

40 DAYS OF SPIRITUAL REFLECTION
FEBRUARY 17 - MARCH 28



LENTEN PRAYER GUIDE THREE

**SEEKING GOD FOR THE COMMUNITY,
CITY & COUNTRY 2010**

MARCH 9 - MARCH 18, 2010

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SENIOR PASTOR**

DAY 21: March 9, 2010

Prayer Focus: Homeless People

**Today's Theme: Seeking God to Display His
Love and Power by Answered Prayer**

Psalm 107:41 (NIV)

MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE

One February morning as I prayed, I thought about how cold it was—cold enough to snow, temperatures in the low 20s, and wind chill factors in the teens! I thanked God for blessing my family and me with shelter from the freezing cold. As I was praying, I heard the thermostat kick on, and I realized how more abundantly blessed we were; not only did we have shelter, but we had heat! Not only did we have heat, but we could adjust it to whatever temperature we felt was comfortable! And I couldn't stop there counting the blessings: we had beds and blankets and special quilts my Grandma Lee had lovingly made! Realizing my own blessings, I couldn't help but pray for the homeless, asking God to protect them. I tried to imagine what it's like not to have shelter and warmth, and my heart was heavy. I had to ask God's forgiveness for taking His blessings for granted. I was reminded that we must take time to count our blessings, then use our blessings to demonstrate God's love and power to others in need. We can make a difference!

Life Application: Here are some ideas for how you can demonstrate God's love and power by putting hands and feet on your prayers, particularly for the homeless: help out at a shelter; volunteer at an organization that helps the homeless, like Hosea Williams' Feed the Hungry; participate in the church's feed the homeless ministry; donate goods or money to a facility that serves the homeless. Make a difference!

Prayer: Father God, speak to my heart about how you would have me minister to those who are homeless. May you be glorified through their circumstances and through the deeds that I do in Jesus' name. Amen.

Thought for the Day: At the end of the day, was God glorified through my behavior? Did I make a difference for anyone?

"But He lifted the needy out of their affliction and increased their families like flocks." –Psalm 107:41 (NIV)

DAY 22: March 10, 2010

Prayer Focus: Government Leaders

Today's Theme: Seeking God to Use Leaders to Advance God's
Justice on Behalf of the People They Represent

1 Timothy 2:1-2

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN GOVERNMENT

Fact: There has always been corruption and hidden agendas in government, even in Jesus' time. Truth: God is still sovereign, and He still uses people to accomplish HIS agenda. In Matthew 2, when King Herod heard about the birth of a new King—Jesus—he was angry, and he schemed and connived to get rid of Jesus. BUT GOD...He had a divine plan that could not be stopped! King Herod consulted with his cabinet of politically powerful people, yet God used ordinary people to bring His plan to fruition. God is still sovereign! He still has a plan that government cannot overthrow! Despite government's decisions about the economy, healthcare, and national security, God still uses "wise men (and women)" to advance His kingdom's agenda and to bring people to know and worship Him.

Life Application: Pray for President Obama. Pray for city, county, state, and other national government leaders. Send a note or card of encouragement to a government leader, letting him/her know you are praying that God will bless him/her with wisdom and discernment regarding a particular public issue that perhaps has been in the news.

Prayer: Father God, I pray for government leaders in every city and county in Georgia and in the United States, from the highest office to the least. I ask that you grant all of them wisdom and discernment. Thy will be done! Amen.

Thought for the Day: There is a song that says, "Be not dismayed, what e'er betide. God will take care of you."

