

This guide is an opportunity for us to join together in prayer, believing what God's Word says about the power and necessity of prayer. The Lord has established that He acts in response to our prayers as we pray in accordance with His will. As we focus our prayers together in specific ways, we believe we will see God move in power within and around us.

The prayer points focus us toward areas which Scripture instructs us to pray: for our pastors and each other, for ministries, missionaries, and government leaders, for persecuted believers, the lost, and Christ's return. We are also to cry out to the Lord with personal concerns and for our own growth; the Scripture for "Salem & Self" contributes to this.

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"The place and power of prayer in the Christian life is too little understood. As long as we view prayer simply as the means of maintaining our own Christian lives, we will not fully understand what it is really supposed to be. But when we learn to regard it as the highest part of the work entrusted to us—the root and strength of all other work—we will see that there is nothing we need to study and practice more than the art of praying."

Andrew Murray, *With Christ in the School of Prayer*

You are welcome to join Pastor David and others to pray in his office on Sunday mornings at 9:05 am

### Monday, December 1

- Pastor David: Wisdom and strength – Colossians 1:28-29
- Salem & Self: Matthew 5:14-16
- This is a week of prayer for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering, providing funds directly to missionaries around the world. Pray for God to move within the hearts of our church and others to stir cheerful, extravagant generosity out of a fervent desire to see the name of Jesus praised in salvation among the nations.
- Hun and Eunjoo Sol, IMB missionaries in Seoul, South Korea: In a country of high suicide and depression rates, God is using the Sols and their team to minister in specific ways that bring emotional and spiritual healing. Pray for their missionary team to grow and that God will fulfill their vision to plant 48 churches, reaching every university campus in Seoul by 2028. Pray for Eunjoo's healing from a medical condition that affects her vocal cords, and that God will sustain her on days when speaking and leading is difficult.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.



### Tuesday, December 2

- Pastor David: Delight in God's Word – Jeremiah 15:16
- Salem & Self: Psalm 36:9
- Pray for our deacons, that the Lord will help them encourage and minister to the families in their care as the families go through medical issues, loss of loved ones, and difficulties.
- Katee Sheppard, IMB missionary in West Africa: Katee has spent decades among the lost of West Africa and is training believers to share the gospel in effective ways. Five believers in one church have now stepped into leadership roles. Pray for the members of this team as they train others to share, that new Christians will grow in their faith and be disciplined, and that more will come to this region to be part of this life-transforming work.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.



### Wednesday, December 3

- Pastor David: Sure foundation – Isaiah 33:6
- Salem & Self: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13
- Pray for our executive and worship pastor John Kennedy, his wife Candace, and their family.
- Landon and Megan Williams, IMB missionaries in Chile: Landon and Megan train and mobilize churches in Santiago, leading believers to fulfill the great commission to the nations. Pray that churches in this city and beyond would develop a vision to reach remote areas with the gospel. Pray with the Williams particularly for those living on 40 remote islands in southern Chile with little gospel knowledge or access, and for a small church on one of those islands, that God would send a pastor to faithfully lead them.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.



### Thursday, December 4

- Pastor David: Guidance – Isaiah 58:11
- Salem & Self: Philippians 2:3

- Pray for peace and excitement as the children and volunteers present their Christmas play tomorrow evening, and for a fresh sense of joy and wonder in all who attend. Pray for God's saving work in any who don't know Him.
- Nawid and Freshta Aziz, IMB missionaries in Western Europe: Nawid and Freshta minister to Central Asian refugees. Fluent in their language, they share with them that there is a light no darkness can overcome. Many have come to faith in refugee camps, and the Aziz's disciple these believers and teach foundational theology. Pray that God will give wisdom as they minister, and that these men and women will find healing and hope in Christ.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

#### Friday, December 5

- Amanda Trump: Trust – Psalm 125:1-2
- Salem & Self: 2 Peter 1:3-4



- PLOW 127, supported mission work in Uganda: Pray for God to provide food storage for the upcoming famine and that many families will see the love of our Lord as He meets their needs and come to know Him as Savior. "The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season" (Psalm 145:16, ESV).



