of His followers, a final testimony that His redemptive work was complete and supernatural.

In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul emphasizes the importance of the bodily, witnessed resurrection of Christ. It guarantees the truth of our faith, confirmed by witnesses who later gave themselves up to martyrdom in its defense, affirming the reason for our expectation and hope in the Savior. This promise does not refer to a symbolic return, but a physical and visible one, which will be witnessed by all, not just a few.

The certainty of Jesus' return to judge the living and the dead, fully establishing His kingdom (Matthew 24:30; Revelation 1:7), is strong and worthy enough to shape our entire life and hope. He will return! That is why Matthew teaches us to remain vigilant, seeking holiness and living with purpose (Matthew 24:42), while, as Paul said, we await "the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior" (Titus 2:13). When we know the promise is true, we have purpose, and our walk is not in vain!

Thus, Christ gives us hope, purpose, and a call to action, to depend on His grace and proclaim the gospel as we await His glorious return.

*Ticiano Castoldi, TeachBeyond Brasil Board Member,
CPC, Historical Curator and Church Relations, Brazil*

Get ready to move. 'Almighty God, what is your invitation to me today?'

TUESDAY 14 JANUARY



“O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

A COLLECT FOR PEACE, BCP 23

Pause for 2 minutes. Hold the word or phrase that stood out to you in the prayer. Listen for God’s message.

Scripture

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

Acts 2:1-12`

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. Notice what stands out for you. Write it down.

What inspires you to know God better?

THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus’ disciples wait obediently for the long-awaited Spirit. In a violent wind and fiery tongues, He comes. The effect is immediate: They speak in the languages of “every nation” (Acts 2:5). The rule of Satan is fatally disrupted: The kingdom of God has come!

The fact that you are reading this in Portuguese, Spanish, German, French, or English bears witness to the tongues-sign of the Spirit. At Babel the unity of language was broken. At Pentecost the great sign given through this “gift of tongues” heralded the restoration of all things (as the disciples ask about in Acts 1:6 and Peter preaches in Acts 3:21).

The *Acts of the Apostles* is often referred to as the *Acts of the Holy Spirit*; it is the Spirit of God Himself, the resurrected, ascended, glorified Lord of Creation that inhabits us working His wonders in and through us.

If this Holy Spirit of God is in us, what breath-taking power, wild freedom, reverent awe, astonishing vitality, blessed assurance, deepened humility, repentance-fueled joy, unflinching authority, undiminished love, unadulterated truth, unconditional mercy, unqualified forgiveness, overflowing grace, fathomless compassion, generous goodness and fruitful service lie ready, deep in our heart for the transformation of the world!

We who live in the Spirit bear the greatest power in the universe. We are called to live from this Fount, the Living Water – the Holy Spirit – that flows in our innermost being (John 7:37-39).

Howard Dueck, Executive Vice President, Regions, Canada

Get ready to move. ‘Loving Lord, what are you inviting me to ponder and follow through on today?’



WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY

"O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

A PRAYER FOR QUIET CONFIDENCE, BCP 78

Pause for 2 minutes. Talk to God about your experience in the silence and quietness. Listen for His encouragement.

Scripture

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Acts 2:21

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. What catches your attention? Write it down.

How can you integrate this truth into your prayers?

NO OTHER NAME

What strikes me more than anything as I read Acts 2:21 is God's love and concern for all His people regardless of the dispensation we're in and how deep in sin we may be. God is always making provision for mankind out of hopeless situations. The name that the Father gave to His Son is also the name provided for our salvation. It is a name with functionality and purpose. For example, in 2 Chronicles 7:14, we see provision of a place which God chose for His people to run to as a place of mercy in times of judgment.

"God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). God's provision not only saves us but empowers us to spread the Good News. *Jesus*, the bearer of this name, quotes ancient writings in Luke 24:47, "It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of *his name* to all the nations..." *God has provided us a sure way for success in no other name but the name of Jesus Christ!* I see this as the Lord's way of saying He wants to help us in our time of need. Call on His name, and you will be saved.

Abinala Mbewe, Country Coordinator, Zambia

Get ready to move. 'God, my Father, what are You asking me to notice today about Your movement in my life or the lives of others?'

THURSDAY 16 JANUARY



"Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

A COLLECT FOR GUIDANCE, BCP 23

Pause for 2 minutes. What do you notice happening in you as a response to God?

Scripture

Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

Acts 2:22-24, 32-33

Read the scripture passage again slowly. What word or phrase lights up for you? Write it down.

What does this say to you about praying for others?

IMPOSSIBLE FOR DEATH TO KEEP ITS HOLD

In Acts 2:22-24, Peter lays out three astonishing truths about Jesus' death:

1. God planned it.
2. People executed it.
3. Jesus reversed it.

God planned it. In every horrifying detail, the crucifixion story followed God's "deliberate plan and foreknowledge" (Acts 2:23). It wasn't an accident or an error. It didn't catch the God of the universe off guard. God the Father chose for Jesus to die.

People executed it. Every cruelty Jesus suffered—His betrayal, abandonment, condemnation, torture, and death—served as the full outpouring of human cowardice, greed, cruelty, and pride. It wasn't a misunderstanding or error in judgment. They knew what they were doing. When we sin, so do we.

Jesus reversed it. It wasn't possible for death to hold Him. God knew that when He planned this. He wouldn't let His Holy One see corruption. He exalted Jesus to His right hand and promised the Holy Spirit to all who know and follow Him. The very people who abandoned Him, condemned Him, and crucified Him—now changed and transformed by the presence of His Spirit.

You're a witness to these things.

Tell the world.

*JL, Church Relations/Part-time Online Teacher,
USA/Creative Access Country*

Get ready to move. 'Jesus, what can I do to move towards You in my heart posture today?'



FRIDAY 17 JANUARY

"Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. Amen"

A COLLECT FOR FAITH, BCP 50

Pause for 2 minutes. What do you hear God speaking to you? Receive His love.

Scripture

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Acts 2:38-39

Read the scripture passage again slowly. Ask God what He wants you to see. Write it down.

How does this direct you towards others?

A CALL FOR REPENTANCE AND BAPTISM

The Jewish crowd was anxiously expecting the answer from the newly appointed church leader, the apostle Peter, in conclusion to the first sermon of the commencement of the church age: *What shall we do?* Signs and miracles had just been displayed with the fulfilment of the promise from the Father, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit! And Peter's answer was simple: "Repent and be baptized" (Acts 2:38). Sometimes we may embellish our words too much, week after week, but the first church was bold, simple, practical and direct. There was power from God on display and, consequently, fear, mass conversions, and the presence and evident activity of the Holy Spirit as well.

What I find most beautiful in this passage, however, is the detail that the promise was not only for the leaders, the followers, or observers but also for the children! As always, Jesus likes to include the children. Even though disciples might want to exclude them many times, Jesus wants them to stay and be blessed, to repent and be baptized. I believe this is a very important and special promise for us who work with transformational education. May we not overlook it.