"I urge, then,...that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— for kings and all those in authority." –1 Timothy 2:1-2

DAY 23: March 11, 2010

Prayer Focus: People of Different Ethnicities

Today's Theme: Seeking God for Every People/Group to Hear the Gospel

1 Chronicles 16:23

MAKE A DIFFERENCE AMONG PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT ETHNICITIES

At my place of employment, all of the custodians are from foreign countries. Some speak a little English; others speak almost none. Yet, I am able to communicate with them through smiles, acts of courtesy such as opening the door when their hands are full, and stopping to acknowledge their presence when they empty my wastebasket. They all seem to understand words like "How are you?" and "Thank you." Another way I communicate with them is through music. Whenever I am in our building's locker room after working out, I usually play Christian music, and when the workers come in to do their job, they hear the music. Have you ever noticed how a song you've heard sticks in your mind? Perhaps this happens with the custodians. They may not understand the words, but they can understand the melody. Even more, I believe they sense that there's a melody in my heart. We can demonstrate the joy of our salvation to other groups of people in ways that break language and/or cultural barriers.

Life Application: Do a prayer walk in your neighborhood, at your place of employment, or at a business in your community where people of different ethnicities live and/or work. Share the joy of salvation through song. Be a living testimony by living an enthusiastic, spirit-filled life that others can see.

Prayer: Father God, I pray that, by your spirit, I am compelled and empowered to convey the joy of my salvation with clarity and simplicity through my everyday living and with song, even to people who are of different ethnicities. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Music is a language that transcends all cultural and communication barriers.

*"Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Proclaim good tidings of
His salvation from day to day." –1 Chronicles 16:23*

DAY 24: March 12, 2010

Prayer Focus: College and University Students

Today's Theme: Seeking God, that Many Will Come to Know and Follow Him

Psalm 32:8

MAKE A DIFFERENCE AMONG COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

College is a time of growing up, a time when young adults make life decisions that affect their future. Students are exposed to people, places, propositions and philosophies that represent all walks of life. Thank God for campus ministries that seek to make a difference in the lives of college and university students—that they will come to know and follow Jesus! It was members of the campus ministry of a local church at the University of Georgia, Athens, who led me to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. While I was fortunate to have grown up in a Christian home, not all college students are so fortunate. Nonetheless, regardless of his/her upbringing, at some point, each person must make that deliberate decision to have a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. What better time to realize the need for salvation and to surrender one's life to Christ than while in college? It's the best life decision I ever made!

Life Application: Mentor a college/university student. Live by example. Support a campus ministry with your time, talent, and/or financial gifts. Pray for the safety, morality, and well-being of local campus students and leaders.

Prayer: Father God, I pray for the evangelization of entire campuses. I pray for those who spread the gospel on college campuses and pray that the students who hear your Word will make the decision to follow you. Amen.

Thought for the Day: There is no randomness of life decisions for the one who follows Jesus Christ.

*"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go:
I will guide thee with mine eye." –Psalm 32:8*

DAY 25: March 13, 2010

Prayer Focus: Agricultural Workers

Today's Theme: Seeking God to Be Worshipped by All People

Deuteronomy 16:15

MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON BEHALF OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

Have you ever considered that God has a special place for agriculture? The first home God gave man was a garden. The first job God gave man was to care for the garden. The Bible, both the old and new testaments, speaks in parables and metaphors of different kinds of agriculture: seeds, fruit, trees, vineyards, oil, wool (sheep), etc. Often when we say grace over our meal, we ask God to "bless the hands that prepared the meal." Why not ask God to bless the hands that planted and harvested the food as well? How often do we think about those who depend on God to provide sunshine and rain, harvest and grain to produce the food we so conveniently purchase and consume?

Life Application: The next time you eat a meal, thank God for agricultural workers who planted and harvested your food. Take a walk with nature, perhaps at Stone Mountain or Arabia Mountain Park, and thank God for brooks, lakes, trees, sunshine, and air, and for all those who take special care of God's earth so that we might enjoy it.

Prayer: Father God, thank you for the beauty and the bounty of the earth. Thank you for sunshine and rain so we may have food, clothing, and energy from the harvest of the earth. Bless agricultural workers. Amen.

Thought for the Day: In the beginning, God first made the earth to provide for man before He made man.

