

# Global Impact Celebration 2013 Prayer Book



[Epworth United Methodist Church](#)

## **BE THE ONE!**

The theme of our 2013 GIC is **BE THE ONE!** Matthew 25:34-40 captures this theme. “Then the king will say to those on His right, Come you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was in prison and you came to me.....The King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me. “

The needs in the world can overwhelm us and cause us to feel defeated before we even try to minister to others. We ask the questions, “what can I do; how can I make a difference in this world of tragedy, sickness, hunger, war, conflict, and disasters?” Jesus shows us and tells us over and over: love others, treat others better than yourself, be aware of the needs of others, and meet those needs - not just in resources, but in personal relationships.

Jesus calls each of us to “BE THE ONE” who helps others, brings about justice and righteousness, and provides the simple things of life - food, shelter, validation of worthiness, caring. During the weekend of the GIC, I pray that you will attend and hear the stories of our speakers and missionaries in how they have answered God’s call to be the one. I pray that God will transform our hearts to answer His call to each of us, to be the one who.....

This prayer booklet will help guide you to be intentional in prayer for our GIC as well as for each other. Be faithful to read it each day and to pray with all sincerity, “Lord, here I am. Let me be the one!”

## **Covering the Global Impact Celebration in Prayer**

**March 24, 2013**

Alfred Lord Tennyson said "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." John Wesley said, "God does nothing but by prayer and everything with it." Through the ages millions of words have been written about the power of prayer. However, Jesus, in His ministry on earth is our greatest source and example of praying and prayer.

Jesus prayed always for the disciples, the multitudes, the sick, the dead, his enemies, and for Himself as He prayed earnestly to His Father as He walked the road to the cross. He gave us The Lords' prayer as an example for us to pray. Paul tells us in his Letters that "We are to pray continually in all circumstances."

As we prepare and have Our Global Impact Celebration we know that God can and will achieve great things when we pray and ask for His leadership. Won't you bathe the preparation, the missionaries, the speakers, and all of the GIC Celebration with your prayers each day? We know that "God works through the human heart His miracles to achieve." May our prayer be "God let it begin in me."

### **Prayer**

Gracious God, Bless each aspect of the preparation and celebration of our Global Impact. Empower with the Holy Spirit those who speak and those who share their ministries with us. Help each one of us to have open hearts and minds to receive Your message and to respond as we are led.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

This prayer booklet has been written by members of Epworth United Methodist Church. It is a guide to help us bathe in prayer the preparation and presentation of our Global Impact Celebration. Please read a devotional each day leading up to our Global Impact Celebration, April 19-21, 2013. There is a prayer focus included which will guide you to pray for the planning and presentation of the GIC, for God to transform our hearts and to put His desire in our hearts to be in mission in His name, for the speakers, missionaries, and other mission programs.

Our prayer is that God will be honored and glorified in all we do, and that our church will be filled with the Holy Spirit, surrendering to His will and ways. We pray that God will enable us to put into action Acts 1:8 - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Aline Wesley  
Penny Vaughan

## A Spiritual House

March 25, 2013

**I Peter 2: 4-5** “As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

If each member of Epworth were literally a stone and God wanted to build a real house out of us, we would need to possess some common characteristics. First, we would have to be willing to submit. We would need to submit to God and to each other. Second, we would have to drop our ideas of how to build the house in order for God to build. Third, we would have to commit to living as part of God’s structure forever.

Of course the barriers to possessing these characteristics are great. Our pride, our preferences, our personality differences, disobedience to God, and unwillingness to commit play a vital role in stones just laying around rather than being used by God. We want to keep our options open, we want to be individuals, but the church needs unity, commitment, and community.

### Prayer

God, bless us with freedom, joy and spirits that are receptive to your Spirit. Build us into the spiritual house you desire and bring that house alive this April as we celebrate your mission with each other and with our guests. For it is in Jesus name we pray.  
Amen.

### Prayer Focus

Pray for Epworth’s spiritual house to be strong. Just as we seek to build buildings at Epworth in order to care for people, we desire for God to build us into a spiritual house as well. Our Global Impact Celebration (GIC) does much to build that spiritual structure. Pray that this year’s event will have a powerful impact upon our congregation. Pray that God unites us through this effort. Pray that members who have not attended the first three GIC events will come and be touched. Pray for God’s Holy Spirit to bring an energy and vitality to that weekend that can only be brought by God. Pray for the leaders of the GIC, that God will bless them with favor and will bring much joy into planning this year’s event. And pray for our missionary guests, pray that we might be able to be a source of encouragement to them as they are with us in April.