May God the Father, in Jesus Christ, enable us also to be as bold, full of power from His Holy Spirit. May we preach repentance simply so that many may receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and be saved and baptized, even the children. All of those whom He will sovereignly call, until the ends of the earth.

*Thomas Barker, National Prayer Leader
TeachBeyond, São Paulo, Brasil*

Get ready to move. 'Lord Jesus, what are ways I can remember Your presence with me throughout the day?'

SATURDAY 18 JANUARY



"Almighty God, who after the creation of the world rested from all your works and sanctified a day of rest for all your creatures: Grant that we, putting away all earthly anxieties, may be duly prepared for the service of your sanctuary, and that our rest here upon earth may be a preparation for the eternal rest promised to your people in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

A COLLECT FOR SABBATH REST, BCP 24

Pause for 2 minutes. How might God be inviting you to rest this coming sabbath?

Now read the story of God's work.

TWO QUESTIONS

During the Spring of 2024, God put inside me a profound desire to discover His will for my future. In other words, I was experiencing an intense desire in my inner person to hear the voice of God revealing to me what He wanted me to do in this stage of my life. Just as the apostle Paul asked the Lord two things: Who are you, Lord, and what do you want me to do? (Acts 9). I want to clarify that the first question is not coming from a doubtful or skeptical heart, but, on the contrary, what my soul desired to express was, "Lord I want to know you more." God's answer to the second question came to my life in a clear, convincing and revealing way. God said to me: "Proclaim the name of Christ in places where it has not been proclaimed before" (Romans 15:20-21). In other words, God was asking me to take transformational education to places where the good news of the gospel is not being communicated.

Cesar Valdez, National Director, Dominican Republic

Get ready to move. 'Father God, how do You want to use this story to move in me?' How is God using this story to move in you?

MONDAY 20 JANUARY



“Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen”

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY, BCP 124

Pause for 2 minutes. Quietly listen for God’s personal message to you. If no message comes, delight in His love for you and His knowledge of your heart.

Scripture

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. Pay attention to what stands out for you. Write it down.

What picture of Jesus comes to mind? Ponder this.

ATTRACTIVELY DIFFERENT: THE GOSPEL LIVED OUT TOGETHER

I read these verses and could hardly fathom or imagine the first days of the early church. Much of my western culture, which I seemingly idolize, is confronted in these verses – independence and freedom to name a couple. I look at the early church and am struck by their faith *and* challenged as to how this is to impact my followership. This goes much deeper than calligraphy wall art about gathering and breaking bread hung over a table.

These newly baptized, early adopters of the gospel lived a life on mission – to live *attractively different* to unbelievers. To the early church, attractively different meant loving one’s enemies, forgiving, taking care of others, and all this without regard for status, tribe or other human constructs. Revolutionary and counter-cultural for sure. And we see in verse 47, God used this to draw people to Him.

The word ‘devoted’ in verse 42 means *they gave of themselves* which resulted in worship, unity, charity, and fellowship. (The original Greek word ‘koinonia’ means to share.) In Tim Keller’s words – inwardly, they were devoted to radical unselfishness, spiritual communalism, and togetherness all as result of a life surrendered to God, the gospel, and dependent on prayer.*

This begs the question: How then should we live in 2025? The answer is the same – attractively different to the world. But how can I live that life? It requires sacrifice, courage, and likely a level of discomfort to be faithful. And it begins with prayerful devotion.

*<https://gospelinlife.com/sermon/the-first-church/>

Megan Randolph, Director, Global School Services, United Kingdom

Get ready to move. ‘Almighty God, what is your invitation to me today?’

TUESDAY 21 JANUARY



"O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

A COLLECT FOR PEACE, BCP 23

Pause for 2 minutes. Hold the word or phrase that stood out to you in the prayer. Listen for God's message.

Scripture

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

Acts 3:19-20a

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. Notice what stands out for you. Write it down.

What inspires you to know God better?

GOD'S ORDER

Have you ever been told to wait on God's *timing* for something to happen? I sometimes find myself frustrated with people throwing that around as an excuse to stop praying for a miracle. I've shifted my thinking to wanting to seek out God's *order* of events as I pray into what might be my next step: "God, I'm not seeing what I want immediately, but I know that I have autonomy to move and act in your name." In Acts 3, Peter and John heal a paralyzed man at the temple gate, and this reasonably excited guy "clings" to the apostles who then notice an opportunity to share the Gospel as witnesses marvel at the man walking. Because this, then that.

Peter starts sharing with the people around how the prophets spoke about the *recent* events before inviting them to engage with what God is doing *now* in advance of the plans God has *ahead*. Acts 3:19 invites listeners to repent. The grammar nerd in me gets excited that the sentence actually includes "therefore" and "so that" kinds of words that make us look before and after. Both ends are about Jesus. *Because* Jesus died and rose again, *repent in order to* experience the refreshing from His presence. There is so much going on in this sentence that spans three tight verses, and I'm struck by how important the order of events is. What has God asked you to do now to make space for what's next?

*Laura Hewett, TCK Care Team, EAO Regional
Member Care, Secoded New Zealand*

Get ready to move. 'Loving Lord, what are you inviting me to ponder and follow through on today?'

WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY



“O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

A PRAYER FOR QUIET CONFIDENCE, BCP 78

Pause for 2 minutes. Talk to God about your experience in the silence and quietness. Listen for His encouragement.

Scripture

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’ Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:8-13

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. What catches your attention? Write it down.

How can you integrate this truth into your prayers?

SO GOOD TO BE ORDINARY

“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were *unschooled, ordinary men*, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13).

If I am being honest, it is easy for me to want people to notice my education, my efforts, my good ideas, even my “sacrifices” for the ministry. I don’t often wake up hoping people will see me as “ordinary and unschooled.” But if people see me serving Jesus and think it is all because of my own human qualifications or efforts, I am not representing the true hope of the Gospel!

Spending time with Jesus transformed these men. When people saw their courage, they were not sure what made them different, other than that these men had been with Jesus.

I pray that I will spend enough time with Jesus that I, too, will be transformed and filled with a supernatural courage to step out boldly and love everyone in front of me. And then, I pray that I will have the supernatural courage and humility to share how it is all because of Jesus!

Jesus, help us to seek out time with You so that Your Spirit will work in our hearts. Thank You that You invite us, ordinary people, to join in what You are doing in the lives of others! Thank You for allowing us to be part of the miracles that You are doing in the world! May You give us courage, boldness, love, and words to share this hope with others!

Heidi Landes, Global Impact Fund Director, USA

Get ready to move. ‘God, my Father, what are You asking me to notice today about Your movement in my life or the lives of others?’

THURSDAY 23 JANUARY



*"Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen"*

A COLLECT FOR GUIDANCE, BCP 23

Pause for 2 minutes. What do you notice happening in you as a response to God?

Scripture

You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

*"Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the Lord
and against his anointed one."*

Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Acts 4:25-31

Read the scripture passage again slowly. What word or phrase lights up for you? Write it down.

What does this say to you about praying for others?