- Carlton and Cornelia Walker, IMB missionaries: Serving in Japan for 40+ years, the Walkers have seen many come to Jesus, planted a church, and trained pastors who now serve all over Japan. They now mentor a new team of missionaries, excited that God has opened doors for new families and singles to enter into His work. Praise God for His faithfulness over their years of ministry. Pray that He will send more workers into the fields of Japan and will give Japanese churches a strong desire to spread the gospel.

- Pray for the people of our nation to return to the Lord and that He will bring renewal and salvation.

#### Saturday, December 6

- Pastor David: Rest – Exodus 33:14
- Salem & Self: 2 Peter 1:5-8
- Pray for the Surry Baptist Association Christmas Choir program at Salem tomorrow evening, that God will be glorified and the Holy Spirit will move in the heart of each person there to see Jesus more clearly than ever. Pray that this will strengthen the unity of believers in fellowship and working together for the gospel.



- Nick and Amber Sroka, IMB missionaries in Brazil: Many indigenous families are rejected by their tribe for refusing to kill children born with deficiencies or diseases. The Srokas work with other missionaries in Brazil to identify and support these families and others whose children need medical help that isn't available where they live. Pray for God to fill the Srokas with love, compassion, and wisdom as they share the gospel, and ask that He send more long-term workers and volunteers to partner in the work.

- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

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#### Sunday, December 7

- Pastor David: Faithful witness – Isaiah 43:10-11
- Salem & Self: Psalm 48:9-10
- Pray for wise stewardship during this season when there are many opportunities for giving. Pray for the Lord to give discernment and to stir cheerful generosity in your heart and the hearts of His people.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

#### Monday, December 8

- Pastor David: Fearlessness – Isaiah 43:1-2
- Salem & Self: Psalm 18:28
- Pray for the families of our deacons, that God will encourage, protect, and provide.
- Pray for those in the Presidential Cabinet, for wisdom, humility, courage, and a servant-heart.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

#### Tuesday, December 9

- Pastor David: Equipping to do God's will – Hebrews 13:20-21
- Salem & Self: Psalm 116:16-17
- Pray for our children's ministry director Melissa Jarrard, her husband Brian, and their family.



- Asa & Vanessa Watson, IMB missionaries in Germany: Asa's background as a former NFL player and his involvement as a trainer in a local boxing gym has opened doors for monthly worship services in the gym for the house church network they're a part of. The gym setting attracts around 60 attendees, including people who might not feel comfortable in a traditional house church. Pray for the Watson family as they build relationships in their community and open their home to share the gospel and disciple believers.

Know that your personal requests are also important to God, because you are important to Him.

*"casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you."*  
1 Peter 5:7, ESV

- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

### **Wednesday, December 10**

- Pastor David: Servant-heart – Matthew 20:28
- Salem & Self: Psalm 118:14-15
- Pray for our guest service teams, that they would be encouraged in their faithfulness to serve, and would know the value of their work in the body of Christ.
- NC Baptists prayer focus for December: North Carolina is home to numerous South Asian communities, presenting churches an opportunity to bring these people groups the hope of the gospel. Many practice Islam, Hinduism, and Sikhism. Pray for N.C. Baptist churches to develop church-planting strategies to reach these communities, and that South Asians living in North Carolina will have ample opportunities to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

### **Thursday, December 11**

- Pastor David: Trust – Jeremiah 17:7-8
- Salem & Self: Psalm 118:21-22
- Pray for those leaving on the mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Pray for God's protection and wisdom, and that He will fill them with His peace and His heart for those they will meet.
- Praise God for 73,000 people who came to hear Franklin Graham in Buenos Aires last month, where over 8,400 responded for salvation! In October, almost 9,000 came to hear Will Graham in Estonia, and 575 placed their faith in Christ in a country where only 5% of the population is Christian. Thank God for this outpouring of His Spirit, and pray that each becomes part of a faithful church to grow in their walk with Him.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