I fully expect God’s Spirit to show up in powerful ways this year. Thank you for praying and for anticipating the same.

Chip Hunter

## PRAY

March 26, 2013

**Matthew 6:6** “But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

Do you often pray? How much time do you take to pray? In our culture we are very busy. We have soccer games, the play, our jobs, schools, extracurricular activities, shopping, etc. Most of the time we don't take as much as 5 minutes to pray. Try your hardest to pray in silence for at least 15 minutes. It will do you good!!!

**Go pray!**

Miranda Hunter

### **Prayer Focus**

Pray for all of our missionaries and speakers. Pray that God will prepare their hearts, minds, and messages so that our lives are changed. Pray that their travel will be safe and that their families are provided for as they spend the weekend with us:

Rev. Jason Brock - TN Conference United Methodist Relief

Erin Medin and Courtney Aldrich - Project Transformation

Rev. Allen Karnes & Heidi Taylor - Jubilee Project

Clemmie Greenlee - Nashville Peacemakers

Marcus Young - Project AK-47

Eric and Gwen Jones - Wycliffe Bible Translators

Melissa Hillis - Youth Missionary

Reverend Carolyn Moore - Mosaic UMC, Evans, GA

Reverend Patrick Friday - Dir. of In Mission Together - Gen. Bd. of Global Ministries

Reverend Jacob Armstrong - Providence UMC, Mt. Juliet, TN

## Be Prepared!

March 27, 2013

**Joshua 3:5** "Joshua told the people, 'Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.'"

God's Word is full of promises! Even though these promises were significant in Bible times, they are equally relevant to us today. We believe that God's Word is living and active, and in His timelessness, God intends His Message and the promises it contains to be for all mankind, past, present, and future.

What does the promise in Joshua 3 say to us today? As our thoughts and prayers turn toward our upcoming Global Impact Celebration, perhaps God is calling us to consecrate ourselves in anticipation of the amazing things He plans to do. What does it mean to consecrate ourselves? According to Webster's Dictionary, to consecrate means to dedicate to a sacred purpose.

To be consecrated, we must set ourselves aside, seek God's will, and ask what He desires of us. We must spend time in Bible study and prayer, and be willing and available to serve. Only then can we be prepared for the promise in that verse; that "the Lord will do amazing things among you."

What "amazing things" will God do among us through the 2013 GIC? Beloved friends, we should be prepared for God to knock our socks off with a passion to spread the Good News of Christ throughout the world! Let's consecrate ourselves and be ready!

### Prayer

Dear Lord, we know that You are able to do immeasurably more than we can think or imagine. Even so, we are still surprised by Your power and Your grace! Help us to be prepared for the amazing things You desire to do among us here at Epworth. Help us to be dedicated to Your sacred purpose so that we can be ready for a miracle!

In the precious name of Jesus,  
Amen.

Susan Smith

### Prayer Focus

Pray for our hearts to be transformed during this Global Impact Celebration. Pray for our speakers and missionaries in their preparation for the weekend, that they will share the message that God has planned for us to hear.

## Prayers

March 28, 2013

"I call to you, Lord come quickly to me;  
hear me when I call to you.  
May my prayer be set before you like incense;  
may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice." Psalm 141:1-2

We call to God like David did; and if we listen, HE will fellowship with us and guide each and every move we make. From the heart and soul of a man of God came poetry that lifted me and many at a Lay Witness Mission in the 1970's. Hear these words:

### **TREASURED GIFT**

There is a treasure found in prayer  
Far richer than the earthly kind,  
It will not fade or lose its taste  
But grows in value through the years.

In prayer we learn to speak with God;  
We let our heartaches overflow,  
Allow our minds to seek the truth  
And lift our souls beyond ourselves.

Our soul's divinity demands  
This precious fellowship with God,  
This treasured gift that God will give  
To those who live their lives in prayer.

Council Harden

### **Prayer**

Thank you Father for continued fellowship with you through prayer. Let my ears be open to your Words that I may share the treasured gifts you give to me.  
Thank you, Lord Jesus!  
Amen.

Vic Lindberg

### **Pray Focus**

Pray for Jason Brock who is the missionary representing the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR responds to disasters, wars, and conflict in our country and throughout the world by providing support to the victims of these disasters.