WHEN KINGS RISE UP

*The nations rage, and peoples plot in vain
with wars, injustice, evil and corruption,
while rulers set themselves against your Name
intent, defiant, seeking our destruction.*

*When scrolling through the news that fills our feeds
the headlines leave us numb with all that's wrong,
how governments conspire in words and deeds
to mute the truth, and so their power prolong.*

*And yet, O Lord, our prayer to you is just:
consider all their threats, and leave us not,
but with your Word and Spirit fill our minds
that we may speak with boldness. We entrust
both heart and voice to you as well we ought
to blazon forth your Name to all mankind.*

Becky Hunsberger

When you scroll through the news feeds on your phone are you discouraged by all the evil and corruption that abounds in your city? Your nation? This world? You are not alone. In our passage today, the disciples pointed to the conspiracy of nations and rulers that led ultimately to Jesus' crucifixion and their own persecution. And yet despite being faced with rulers hostile to the faith, their prayer was for boldness that they might be able to speak the truth of the Gospel and see God's kingdom come on earth as it was in heaven. May we, too, pray to be filled with God's Holy Spirit, power, and boldness that we may play our part in declaring the good news to all the earth.

*Becky Hunsberger, Coordinator for Regions: Teams & Transformation,
United Kingdom*

Get ready to move. 'Jesus, what can I do to move towards You in my heart posture today?'

FRIDAY 24 JANUARY



"Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. Amen"

A COLLECT FOR FAITH, BCP 50

Pause for 2 minutes. What do you hear God speaking to you? Receive His love.

Scripture

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Acts 4:32-35

Read the scripture passage again slowly. Ask God what He wants you to see. Write it down.

How does this direct you towards others?

PRAYER THAT UNIFIES HEARTS AND MINDS

On Monday, Oct. 9, 1989, about 70,000 people showed up at Saint Nicholas Church for a prayer meeting. This prayer meeting became a march which unified East and West Germany. In Acts 4:32-35 we see that the believers were "one in heart and mind," united in purpose and faith. This unity was not just in words but in action. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own; instead, they shared everything they had. This radical generosity was a direct reflection of God's grace among them, a testament to how the Holy Spirit transformed hearts and minds.

Such unity of heart and mind can happen only by prayer. In John 17:20-23, Jesus prayed for His disciples and the church to be united in the same manner as Father, Son and the Holy Spirit are united. In Psalm 133 David compared unity to oil and dew from higher ground flowing downwards. The point David was making is that unity comes from God. God designs unity and Jesus showed that, by prayer, unity of hearts and minds can be attained.

In Acts 4:31, believers prayed together which enabled them to be united in one heart and mind (v.32). This unity from God allowed grace to work by fostering a spirit of selflessness and love that broke down social and economic barriers, creating a community where no one was in need. Today, we are invited to let God's grace work in and through us, not just individually, but as a unified community, so that we reflect His kingdom on earth.

BA, Director of School, CAC

Get ready to move. 'Lord Jesus, what are ways I can remember Your presence with me throughout the day?'

SATURDAY 25 JANUARY



"Almighty God, who after the creation of the world rested from all your works and sanctified a day of rest for all your creatures: Grant that we, putting away all earthly anxieties, may be duly prepared for the service of your sanctuary, and that our rest here upon earth may be a preparation for the eternal rest promised to your people in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

A COLLECT FOR SABBATH REST, BCP 24

Pause for 2 minutes. How might God be inviting you to rest this coming sabbath?

Now read the story of God's work.

TRANSFORMED FROM THE INSIDE OUT

A few weeks before I moved to Albania, I had an immense amount of fear, excitement, and about 432 questions. I imagined myself in hundreds of positive and negative scenarios: Eating plain pasta alone in the dark on the 12th floor of an apartment building, sitting in a room full of Albanian women and sharing the gospel with them, crying over the hundreds of hours of grading I would have to do. And many more hypothetical scenarios. My eyes and heart were focused outwards to the people of Albania and my students when I arrived in August 2020. I wanted to save Albania, while God was most interested in saving me. I want to hold August 2020 Marlie in my arms and say "God is going to transform YOU!" During my time here, God has turned my eyes inward and led me through several seasons of intense emotional healing, restoration and growth. Through counseling, close community, prayer and the church, God has been breaking down walls that I didn't even know were up. Over the last five years here, I truly have gotten to meet so many amazing people and teach so many great kids AND God has broken down walls, replaced lies with truth and redeemed so much pain in my heart. God is leading me towards another season of healing, and I am ready to trust Him.

Marlie Austin, Teacher, Albania

Get ready to move. 'Father God, how do You want to use this story to move in me?' How is God using this story to move in you?

MONDAY 27 JANUARY



“Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen”

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY, BCP 124

Pause for 2 minutes. Quietly listen for God’s personal message to you. If no message comes, delight in His love for you and His knowledge of your heart.

Scripture

But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.” His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

Acts 5:34-42

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. Pay attention to what stands out for you. Write it down.

What picture of Jesus comes to mind? Ponder this.

THE UNLIKELY ADVOCATE

The Apostles had been arrested for preaching Jesus, released by God in the night, and then returned to teaching about Jesus in public places (Acts 5:17-21). They chose obedience to the Holy Spirit despite threats to their lives. They were brought before the Sanhedrin. Gamaliel, a respected leader, recounted Theudas and Judas whose followers dispersed after their deaths. Gamaliel recognized that if something is by man’s design it cannot last, but if it is by God’s design no opposition can stop it. The disciples walked away after a beating “rejoicing that they were counted worthy to be treated shamefully on behalf of the Name” (Acts 5:41b). They left with an even greater fervor to proclaim the good news of Jesus.

Have you ever had an advocate in an unlikely place? When my parents were serving on the field, our project with short term volunteers was derailed when the local immigration office came and collected about 20 U.S. volunteers. Our work had stopped as we sat in the immigration parking lot for two days because there wasn’t enough space for us inside. We prayed that God would be glorified even in the delay. My dad called the Police Commandant to petition for our release. We were set free within the hour, and we continued the project.

God’s work continues. When struggles arise, we are faced with a choice: Give up or rejoice that the enemy is trying to stop us because he knows he cannot stop God.

Becky Van Oss, TCK Care Specialist, USA

Get ready to move. ‘Almighty God, what is your invitation to me today?’

TUESDAY 28 JANUARY



"O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

A COLLECT FOR PEACE, BCP 23

Pause for 2 minutes. Hold the word or phrase that stood out to you in the prayer. Listen for God's message.

Scripture

But our ancestors refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt. When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 7: 39, 54-60

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. Notice what stands out for you. Write it down.

What inspires you to know God better?

STANDING UP WHEN BEING KNOCKED DOWN

We've all been there. It's uncomfortable and hard. And I'll be the first to admit there have been times in my life where I wasn't brave enough or I second guessed myself.

Standing up for what is right can be costly. It can put you or others in harm's way. It can take every ounce of courage you have. But I have found it is much harder not to hold on to a wrong someone has done to me. To let it go. To not hold it against them. Forgive. It's easier to have a grudge and hope those who have hurt me face a similar fate. Or want them to experience the same pain and humiliation I have.