### **Friday, December 12**

- Amanda Trump: Strength – Psalm 138:3
- Salem & Self: Psalm 18:31-34
- Greg and Anne Parker, supported missionaries in Brazil: This fall, the Parkers hosted 40 leaders and missionaries from various river villages, who learned to prepare expositional sermons and better organize and lead churches. Pray for the leaders' continued strengthening and equipping by the Lord and that the Holy Spirit will give insight as they make disciples in these villages. Pray for Greg, Anne, Jake, and Hailey, that they would not grow weary of doing good, trusting the Lord that they will reap in due season.
- Pray for local Christians and churches hosting Operation Christmas Child shoebox distribution in their countries, that they will develop relationships and continue to reach out to children and families. Pray for many to receive the gospel as it is shared at these events and also participate in the follow-up discipleship program to grow in Christ.
- Pray for the people of our nation to return to the Lord and that He will bring renewal and salvation.



### **Saturday, December 13**

- Pastor David: Prayer – Colossians 4:2
- Salem & Self: Psalm 71:14-15
- Pray for our team serving in the Dominican Republic, that the Holy Spirit will provide opportunities for gospel conversations and will guide their words. Pray for many seeds to be sown, and for continued ministry in this region.
- Persecuted believers in Egypt: While the Egyptian president speaks positively about Christians and attempts to promote unity, local authorities often fail to protect Christians from attacks. Building new churches is difficult in certain areas as Christians face hostility and violence. Church leaders experience harassment and danger. Pray that those who follow Jesus out of Islam will be kept safe and find fellowship. Pray for God's encouragement and peace, and that believers' legal rights will be upheld. "Faith in Jesus filled my heart with joy, peace, and hope. Jesus gave me the strength that I desperately needed, and I found hope again" (Sarah\*, a convert from Islam).
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

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### **Sunday, December 14**

- Pastor David: Opportunity and clarity – Colossians 4:3-4
- Salem & Self: Psalm 84:4-5
- Ask God for a fresh outpouring of His truth and for attentiveness in how He wants to grow your faith in this season.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

### **Monday, December 15**

- Pastor David: Confidence – Psalm 121:7-8
- Salem & Self: Psalm 84:10-12

- Pray for our adult Bible study leaders, that they would each correctly handle the word of truth, with wisdom and delight in the Lord. Ask that those in the classes would be receptive to the Spirit's leading in their lives.
- Pray for our local judges and district attorneys, that their actions and decisions would reflect wise discernment and integrity, and that the Lord would work justice through them.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

#### **Tuesday, December 16**

- Pastor David: To please God – Galatians 1:10
- Salem & Self: Philippians 2:12-13
- Pray for God's protection on the team as they come back from the Dominican Republic. Pray that the Holy Spirit's work would continue and bear much fruit in the lives of those they encountered, and that He would also bear much fruit in the team's lives as they return.
- Morgan Walker, IMB missionary in Central Asia: Morgan is a part of Project 3000, an initiative to engage the over 3,000 people groups who remain unreached by the gospel, most of whom live in remote, hard-to-access places. Following God's call on her life to step out and trust Him in this challenging role, she explores regions in Central Asia to learn about these people groups and help missionaries reach the lost. Pray for her continued strength and confidence as she engages the lost, and for God to protect and guide her steps as she follows Him.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

#### **Wednesday, December 17**

- Pastor David: Presence – Psalm 73:23-24
- Salem & Self: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
- Pray for the volunteers in our children's ministry activities, that God would continue to stir in them joy and strength as they serve in these roles. Pray that each child will learn about His truth and character and that the Holy Spirit will draw them to Jesus and work in them to bear His fruit in their lives.
- Pray for the churches in the Surry Baptist Association, that God would strengthen us all in unity and love for one another, and that we would be eager and faithful in working together to reach our community with the gospel.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

#### **Thursday, December 18**

- Pastor David: Near to the Lord – Psalm 73:28
- Salem & Self: Deuteronomy 33:26
- Pray for our SCA principal Olivia Beroth, her husband TJ, and their family.
- Pray for the leadership of the Surry Baptist Association, that God would encourage each of their hearts and strengthen them for the roles He has called them to. Pray that He would give them wisdom and all-sufficient grace.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