## Taking Time for Others

March 29, 2013

**Hebrews 13:16** “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

There are several scriptures in the Bible that talk about giving to the poor, taking care of the needy and a general message that by giving you will be in a better place than if you amass a lot of stuff. Many of these scriptures also say that giving will make God happy, like the one quoted above.

I spent a good part of my life getting hung up with the thought that I should help the needy or give to the poor because it is pleasing to God. Not that I don't want to please God! Believe me, I want God having nothing but pleasant thoughts when thinking about me! But I think there is much more to learn from these scriptures. One of the great things that I get out of the Bible is it teaches me how to live my life and a key component to living a better life is to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Loving, giving and helping the needy all help me get there, and I believe that is why the Bible gives us that message so often.

When I am in town, I like to spend a few Thursday nights being a Room in the Inn Innkeeper. There is no real work involved, just spending the night with 12 homeless people that stay at our church for the night. We hang out and talk about nothing in particular, eat a nice meal and try to get the TV to work. The next morning, we send them on their way, and as I hear these men who are just so, so grateful that they were given a hot meal and a bed to sleep in, it just warms my heart and reminds me of what really is important in my life.

### Prayer

Dear Father, thank you for the life of abundance that we are able to lead in this country. Help us everyday to realize what is important in our lives.  
Amen.

Randy Eddy

### Prayer Focus

Pray for the homeless, that they will feel valued and loved. Pray for the Room in the Inn ministry

Pray for Clemmie Green of Nashville Peacemakers. Nashville Peacemakers reaches out to youth who are plagued by poverty violence and self defeating attitudes to provide mentors and alternatives to gang activities, teen pregnancy, drug use, and incarceration.

# Hope

March 30, 2013

## Praise to God for a Living Hope.

**1 Peter 1:3** “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

Christians have a "living hope" in Jesus Christ. We place our trust and hope in him, who died for our sins and was raised again from the dead.

**HOPELESS.** . a: having no expectation of good or success : despairing. b: not susceptible to remedy or cure . c: incapable of redemption or improvement

## The House of Hope

Imagine that you live in a ghetto. The average annual income is less than \$7000 per household. Because your address is La Pintana, you cannot be hired or even socialize with the 'outside'. The public education you receive in La Pintana makes college studies difficult, even though you are very bright and work hard. This is IF you could pay for college. You are accustomed to hearing gun shots in the night and having bars and razor wire everywhere. The streets are filled with trash and stray dogs. Hungry children hang around the gates. Old women beg at the grocery store for a few pesos. Yes, this is a hopeless feeling. Yet at the House of Hope in La Pintana, Santiago, Chile you are given a room of your own. You have a study room with computers. Your tuition is paid for college or vocational school. You are safe. And you learn everyday to put your trust and hope in Jesus. From the rooftop of the new building for the House of Hope, you can see the awesome beauty of the snow-capped Andes and for a moment the despair of the surrounding tumble of shacks and wire blurs and it all becomes beauty.

Please be in prayer for our girls at Casa Esperanza – The House of Hope. Their challenges are many but their love and appreciation is much more.

Cindy Kurzrock

## Prayer Focus

Pray for the ministry of the House of Hope. Pray that they have staff and resources in abundance to care for these girls. Pray that girls in need of safety and a future find their way to Casa Esperanza.

Pray for Eric and Gwen Jones from the Wycliffe Bible Translators. Pray for their safe travel.

## Ministry to Children

March 31, 2013

**Isaiah 54:13** “All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children.”

I have loved working with the children in the nursery and seeing them grow in the church family. It is a blessing to see the light of the Lord in their hearts. Not all of us feel called to work with children, but we can all let the Lord shine through us for the youth to witness our example.

### Prayer

Lord, use me as a tool to shine your light on the children of the world.  
Amen.

Lina Heard

### Prayer Focus

Pray for Project Transformation, a summer reading program to help children at risk who need to be mentored during the summer to keep up their reading skills. Pray for Erin Medin and Courtney Aldrich and other staff of Project Transformation that they will have wisdom, strength, and balance as they prepare for the summer ministry.

Pray for The Reverend Carolyn Moore, pastor of Mosaic United Methodist Church, Evans, Georgia. Pray for her as she ministers to this diverse congregation, and pray for the ministries of this church.

## Was a Hero, Will be a King, Is a Servant

April 1, 2013

**1 Samuel 25:15-16** “Yet these men were very good to us. They did not mistreat us, and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing was missing. Night and day they were a wall around us all the time we were herding our sheep near them.”