Stephen's last words were a plea for the Lord not to charge those who were stoning him with a sin, even as he was dying. He kept his eyes fixed on Jesus, modeling Him who asked God to forgive those who hung Him on a cross. I am so grateful for these examples. I know that I most likely won't face death for stating my beliefs or trying to do the right thing. Remembering Stephen and his loving, forgiving heart helps me when I find myself in the difficult spot of letting go of hurts. Let's keep our eyes on Jesus, just as Stephen did.

Jessica Weaver, Regional Vice President, Europe, Czech Republic

Get ready to move. 'Loving Lord, what are you inviting me to ponder and follow through on today?'

WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY



"O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

A PRAYER FOR QUIET CONFIDENCE, BCP 78

Pause for 2 minutes. Talk to God about your experience in the silence and quietness. Listen for His encouragement.

Scripture

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

*"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.*

In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

Acts 8:30-35

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. What catches your attention? Write it down.

How can you integrate this truth into your prayers?

THE GOOD NEWS AS ABSOLUTE TRUTH AND TRUE LIFE THROUGH DEATH

The greatest need of the individual is to receive new meaning in his life. We live in a world full of reasons for sadness and anxiety, in a fluid reality with much abstraction and little personal connection. People often define their existence and identity without considering transcendence and life beyond materialism, consumerism and pragmatism, leading to existential despair.

The living Word of God in us, working through the Holy Spirit, leads everyone to real, incarnate and eternal life in the Son Himself. The great question today is no longer: "How can I understand if no one explains it to me?" We are in a time when people are often apathetic and disinterested. Our task as members of this mission is to explain Jesus by experiencing and communicating with the same enthusiasm and courage that Philip had.

We enter into the "carriages" of people's lives by becoming interested and giving of ourselves. Not only with words or gestures of empathy, but by allowing the Son to lead us to live a life that explains the Word of God.

Jesus, the Lamb, calls us to a life of self-giving and self-death, to live His sacrifice daily, to walk in His love and to manifest His presence in every word. Pray that God will give you many opportunities to explain the gospel through words and a life centered on Him.

Let us humble ourselves before the Father to manifest the love of God as never before. And this love has a name: JESUS.

Arthur Lupion, Associate Director for Latin America, Uruguay

Get ready to move. 'God, my Father, what are You asking me to notice today about Your movement in my life or the lives of others?'

THURSDAY 30 JANUARY



*"Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen"*

A COLLECT FOR GUIDANCE, BCP 23

Pause for 2 minutes. What do you notice happening in you as a response to God?

Scripture

When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

Acts 9:26-31

Read the scripture passage again slowly. What word or phrase lights up for you? Write it down.

What does this say to you about praying for others?

HOLY GROUND IS COMMON GROUND

The book of Revelation gives us our goals as believers: to see every nation, tribe, and tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, bowing down in worship before His throne, crying, "Holy, holy, holy" and "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain." Jesus died and rose again, victorious over sin and death so that this goal can be accomplished. He is more than enough. Yet, He uses men and women to expand His kingdom even though sometimes those men and women stand in His way. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God saved Paul, with no partiality, but the disciples found Paul hard to accept. Jesus made what was formerly unclean clean when He saved Paul on the road to Damascus, but the disciples had a hard time believing someone like Paul could be an adopted son of God. Thankfully, Barnabas vouched for and told Paul's story of redemption. He shows the disciples that God "set [their] feet on common ground and point[ed them] toward each other" (Sarah E. Westfall, *The Way of Belonging*). The disciples found a way to move closer to Paul by recognizing that what was true for them was true for Paul: they are a part of a people God is bringing to Himself from every nation, tribe, and tongue, who can now in part and will one day worship fully before the throne of God, united by common ground. The holy ground on which we can even now stand because God dwells in us and we are in God.

Lindsay Nimmon, TCK Care Coordinator, USA

Get ready to move. 'Jesus, what can I do to move towards You in my heart posture today?'

FRIDAY 31 JANUARY



"Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. Amen"

A COLLECT FOR FAITH, BCP 50

Pause for 2 minutes. What do you hear God speaking to you? Receive His love.

Scripture

When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark. Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Acts 12:25-13:3

Read the scripture passage again slowly. Ask God what He wants you to see. Write it down.

How does this direct you towards others?

IT'S ABOUT BEING

Perhaps you have been a part of a meeting as someone was sent out by a local church to serve? Perhaps you are the one who has been sent?

Yet this scene is not primarily about going, it's about being. The Antioch church was diverse, reflecting that cosmopolitan city. Barnabas, a Jew from Jerusalem, Simeon called Niger, most likely black, Lucius from North Africa, Manaen, with a Jewish name, but raised up as a foster brother or close friend in Herod's palace, and Saul the former pharisee. Can you see the potential for conflict and struggle in the worldviews each one could bring into church with them? What could possibly keep them together?

What bound them together was their being. Together they were being formed by Christ. Formed by worship, spiritual disciplines, and a deep desire to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. They were worshipping; gathered with expectation. They were listening; quiet and open. They were praying; as the Master had taught them. They were fasting. The NIV Application Commentary says that "Fasting gives evidence of an atmosphere of urgent desire in the church." The picture Luke paints for us of this gathered group is rich in depth, and yet, is not a scientific method for us to somehow invoke the Spirit and receive the desired outcome of sending or being sent. Their desire was to hear the Spirit and to respond to God's will from a place of unity, mutual submission, and worship.

Do you long to hear clearly what God has to say? Gather in diverse community. Bring your deepest desire, listen, pray, worship, know His Word. God, by His Spirit, is still speaking and sending.

Brian Delamont, Executive Vice President, Canada

Get ready to move. 'Lord Jesus, what are ways I can remember Your presence with me throughout the day?'

SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY



"Almighty God, who after the creation of the world rested from all your works and sanctified a day of rest for all your creatures: Grant that we, putting away all earthly anxieties, may be duly prepared for the service of your sanctuary, and that our rest here upon earth may be a preparation for the eternal rest promised to your people in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

A COLLECT FOR SABBATH REST, BCP 24

Pause for 2 minutes. How might God be inviting you to rest this coming sabbath?

Now read the story of God's work.

BECAUSE FAITH COMES FROM HIM AND IS FOR HIS GLORY

When I think about my life before Christ, I reflect on how today I believe in Jesus as my Savior, who rose and who reigns alongside the Father. Believing in His resurrection is not an easy thing; that faith comes from God Himself, from what He has done in our lives and how He has transformed our hearts. I remember in March 2021, God put it on my heart to pray for Him to show me how I could serve Him. I really wanted to give you a little of what I have received; in a few months I learned about TeachBeyond, I had an interview, and in July of that year I began my retirement from a prestigious university where I was an Associate Professor. On January 15, 2022, I stopped working there, and on the 17th of the same month, I began serving at TeachBeyond. God has His plans for Mexico, and I ask Him to guide me in the challenges of a nation that is moving further away from the gospel every day.

May the Lord give us the faith of David when he faced Goliath, to continue working where He has placed us, as well as the conviction that He is going with us, just as He was with the disciples on the way to Emmaus.