#### **Friday, December 19**

- Amanda Trump: Faith – Psalm 139:16-18
- Salem & Self: Colossians 1:9-10
- Transformation 1040, supported mission work in India: Pray for the church planters working with Transformation 1040 and those being trained as church planters in this region. Ask the Lord to strengthen their understanding of His Word and give them the endurance, courage, and wisdom as they minister in these communities and share the gospel to those who have not heard it or who may show resistance to following Christ. Pray for God's blessing and protection on them, their families, and the believers they will lead and disciple.
- Pray for the lost during this Christmas season, that they will be drawn to Christ and salvation with the many displays, carols, and programs of the birth of our Savior Christ Jesus.
- Pray for the people of our nation to return to the Lord and that He will bring renewal and salvation.



#### **Saturday, December 20**

- Pastor David: Thankful heart – Psalm 138:1-2
- Salem & Self: Colossians 2:2-3
- Pray for the Bible studies for our youth, that they will build their lives on the rock of Christ and know He is a firm foundation, and that the adults leading them speak with faith that springs from their relationship with the Lord.
- Persecuted believers in Qatar: Christians cannot openly practice their faith, and face discrimination, harassment, and police monitoring. Christian migrant workers are allowed to meet in churches within a religious complex outside the capital, but Qatari citizens are not allowed to enter, and Christianity cannot be spoken of to Muslims. "The risks are very real not just for the individual but also the extended family who are shamed by association. It's

very challenging to find a church and other believers.” Pray for Qatari converts, many of whom are secret Christians. Ask God to strengthen their faith and knowledge of Him, and help them find other believers.

- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

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### **Sunday, December 21**

- Pastor David: Looking to the Lord – Psalm 127:1
- Salem & Self: Romans 6:17-18
- In the busyness of this season, ask the Lord for times of intentional rest in Him, bringing praise for His presence and sustaining grace in your life.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

### **Monday, December 22**

- Pastor David: Strength – 2 Samuel 22:32-33
- Salem & Self: 1 John 4:9-11
- Ask the Father to grow His love in us, to know His love for us and to stir deep love and affection for each other.
- Pray for NC Governor Josh Stein and Lieutenant Governor Rachel Hunt, that they would be given godly counsel and God-fearing advisors. Pray that God would bless and strengthen their families and draw them to Himself.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

### **Tuesday, December 23**

- Pastor David: Reassurance – Zephaniah 3:17
- Salem & Self: 1 John 5:20
- Pray for our student pastor Russ Billo, his wife Leah, and their family.
- Patrick & Kathryn Thompson, IMB missionaries in France: This year, the Thompsons' church in New York City followed God's leading to send the Thompsons as missionaries to France. In New York, God gave them a heart for those who have rejected Christianity; this passion drives them as they look toward reaching the lost in France's post-Christian, urban culture. The Thompsons ask for prayer as they adjust to a new culture, learn the language, and that they would abide in Christ during this transition. They also pray for more Southern Baptists to join them in their mission.



- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

### **Wednesday, December 24**

- Pastor David: To know the love of Christ – Ephesians 3:18-19
- Salem & Self: Isaiah 9:6-7
- Draw near to the Lord, with the assurance He is drawing near to you. Thank Him that in giving us His Son, He made a way for us to know Him and to know what it is to dwell in relationship with Immanuel, God With Us.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

### **Thursday, December 25**

- Pastor David: Rejoicing – Isaiah 61:10
- Salem & Self: Luke 2:10-11
- Spend time in thankfulness today, that we who once walked in darkness have seen the great light of our Savior, “for God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6, Isaiah 9:2). Pray for faithfulness to shine this light, rejoicing that we have this treasure of Christ in jars of clay, to show the surpassing power of God to save.
- Pray for the people of our nation to return to the Lord and that He will bring renewal and salvation.