David had been anointed king of Israel by the prophet Samuel. He had killed the giant, played music by request in the king’s court, and been a great military leader in Israel’s army. However, 1 Samuel 25 tells of a time when David is running from Saul, who wants to kill him. He is watching Saul’s every move, praying for divine protection, and waiting for signs that the time has come for him to take the throne. He has a small company of men with him and while they are out, they choose to be ministers of peace and justice.

The above verses (1 Samuel 25:15-16) are the account of a local servant to his mistress of how the shepherds have benefited “night and day” from the protection of David and his company. David didn’t forget that though his current position was lowly compared to the things he had done, or would do, he was a servant of the LORD. And all servants of the LORD are commissioned as it is written in Micah 6:8 “To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

Consider your own life. Perhaps God has given you a vision for a great mission, a specific mission trip, ministry, or career path. Perhaps you have had great victories in His name in the past, leading committees at your church, serving the homeless, raising foster children. Or, perhaps you feel hidden away, not called on to use your talents in a way that others consider great, as David was in this story. You are waiting, praying, watching for the next big assignment from God.

You are a missionary now! Uphold peace and justice in your current mission field – in your home, at work, at the grocery store, in your local church! Be a protective “wall around” those working “in the field”. You can do it “night and day” as a wall of prayer. You can see that “nothing is missing” from those working by taking care of their personal needs, too. Your everyday mission field is as important to God as those our culture labels as missions. It is as important as those you have tended in the past. And it is as important as those you have been anointed to tend in the future.

### Prayer

God, I thank you for my mission field today. Please show me where I can be a minister of your peace and justice to those around me today. Please bless Clemmie Greenlee and the staff of Nashville Peacemakers in their work this day with your peace, protection, and success. Please show me where there are specific needs that I can fill. I ask this all to bring glory to Your Name.

Amen

Melissa Rogers

### Prayer Focus

Pray that our hearts are open to ways we can be peacemakers and bring justice to the wrongs of our society. Pray for Nashville Peacemakers - This program is dedicated to intervening in the lives of teens and young adults to help them find alternative choices to gang involvement, teen pregnancy, drug use, incarceration, and death. Pray for people to be mentors, volunteers, and resources to this program. Pray for these children who feel they have no hope or future.

## Passing His Peace

April 2, 2013

**Psalm 29:11** "May the Lord give strength to His people; May the Lord bless His people with peace!"

I have never been a big fan of the "Passing of the Peace" in worship. In fact, growing up in my home church I remember only occasionally taking part in this type of ritual. I remember always getting lost in the crowd of people that knew me from the time of my birth, and only recognizing me during this time as "hey, how are you this fine morning." Only once in a while did someone actually come past me and say, "May the Peace of God be with you." When this happened I never really knew what to say, and was always hit with that awful feeling of a mute. I've always referred to this time as The Great Disruption during worship.

After reading this scripture, I finally came to terms with what that part of our service is for...its practice! We are called to be His people. We are called to be servants of God, to go forth and make fisher's of men. We are called to serve the Lord with gladness in our hearts, everyday, not just on Sunday, and certainly not just during the Passing of the Peace. Passing of the Peace of God is the greatest gift that we, as humans, can give from our God to each other. We give that Peace in a strong hand shake, in a quiet time of LISTENING to our coworkers problems, in providing the extra time and talents to help build a school building or church in a far-off land, in helping our neighbor rake the leaves in their yard. We pass the Peace in every contact we have with another person each day of our lives. Passing the Peace in church is simply practice with one another for that which we should do with strangers and friends in our lives each and every day.

Each of us may not be equipped to go out and do Mission Work in far-off lands; we many not be blessed with the time in our lives to serve at the local Food-Bank or Clothes Closet; we may not be equipped or prepared to serve in Missions of travel; but, each one of us have been blessed by the God of Life to pass His peace on to each person that we come in contact with each day.

Everyone's Mission: to Pass the Peace of God.

### Prayer

Father, God: thank you for your blessing of Peace. Help us today to make one attempt with someone we know, one attempt with someone we don't know, and every attempt with you in mind to pass your Peace this day.

Amen.

Jay Bonson

### Prayer Focus

Pray for the families who find themselves homeless and who find a temporary place to live at Goose Creek Inn. Pray for the ministry our church has with these families in providing food, resources, guidance, and love.

# Loving like Jesus

April 3, 2013

## I Corinthians 13

Why is it so uncomfortable to talk about love? Perhaps because we often do such an incomplete job of it. 1 Corinthians 13 lists the traits of love, what it is and is not. Love is patient, kind, rejoices in the truth, always protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres. Love is not envious, boastful, proud, rude, self-seeking, easily angered, keeping record of wrongs, or delighted in evil.