Angélica (Tita) Camacho, National Director TeachBeyond Mexico

Get ready to move. 'Father God, how do You want to use this story to move in me?' How is God using this story to move in you?

MONDAY 3 FEBRUARY



"Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen"

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY, BCP 124

Pause for 2 minutes. Quietly listen for God's personal message to you. If no message comes delight in His love for you and His knowledge of your heart.

Scripture

Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.

Acts 13:38-39

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. Pay attention to what stands out for you. Write it down.

What picture of Jesus comes to mind? Ponder this.

HOPE IS ALIVE

This section comes near the end of Paul's "exhortation for the people" (Acts 13:15). Paul begins by outlining the history of Israel, God's chosen people (13:17). Their history was not full of good deeds and faithfulness. Rather, Paul speaks about God's patience as He "endured their conduct in the wilderness" (13:18). Yet, God blessed and protected the nation (13:19) and set up rulers to govern, even establishing a line of kings (13:20-22). This ushered in the coming of their Saviour, the One whom God had promised centuries before (13:23). Paul exhorts the people, sharing the message of salvation. The freedom from sin that God had promised centuries before had been realized through Christ. The law was not dismissed or destroyed, but fulfilled through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. This salvation was given to all people (13:26), demonstrating the power of the Cross for the salvation of "everyone who believes" (13:39).

This passage of Scripture is an amazing reminder for us and for those we serve and love that hope is alive. At a time where many are looking for hope in things that will ultimately leave us feeling more confused, angry, distraught, or overwhelmed, we have a hope that lasts because of the One who went before us. The One who gives us that amazing gift of grace and mercy calls us to meet people in their brokenness and share this same hope that has healed and restored our own brokenness. This hope is available to them.

Travis Archer, Member Care Coach – Married Men, Canada

Get ready to move. 'Almighty God, what is your invitation to me today?'

TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY



“O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

A COLLECT FOR PEACE, BCP 23

Pause for 2 minutes. Hold the word or phrase that stood out to you in the prayer. Listen for God’s message.

Scripture

They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said. Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

Acts 14:21b-23

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. Notice what stands out for you. Write it down.

What inspires you to know God better?

LEADERSHIP THROUGH HARDSHIP

In Acts 14:21-23, Paul and Barnabas demonstrate what it means to lead through hardship. After facing persecution and threats, they revisit the same communities where they had encountered suffering. Yet their goal is not merely survival but strengthening the souls of the disciples and encouraging perseverance. Their leadership is marked by a willingness to confront challenges head-on, emphasizing that trials are a part of the journey into God’s kingdom.

True leadership doesn’t shy away from difficulty but embraces it as an opportunity to grow deeper in faith and guide others through it. Paul and Barnabas remind us that hardships are not a detour but a part of God’s path. They appoint elders in each church, ensuring that local leaders would continue guiding the believers after their departure. Their reliance on prayer and fasting shows a deep dependence on God amidst uncertainty.

As we face challenges in our own leadership roles, may we remember that hardships can strengthen our faith and deepen our reliance on God. Let us, like Paul and Barnabas, encourage others to persevere, knowing that through trials, we are drawn closer to God’s kingdom.

In sustaining your own soul, remember how Paul and Barnabas first strengthened the souls of the disciples before appointing leaders. How are you taking time to care for your own spiritual health, especially if you’re leading others? What practices can help you remain spiritually strong?

*Carrie Beth Rogers, Associate Regional Director of Europe,
Prague, Czech Republic*

Get ready to move. ‘Loving Lord, what are you inviting me to ponder and follow through on today?’



“O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

A PRAYER FOR QUIET CONFIDENCE, BCP 78

Pause for 2 minutes. Talk to God about your experience in the silence and quietness. Listen for His encouragement.

Scripture

God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

*“After this I will return
and rebuild David’s fallen tent.
Its ruins I will rebuild,
and I will restore it,
that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord,
even all the Gentiles who bear my name,
says the Lord, who does these things—
things known from long ago.*

Acts 15:8-11; 15-18 (Also read 2 Timothy 2:2)

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. What catches your attention? Write it down.

How can you integrate this truth into your prayers?

“God, who knows the heart, showed that He accepted them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us (Jews). He made *no distinction* between *us and them*, (Gentiles) for He purified their hearts by faith... We believe it is through the *grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved*, just as they are” (Acts 15:8-11).

These passages are part of the Jerusalem Council’s decision regarding Gentile believers and the Law of Moses. Peter’s statement emphasizes inclusion:

- God’s acceptance of Gentiles (non-Jews) by giving them the Holy Spirit highlights the inclusive nature of the Gospel and power of faith in Jesus Christ.
- *Equality* between Jewish and Gentile believers, as God purifies hearts through faith, not adherence to the Law.
- The unnecessary burden of the Law of Moses for salvation, emphasizing *grace* through Jesus Christ.
- *Unity and equality* among believers, regardless of background.

In Acts 15:15-18 we see James quoting Amos 9:11-12 confirming the *call* and *inclusiveness* of the Gentile believers into the family of God. It is important for us to see that James also acknowledges the grace given to Paul and Barnabas for their ministry to the Gentiles.

As Open Schools we realized that growth in the organization will only be by *including* our local partners in reaching their nations through Transformational Education and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. How? By *identifying their gracing and callings* (inclusive) and *equipping* them with the tools to *empower and impact* the lives of the many thousands of children in their countries.

Like the calling of Paul and Barnabas to the Gentiles was recognized by the Jewish Council, God helps each of us personally to *identify and include others* into the work of the ministry.

Am I inclusive in the ministry that the Lord has called me to?

*Mitchell Lawrence, Zimbabwe/Zambia/Malawi,
Open Schools Worldwide Director, Africa*

Get ready to move. ‘God, my Father, what are You asking me to notice today about Your movement in my life, or the lives of others?’

THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY



"Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

A COLLECT FOR GUIDANCE, BCP 23

Pause for 2 minutes. What do you notice happening in you as a response to God?

Scripture

Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Acts 15:36-41

Read the scripture passage again slowly. What word or phrase lights up for you? Write it down.

What does this say to you about praying for others?

DISAGREEMENT AND GOD'S GREATER PLAN

My husband and I were excited to watch the second season of *The Chosen*. Jesus had called His disciples and started His ministry. Internal dissension among the disciples about the details, however, made me anxious. The conflicts resonated with me deeply because I've lived them.

When I read about Paul and Barnabas's disagreement over whether to take John Mark on their return trip, I can imagine the possible untold details: maybe there were leadership meetings and prayer meetings to discern what was best. Perhaps hours of discussion and prayer left hard feelings with the congregation taking sides.

Yet Luke doesn't focus on the drama; he presents it briefly and notes that both Paul and Barnabas selected another ministry partner. We learn more about Paul and his journey after this separation, but, as John Piper¹ notes, one result of this division was multiplication: two ministry journeys occurred instead of one. More people were invited into and participated in the ministry.

I don't understand all the whys behind the conflicts I've experienced. Yet I am trusting that God can still use those of us who have been in or observed "sharp disagreement," even when it's been painful. Ministry can continue in new paths as God works through the lives of those who serve Him.