"For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete." —Deuteronomy 16:15

DAY 26: March 14, 2010

Prayer Focus: Fathers

Today's Theme: Seeking God to Bring Blessings Through Righteousness

Ephesians 6:4 (NIV)

FATHERS — MAKING A DIFFERENCE

On June 18, 2009, President Barack Obama made a Father's Day speech to a group of teenage boys and their mentors at the White House. He spoke about how his father, Barack Obama, Sr., left home when the future president was just two years old, and how he saw his dad only once more, at age ten, for a short visit. Obama said he promised himself he would not repeat his own father's mistakes. He said, "On this Father's Day, I am recommitting myself to those duties that all parents share: to build a foundation for our children's dreams, to give them the love and support they need to fulfill them, and to stick with them the whole way through, no matter what doubts we may feel or difficulties we may face." Thanks be to God for a President of these United States of America who, against all odds, is a leading example of fatherhood and encourages all other fathers to do likewise.

Life Application: Mentor a child who doesn't have a father or father-figure in the home. Pray for fathers you know in the church, in the community, and in the workplace, asking that they will honor God in their roles as father and reflect God's character in their lives.

Prayer: Father God, I pray that fathers will seek you to bring blessings and righteousness into the lives of their children, and that their children will see your character reflected in the lives of their fathers. Amen.

Thought for the Day: An earthly father should be a representation of what it's like to know the Heavenly Father.

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children, instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." –Ephesians 6:4 (NIV)

DAY 27: March 15, 2010

Prayer Focus: The Unborn

Today's Theme: Seeking God to Intervene and Bring Forth Justice

Genesis 1:27

MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON BEHALF OF THE UNBORN

I had never heard of a Cradle Roll Ministry until after I joined Greenforest Community Baptist Church in 1989. This Ministry ministers to babies from zero to three years of age. How do you minister to a baby who is zero years old—i.e., not yet born? Even more so, why? What I learned is that you minister to unborn children by ministering to their parents. As for the greater question, "why," it's because even before we were born, God made all the delicate, inner parts of our bodies and knit them together in our mothers' wombs; it's because God created us so wonderfully complex! It's because He watched us being formed in utter seclusion, as we were woven together in the darkness of the womb. It's because He saw us before we were born. Every moment was laid out before a single day passed, and every day of our lives, from conception on, was recorded in His book (Psalm 139:13-16 NLT). That is why we minister to the unborn!

Life Application: Volunteer to help with the Cradle Roll Ministry. Pray for expectant parents. Send a note or card of encouragement to an expectant mother who may be experiencing a difficult time, just to say "thinking of you and praying for you."

Prayer: Father God, I pray that you will break the power of self-centered lifestyles that disregard the lives of children. Forgive and heal those who have harmed children, born or unborn, in any way. Amen.

Thought for the Day: The fact that man was created in God's image is evidence that all human life is to be valued.

"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He Him; male and female created He them." –Genesis 1:27

DAY 28: March 16, 2010

Prayer Focus: Substance Abusers

Today's Theme: Seeking God to Inspire a Yearning for Righteousness

John 15:5

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO SUBSTANCE ABUSERS

A familiar parable in the Bible is the story of the Good Samaritan. In this parable, the least likely person, the Samaritan, is the one who helped a distressed traveler in need (Luke 10:27). What Jesus is telling us in this parable is to follow the Samaritan's example in our own conduct. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., summarized the meaning of the parable like this: The first question which the priest and the Levite who passed by the wounded, needy traveler asked was: "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?" But the good Samaritan reversed the question, asking instead, "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?" God expects us to show compassion and love for those we encounter in our everyday activities, regardless of their circumstances.

Life Application: Pray for deliverance from substance abuse and drug dependency for those who are addicted, and encourage their family members who are suffering from the effects of loved ones' addiction. Take a prayer walk through your neighborhood, praying for those who may be bound by drug or alcohol addiction.