### **Friday, December 26**

- Amanda Trump: To shine her light – Matthew 5:16
- Salem & Self: Ephesians 1:3-4
- Matt and Anabella Parker, supported missionaries in Ecuador: Pray for Matt as he leads the Digital Media department at HCJB, reaching 1.8 million people worldwide each month. Pray for creativity and effectiveness in sharing the Gospel through online platforms, as well as continued funding to keep the radio station running, provide for support staff, and expand outreach projects.
- Pray for local EMT's, that leadership and those involved would develop a culture of strong character and wellbeing, with healthy, supportive relationships among those serving in these roles as well as among their families.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.



### **Saturday, December 27**

- Pastor David: Hope in the Lord – Psalm 33:20-22

- Salem & Self: Isaiah 55:2-3
- Pray for those working in the nursery and leading children's Sunday School classes, for God's continued blessing on them as they faithfully show His love and speak His truth and purpose into the lives of our children.
- Persecuted believers in Vietnam: Persecution is fierce from those following Buddhism and ethnic-animist religions, especially in remote villages. The government monitors Christians with suspicion. Despite this, Bible teachers travel miles by motorbike to train believers in secret Bible schools. "The villagers and the local authorities came and beat us...one of the officials tasered me. But because God loves me, then I will love others. I do not hate the ones who persecute me; I pray for them, and I love them so." Pray for God's comfort to those oppressed and attacked. Thank God for their boldness and commitment to Jesus, and pray that they would be able to follow Jesus freely.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

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### **Sunday, December 28**

- Pastor David: Declaring God's greatness – Psalm 145:5-6
- Salem & Self: Hosea 6:3
- In this season when evenings are longer, remember that Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness, which the darkness cannot overcome. Pray that we would take heart in the knowledge that His light is powerful enough to prevail in every area of our lives, and that we will be faithful to share this hope with those around us.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

### **Monday, December 29**

- Pastor David: Direction – Jeremiah 6:16
- Salem & Self: Romans 8:5-6
- Pray for a strong wall of protection around us as a body of believers and followers of Christ, that we would stand firm in the strength of the Lord, knowing that He is our shield and clothing ourselves in His strong armor.
- Pray for US Representative Virginia Foxx, that she will have a thankful and teachable spirit seeking God's wisdom.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

### **Tuesday, December 30**

- Pastor David: Faith – Isaiah 43:18-19
- Salem & Self: Matthew 9:37-38
- Pray for all of our church leadership as we move toward the beginning of a new year, that God will strengthen them in His faithfulness, root them in the truth of His Word, and give wisdom in their decisions and relationship with Him.
- Steve & Julia Dunn, IMB missionaries in Germany: Steve and Julia lead a church plant in Germany that focuses on intergenerational learning, strengthening relationships and discipleship across all ages in their small groups. "We are like a large family. Everyone brings their experiences, and we value what each person says, regardless of age," shared Edda, a 65-year-old believer. Thank the Lord for His work in those in their community who are coming to Christ through the church and Bible studies, and pray for Steve and Julia as they disciple new believers.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

### **Wednesday, December 31**

- Pastor David: Blessing – Psalm 128:1-2
- Salem & Self: Psalm 40:1-3
- Pray for our executive and worship pastor John Kennedy, his wife Candace, and their family.
- As this year comes to a close, spend time reflecting on the faithfulness of the Lord to you throughout your days and seasons. Ask that He will strengthen your heart in faith and thankfulness, and will put a new song in your mouth, a song of praise to your God, that many will also put their trust in Him.
- Pray for Israel, our nation, and for Christ's return.

### **Further Prayer Resources:**

*How to Develop a Powerful Prayer Life* by Dr. Gregory R. Frizzell

*Praying the Bible* by Donald S. Whitney

*Quiet Talks on Prayer* by S.D. Gordon

Open Doors (articles, updates, interviews with persecuted Christians): <https://www.opendoors.org.au/>

Help the Persecuted (weekly email with specific requests for persecuted believers): <https://http.org/>

International Mission Board, monthly prayer guides and Loving the Lost prayer guide: <https://www.imb.org/prayerpoints/>

SBC Cooperative Program stories: <https://www.sbc.net/resource-library/52-sundays/>