¹ For an interesting read on the leadership of Barnabas, check out John Piper's article on desiringgod.org: "Barnabas: The Weakness of a Great Leader" (19 July 1987).

EA, University Faculty Member, Creative Access Country

Get ready to move. 'Jesus, what can I do to move towards You in my heart posture today?'

FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY



"Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. Amen"

A COLLECT FOR FAITH, BCP 50

Pause for 2 minutes. What do you hear God speaking to you? Receive His love.

Scripture

Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Acts 16:6-10

Read the scripture passage again slowly. Ask God what He wants you to see. Write it down.

How does this direct you towards others?

WHEN LOCATION CHANGES

The hard place to be is between doors!

Have you ever found yourself in such a situation? The corridor of waiting can sometimes be very dark and lonely. It is a solitary place, a place of shifting one's eyes from the people and looking only to God the Author and the Finisher of our faith for direction to the next door He intends to open for you.

In Acts 16:6-10, Paul, after having a successful mission in some parts of Asia Minor, considers the next places in his itinerary: Phrygia, Galatia, Mysia, and Troas, but the door was closed on him. Three times the Holy Spirit forbade him from preaching in these regions, which he thought were ripe for the Gospel. Don't we all have well-laid-out plans and strategies of where and what we should do? I have personally encountered a closed door and rerouted to another destination, not once, but several times. An important lesson we learn from Paul is his *ability to hear God and obey*. This can only be so if one has a close fellowship with the Holy Spirit to be able to distinguish His voice from many voices that deafen our hearing.

God knows what we don't know! Paul's mission work to Macedonia marked the first entry of the gospel to Europe which was ripe and ready for the Gospel. Even though Paul and his companion faced persecution there, they did not despair. They knew they were in the right place.

The success of our mission work depends on our ability to hear God, and follow His lead!

*Rosemary Openda, Team Lead, Bucharest
Christian Academy, Romania*

Get ready to move. 'Lord Jesus, what are ways I can remember Your presence with me throughout the day?'

SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY



“Almighty God, who after the creation of the world rested from all your works and sanctified a day of rest for all your creatures: Grant that we, putting away all earthly anxieties, may be duly prepared for the service of your sanctuary, and that our rest here upon earth may be a preparation for the eternal rest promised to your people in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

A COLLECT FOR SABBATH REST, BCP 24

Pause for 2 minutes. How might God be inviting you to rest this coming sabbath?

Now read the story of God’s work.

LETTING GO AND TRUSTING GOD

One year ago, I wrote these words in prayer: “Now comes the question I am terrified to ask—do I let go of what You have called me to? Do I step away? I’m so scared. Just as Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac, I need to hold this ministry and calling with the same open hands. And honestly, I don’t want to face the answer.”

Change was on the horizon. My body and mind were in a state of weary desperation. My work was so consuming that I missed the Lord’s gentle whispers urging me to make a change. I missed His quiet reminder, “I am enough.” Eventually, His voice had to grow louder to break through.

One night, while pouring out my heart to the Lord, I finally surrendered—and grieved. But obedience didn’t mean God was finished with me. In fact, He was renewing my vision, revealing a clearer purpose. He called me to focus on the community in front of me, to love the students He placed in my path wholeheartedly. Letting go of one role meant more time and space for what was here.

Six months after that surrender, I came before the Lord again, offering this new calling back to Him. Instead of taking it away, He brought to mind each of my students—Ryan, Chloe, Elizabeth, Ford*—and gave me a clear vision for the work He has for me now.

*names changed

Sarah Trussell, Director of Tiny Seeds Preschool, Oregon, USA

Get ready to move. ‘Father God, how do You want to use this story to move in me?’ How is God using this story to move in you?

MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY



*"Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of
our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen"*

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY, BCP 124

Pause for 2 minutes. Quietly listen for God's personal message to you. If no message comes delight in His love for you and His knowledge of your heart.

Scripture

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household. When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: "Release those men."

Acts 16:25-35

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. Pay attention to what stands out for you. Write it down.

What picture of Jesus comes to mind? Ponder this.

FROM 10 TO 6,000

How would I respond in their situation? In the darkest of times, worshipping the Lord and then remaining when the escape route was clear? I find this passage challenging because I honestly don't know the answer... I would hope that I would do as Paul and Silas did, which was worship the Lord and then feel convicted to stay.

A few weeks ago, I had the honour of meeting a retired Scottish man from my wife's organization, who had lived in this country for 26 years. As always, I offered to show him the project I led, and he gratefully accepted. What I didn't expect was the reception that greeted him as we walked around the building from my local staff. When they immediately heard he was in the building, they all arrived at my door, eager to meet him, shake his hand and express their gratitude to him. I was stunned. From listening to their conversations, this humble, quiet gentleman had been part of a team who had brought the Bible to this country. Later, he told me that he had been jailed twice for distributing and sharing bibles with the locals. The tales he told of his time in jail and the treatment he received stunned me.

From listening to him, it was clear that he had chosen to continue to praise the Lord in the darkest of times, and more inspirationally, he had chosen to stay in the country afterwards even after the treatment he had received. Sixty years ago, there were no more than 10 evangelical local Christians in this country. Thanks to people like him, who were faithful to the Lord in the darkest of times, there are now more than 6,000.

Do I worship the Lord in the hard times, as well as the good? Would I choose to stay if the Lord requested it?

WB, Head of School, Creative Access Country

Get ready to move. 'Almighty God, what is your invitation to me today?'

TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY



“O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

A COLLECT FOR PEACE, BCP 23

Pause for 2 minutes. Hold the word or phrase that stood out to you in the prayer. Listen for God’s message.

Scripture

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

Acts 17:11-12

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. Notice what stands out for you. Write it down.

What inspires you to know God better?

A TRUTH WORTH PURSUING

Open, diligent, guiding are words that come to mind as we are shown the Bereans’ response to the gospel message. The Bereans were marked by a readiness and willingness to engage critically. Despite Paul’s known reputation, they didn’t simply take his words at face value. Instead, they committed themselves to searching the Scriptures daily, displaying a leading dedication to discovering the truth – and that they did.

It strikes me that their approach wasn’t casual or superficial, but rather thorough and ongoing. They didn’t merely “check in” with the Scriptures once or react to the style of preaching with a search for surface motive. Rather, their daily searching was a disciplined practice, rooted in a belief that truth is *worth pursuing*. What power in sincere pursuit, with both a clear head and an open heart.

I’m left encouraged and ready to reflect on my own prayer life and approach to Scripture. Am I seeking God’s truth with such intensity? Am I allowing my heart to remain open, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide my understanding?

God, help me engage with Your Word as a vital and continual practice that shapes my faith and understanding. Thank you for this reminder to seek truth with diligence. Thank you for your living Word—for You, the I Am, the embodiment of truth itself.

*Katie MacDonald, Latin American Region, Associate Director,
Member Support, Mentor Teacher at Arbor
Christian Academy, Dominican Republic*

Get ready to move. ‘Loving Lord, what are you inviting me to ponder and follow through on today?’

WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY



“O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

A PRAYER FOR QUIET CONFIDENCE, BCP 78

Pause for 2 minutes. Talk to God about your experience in the silence and quietness. Listen for His encouragement.

Scripture

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.

Acts 17:16-17

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. What catches your attention? Write it down.

How can you integrate this truth into your prayers?

KILLING TIME

Killing time: to do something that keeps you busy while you are waiting for something else to happen.

Ever find yourself with the unintended challenge of killing time? Paul did, waiting in Athens for Silas and Timothy to catch up, Paul was sent off (for his own safety) by the brethren.

What to do when killing time? I suspect Paul's *attitude* at the start was "Phew!" After all, he'd just come off some impactful teaching in Thessalonica and Berea that converted many but also stirred up serious opposition. Here was a chance for Paul to breathe a bit. He wandered about the city, studied the cultural artifacts on display, and enjoyed himself. But not for long.

Paul looked and began to really see. The sights, the people and, most probably, the Spirit troubled him. This notable city was lost. So, Paul engaged.

Paul was ready to give a reason for the hope that was in him (1Peter 3:15) and that reason, is Jesus.

Pray for time killing moments to take a breath, to appreciate a little rest. Pray also for the eyes to look and really see those around you – even to the point of spirit provocation. Pray for the opportunity to engage, to reason, to offer the hope of Jesus. Finally pray for the Spirit to bring fruit from the encounter in His time and in His power. Then, when time's up and life's schedule resumes, you will have been refreshed by this unexpected but ordained moment in time.

Russ Kraines, Associate Regional Director for Informal Education/West Asia, USA

Get ready to move. 'God, my Father, what are You asking me to notice today about Your movement in my life, or the lives of others?'

THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY



*"Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen"*

A COLLECT FOR GUIDANCE, BCP 23

Pause for 2 minutes. What do you notice happening in you as a response to God?

Scripture

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

Acts 17:22-31

Read the scripture passage again slowly. What word or phrase lights up for you? Write it down.

What does this say to you about praying for others?

GOD PLACED YOU WHERE HE HAS FOR A REASON

God made all the nations (v. 26). The fact that we have different nations is actually part of God's plan. He loves the diversity of ethnicities, cultures, and languages. *Talk to God about how you can more deeply embrace the differences of others.*

God is sovereign over where we live (v. 26). That is true for us living in our own nation and us who have moved to another nation – and it is also true for everyone else living around each of us. *Talk to God about this place He has determined for you to live and about who else He has placed there.*

God has a purpose for us in the place He has put us (v. 27): "...so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us." The reason God has us living where He does is all about our relationship with Him, that we – and each person around us – would seek Him and find Him. *Talk to God about how this place you live in deepens your relationship with Him, and how He would use you for those around you to also know and enjoy Him forever.*

As followers of Christ, we join God in His redemptive plan for all nations, called to share the Good News of Jesus, the one God raised from the dead to make it possible for us to be able to seek and find Him (v. 31).

Chrischona Sodji, National Coordinator, Togo

Get ready to move. 'Jesus, what can I do to move towards You in my heart posture today?'

FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY



"Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. Amen"

A COLLECT FOR FAITH, BCP 50

Pause for 2 minutes. What do you hear God speaking to you? Receive His love.

Scripture

One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city." So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

Acts 18:9-11

Read the scripture passage again slowly. Ask God what He wants you to see. Write it down.

How does this direct you towards others?

BOLDLY PROCLAIMING HIS NAME

In Acts 18:9-11, we see a profound moment where God reassures Paul amidst uncertainty in his ministry. The Lord tells him, "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent." This encouragement resonates deeply, reminding us that our fears can often overshadow our calling. Paul's commitment to remain in Corinth for a year and a half, preaching the Word, illustrates the power of divine support in our mission. Reflecting on this passage, we are reminded of the importance of listening to God's voice in our own lives. Just as Paul received a direct message, we too must cultivate a heart that is attuned to His guidance.

God's promise of protection and presence is not just for Paul; it extends to each of us. In our daily lives, whether in our ministry, workplaces, communities, or families, we are called to be bold witnesses of His love and truth. As we continue on our journey of prayer, let us ask ourselves: What fears are holding us back from sharing His message? How can we create spaces for others to hear His truth? May we seek God's strength to speak out, knowing that He has a purpose for us in every situation. Just as He affirmed Paul, He affirms us today, inviting us to step forward in faith and share His name with all nations.

Lauren Duarte, Advisor and Financial Analyst | GTEC Gramado and Gramado Theological Seminary, Brasil

Get ready to move. 'Lord Jesus, what are ways I can remember Your presence with me throughout the day?'

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY



"Almighty God, who after the creation of the world rested from all your works and sanctified a day of rest for all your creatures: Grant that we, putting away all earthly anxieties, may be duly prepared for the service of your sanctuary, and that our rest here upon earth may be a preparation for the eternal rest promised to your people in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

A COLLECT FOR SABBATH REST, BCP 24

Pause for 2 minutes. How might God be inviting you to rest this coming sabbath?

Now read the story of God's work.

THEY HAD BEEN WITH JESUS

Read Acts 4:8-13.

This felt like a very unusual verse of scripture for me to be led to and use for this type of devotional. But as I have been praying, the Lord has continued to affirm the passage as the one I am meant to share.

Recently our school and community experienced the loss of one of our 17-year-old high school students. His sudden death forced all of us to take a deeper look into his life and how he lived. Yes, his being killed in an accident seems so tragic and much too soon for his family and for all of us. But then we were able to see the boldness with which he lived. This young man had not been to seminary and yet he was able to preach with a conviction that would inspire so many of his classmates, athletes from other schools, and countless others as his high school chapel message from last year has now been shared and viewed globally on social media. His message was simple. You should no longer live your life in such a way that does not move you into a deeper relationship

with God. He mentions living intentionally. He employs his classmates to reach out to others and show love and kindness. He warns them of a life separated from God and that the consequences of living without Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior would end with eternity in hell. He excitedly tells his classmates how sweet it is to be so in love with God that you would not want to be anywhere else but in His presence.

On this young man's last day, he organized a worship night, he served in the community by helping flood victims clean up, he laughed and joked with his grandfather, and he told his mother he loved her and that he wanted to get breakfast with her the next day. But God had other plans and the Lord took him home to be with him that night in an accident.

In the above passages, I can see so many connections. This young man spoke with boldness. He proclaimed there is no other name under heaven than the name of Jesus. This next part is so important, "they (we) recognized he had been with Jesus." Our tears and grief are real, but our joy is also complete in knowing that this young man was now having breakfast with Jesus just like he wrote about in his last English essay. We are going to miss this young man but we know that he lived his life with intentionality and joy in being in the presence of Jesus. Christ is our cornerstone.

May this be a touching inspiration for all of us to be reminded that we do not know the days of life we may have on this earth, but that we should live our lives in such a way that others would be astonished at our boldness to live for God and to share Christ.