Prayer: Father God, you have the power to break every form of bondage, including drug and alcohol addiction, so I pray for substance abusers. I pray that their reliance on addicting substances will be replaced with a yearning for your righteousness. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Act like you make a difference—and you will.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." –John 15:5

DAY 29: March 17, 2010

Prayer Focus: Depressed People

Today's Theme: Seeking God for His Spirit to Empower His People

John 10:10

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THOSE WHO ARE DEPRESSED

It was not until I dealt with the depression of a family member that God showed me that (guess what?) even Believers get depressed! He showed me Job as one example. The Bible says Job was a man of integrity. He feared God and avoided evil. Still, life's circumstances caused him to be so depressed that he wished he'd never been born (Job 3). He later said that his spirit was broken (Job 17). Yet Job realized one thing: he could still talk to God. He realized if he had any hope, it had to come from God. For whatever reason, life happens to us or for us. The good news for Believers is that God knows all about what we feel and can restore us out of our depression. In the end, God blessed Job with double what he had before, and Job's latter days were greater than the first (Job 42)! Even when it seems we're in the pit of darkness and Satan has come to steal our peace and joy, remember that God has not forgotten. He can restore our joy and peace and renew our faith.

Life Application: Be available to lend a listening ear to someone who needs to "talk it out." Encourage someone you know who is depressed to seek help, and help them understand that God is always near.

Prayer: Father God, your word has power to dispel the lies and destructive power of Satan, who seeks to steal the peace and joy you've made available to us. I pray for deliverance from the bonds of depression. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Even the strongest Believers are sometimes prone to fear and discouragement...but God is able!

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly." —John 10:10

DAY 30: March 18, 2010

Prayer Focus: Unemployed People

Today's Theme: Seeking God for Freedom from Fear

Romans 8:28

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE UNEMPLOYED

Having been a "victim" of a reduction in force back in 1991, I can look back on the experience and see how God was preparing me to travel a different road. I realize now that after seven years on that job (seven being the number representing completion), my work there had been completed! The person who had made my life miserable while I was there accepted Christ, then God moved me first to another location, then out of that organization altogether. I had grown comfortable there and probably would have settled for just the blessings I was already receiving had I stayed. Little did I know then that God had bigger plans for me, but He had to move me before I could experience the bigger blessings. We don't always know why God allows things to happen when they happen or the way they happen in our lives, but we do know that God has a plan and a purpose for whatever occurs. We need only trust Him, and in due season, we will understand it better.

Life Application: If you are unemployed, take time to listen to God and be willing to follow His direction. Regardless of the situation, don't stop doing the kingdom's work! If you are employed, pray for those without jobs to find meaningful work. Offer to help however you can—e.g., share any job leads or employment contacts that you know about.

Prayer: Father God, I pray that you will meet the needs of the unemployed in such a way that they can earnestly thank you for provisions. Lead them to a place of prosperity so that you are glorified. Amen.

Thought for the Day: There are plenty of jobs in the kingdom of God, and the benefits are out of this world!

"And we KNOW that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." —Romans 8:28

Seeking God for the Community, City and Country 2010

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. – II Chronicles 7:14

Beginning Ash Wednesday thru Palm Sunday, Greenforest will join with over 100,000 believers from hundreds of churches around the globe seeking God in focused biblical prayer. God has blessed us with four writers that have used the theme “Seek God for the City 2010” from the Way-Makers Christian organization as a guide to help them to write devotionals customized for Greenforest. The writers have been seeking God for direction that will cause His people to pray in a way that will make a difference in their lives that will impact the lives of others. The writers and their assignments are listed below:

- Feb 17 – 26** Seeking His Life to Revive the Church.....Bro. Alan Sherman
Feb 27 – Mar 8 Seeking His Light to Awaken the Lost.....Min. Althea Waters
Mar 9 – 18 Seeking His Glory to Evangelize All People.....Sis. Olivia Maupin
Mar 19 – 28 Seeking His Peace Among All People.....Min. Diann Ash

This prayer guide is designed to help believers pray “Big” prayers beyond their daily needs and to seek God to fulfill His greatest purposes: to find them, bring them in, grow them up and send them out. *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you.*
–Matthew 6:33



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