Stephen Anderson, Superintendent. Grace International School, Thailand.

Get ready to move. 'Father God, how do You want to use this story to move in me?' How is God using this story to move in you?

MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY



“Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen”

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY, BCP 124

Pause for 2 minutes. Quietly listen for God’s personal message to you. If no message comes delight in His love for you and His knowledge of your heart.

Scripture

“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.

Acts 20:22-24

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. Pay attention to what stands out for you. Write it down.

What picture of Jesus comes to mind? Ponder this.

OUR ONLY AIM

Paul does not know what lies ahead of him. There is in him a strong sense of uncertainty. The Holy Spirit often testifies saying that imprisonment and persecution await him. These realities notwithstanding, the apostle is set to go to Jerusalem. Paul declares that he does not count his life dear to himself, compared to his God and how he wants to serve Him. The race he is to finish is testifying the good news of God’s grace, which, to the apostle, is worth dying for. He will not let the uncertainty, the dangerous road ahead, or the possibility of losing his very life, as daunting as they are, keep him from finishing the race and finishing it with joy.

Like the apostle, our only aim is to testify the good news of God’s grace to the very end of our lives and to attain this aim with joy. Nothing could be more noble than this singular aim. It is completion with quality, with a sense of celebration. We need *focus* to testify the good news of God’s grace, *obedience* to follow through what the Holy Spirit reveals, *commitment* to testify to the end, *endurance* to remain on the race amidst dangers, threats, and difficulties, and *resolve* to let nothing stop us from pursuing this singular aim. We need to realize that the eternal destinies of many depend on how we fulfill this our only aim.

Emmanuel Mbennah, National Director, Tanzania

Get ready to move. ‘Almighty God, what is your invitation to me today?’

TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY



“O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

A COLLECT FOR PEACE, BCP 23

Pause for 2 minutes. Hold the word or phrase that stood out to you in the prayer. Listen for God’s message.

Scripture

*Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.
In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’
They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him.*

Acts 20:28, 35, 37

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. Notice what stands out for you. Write it down.

What inspires you to know God better?

BEING A SHEPHERD

A shepherd is a person who leads, oversees, guards, and protects a flock by providing it with the necessary care. In the Old Testament, the term shepherd did not only refer to people who tended sheep, but also to monarchical rulers (2 Samuel 5:2) and even to God Himself. And when David says, “The Lord is my shepherd,” he emphasizes that He is our closest companion. Anyone to whom God has given any responsibility is considered a shepherd.

In this passage, God warns us as a shepherd in relation to the flock that He has given us to feed; this flock is too dear to Him because the blood of His dear Son was shed for its redemption.

Certainly, in this flock there are not only healthy sheep, but there are also the weak and infirm. God wants us to care for them, to support them, to love them and to be able to sacrifice ourselves for them. If they are in danger, follow the example of Christ, who gave Himself and self-sacrificed for us.

While having joy and comfort because Christ gave Himself for us, we also have the obligation, not only to give, but also to give sacrificially as shepherds— for there is more joy in giving than in receiving.

*Winnie Mukena, Teacher, Fateb Academy & Sparrow Project Facilitator,
Democratic Republic of Congo*

Get ready to move. ‘Loving Lord, what are you inviting me to ponder and follow through on today?’



WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY

"O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

A PRAYER FOR QUIET CONFIDENCE, BCP 78

Pause for 2 minutes. Talk to God about your experience in the silence and quietness. Listen for His encouragement.

Scripture

They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus. Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: "The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your ancestors when he said through Isaiah the prophet:

*"Go to this people and say,
"You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving."
For this people's heart has become calloused;
they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts
and turn, and I would heal them.*

Acts 28:23-27

Now read the scripture passage again slowly. What catches your attention? Write it down.

How can you integrate this truth into your prayers?

FAITH WILL MAKE YOU WELL

Paul's conversion and his life as a missionary were challenging and tumultuous, but his testimony gave him the unique perspective needed to fulfill God's purpose for his life. As Saul, a skeptic who resisted Christianity, he understood the mindset of nonbelievers. He grasped the complexities of religious beliefs intertwined with history, culture, and government, and how these factors could influence a person's faith. He also understood the difficulties of challenging deeply ingrained ideologies. Conversely, he knew that Christianity requires a faith that begins in the hearts of each person before it can impact societies.

Today, maybe you are facing similar challenges in your communities where cultural complexities have hardened hearts. In Acts 28:23-27, we read of Paul's teaching in Rome, a society resistant to the message of Christ. Perhaps you are leading in communities where people have closed their ears and hardened their hearts to the gospel. Isaiah 6:9-10 foretold such times, when people will not want to turn to God and be healed of their sin.

The cure for this spiritual sickness is faith. As Paul reminds us in Romans 10:17, "faith comes from hearing the message of Christ." Your work in sharing Christ in your communities plays a critical role in opening eyes and ears to the truth. Despite the resistance you may face, do not grow weary. Like Paul, who endured great hardships but never stopped sharing the truth of Jesus, it is through your labor that others will hear the news and be healed.

JT, Team Lead, Creative Access Country

Get ready to move. 'God, my Father, what are You asking me to notice today about Your movement in my life, or the lives of others?'

THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY



*“Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen”*

A COLLECT FOR GUIDANCE, BCP 23

Pause for 2 minutes. What do you notice happening in you as a response to God?

Scripture

For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

Acts 28:30-31

Read the scripture passage again slowly. What word or phrase lights up for you? Write it down.

What does this say to you about praying for others?

GOD’S ENDURING MISSION

After many years of strenuous travel and tireless ministry, Paul found himself forced to be still. With astonishing flexibility and without a record of complaint or discouragement, he responded with four grand epistles to the Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon. He also welcomed all who came to visit and, given his and Rome’s prominence, visitors likely came from every corner of the empire. History tells us he had one more remarkable missionary trip before his death a few short years later back in Rome. No matter where he was—in prison, homebound, or shipwrecked—he welcomed all with open arms, speaking and writing with boldness, confidence, and courage.

Paul’s absolute certainty of a God-given commission to proclaim the Gospel to the those who did not know Him (literally, Gentiles), left him unrelenting in his missionary endeavor. Luke concludes Acts with a kind of ellipsis (...); in fact, it is not an ending at all, or better, it is the perfect “finish” of a story which is still being written. It is also a great reminder that God will bring us to new chapters of ministry, expanding and contracting in ways that we could never have anticipated and often cannot understand.

Perhaps we tend to want to stay in these moments, “Why did God allow this to happen?” Reflection is, of course, critical to growing in our faith. However, Paul’s final push reminds us that seasons of ministry are a part of being a follower of Jesus. Starting, growing, maintaining, contracting, and stopping should not give us circumstantially based “highs” and “lows.” The book of Acts reminds us that the vicissitudes of ministry – the mysterious twists and turns we see in our service – are not meaningless but new realities that our good and loving Father creates or permits to make His amazing plan of salvation known to the ends of the earth.

David Durance, TeachBeyond President, USA

Get ready to move. ‘Jesus, what can I do to move towards You in my heart posture today?’