Love never fails (vs.8), but we often do..... Love can be so elusive, Just when I think I am on the "love-track", there comes someone to derail me. A friend or neighbor will make a snide remark, I'll get irritated and defensive and ruin my opportunity to love them by my retraction. Churches are neither immune. The boastful, moralistic, or worse, legalistic, pricking the heart of the timid. Instead of building one another up with love, we puff up ourselves with 'knowledge', true Corinthian style! (1Corinthians 8:1). Relationships are shattered with resentment, exasperation, rudeness, and anger. Tit for Tat, Now we're keeping track!!! Only God's love intervenes.

Love never fails, but we will. We fall short of the perfect love that Paul defines in his letters. Moreover, when love is hibernating in the heart of the individual or the ministries of His church, there is emptiness or insincerity that can only be awakened by the Love of God. However, all is not hopeless or lost. Love is in the Spirit that connects us so therefore it gives us the ability to gain victory over our unlovely moments.

### Prayer

Praise God for the love that binds our family together, may I be constantly transformed by His love day by day so I may love others more perfectly.  
Amen.

Maryanne Richards

### Prayer Focus

Pray for transformed hearts that we, individually, and as a congregation reach out to those who feel unloved and forgotten.

Pray for Project AK-47 which works to free children from being "child soldiers" in Africa, Burma, Mexico, and the Philippines. Pray that God will provide the way for the staff of AK-47 to find partners in these countries to provide opportunities for the release of these children.

## Be Faithful in the Small Things

April 4, 2013

**Matthew 24:40** “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

It is only natural that you want to do great things for God. After all that He has done for you, you want to do something significant in return. You want to prove how much you love Him by doing something great and glorious for Him.

Well, stop watching and waiting for some magnificent ministry opportunity. Just be faithful with the seemingly small things in your life.

Being faithful with the small things is a “big” thing. Loving your family, being kind to a stranger, helping a neighbor---these are small things that have great significance in God’s eyes.

God doesn’t often give us huge opportunities that are spectacular. But He always gives us small opportunities that are significant.

### Prayer

Father, enable me to be faithful to you as you call me. Open my eyes to the opportunities around me to love others in your name.

In Jesus’ Name,  
Amen.

Peggy Hawkins

### Prayer Focus

Project Transformation - this program provides summer time reading in churches throughout Nashville to help children keep up with or improve their reading skills. Young adults work them each day and mentor them. Several from our church went to read with the children this past summer. Pray for children to participate. Pray that those children who can benefit from this program come. Pray for young adult mentors to say “yes “ to God’s calling to love these children in Jesus’ name.

## Sharing God's Good News

April 5, 2013

**Jonah 4:11** "Should I not care about the great city of Nineveh, which has more than 120,000 people who cannot distinguish between their right and their left, as well as many animals?"

Most of us are familiar with the story of Jonah being swallowed by a great fish because he ran from God's command to go preach to the people of Nineveh. For whatever reason, Jonah did not want these people to hear about God's love, and then when they repented, he was resentful! The take-home message from this story for me is that everyone should hear the Good News and have the chance to accept God's salvation. It is not for us to decide who gets to hear. God calls us to share the Good News. Will we obey, or will we run away?

### Prayer

Lord, help us to hear your calling. Thank you for giving us the courage and the will to obey. Amen.

Kathy Heard

### Prayer Focus

Wycliffe Bible Translators - Pray for the minority people groups of the Caucasus Mountains region who are suffering because of growing extremist violence and government corruption. Pray for Eric and Gwen Jones and their colleagues that they can continue to build strong friendships with the "men and women of peace" who live in this region and who can be a positive influence on their communities.

## Waiting on God's Call

April 6, 2013

### 2 Timothy 2:20-21 (NIV)

“<sup>20</sup> In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. <sup>21</sup> Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.”

I had a misconception about missions. I always considered mission work as something "big". It must be some giant creation of an organization to help the impoverished or involve moving to a third world country. When my youngest left for college, I began pestering God about what my mission was to be. I thought I had completed my God given vocation of raising children, and that there must be a new calling He had for me. I asked daily...often many times daily... "God what do you want me to do?" He answered me in a one word sentence. "Wait."

I'm still waiting while God prepares me. During this time of waiting God has blessed me with the luxury of time to study and devout friends who guide me. Both of which have helped me learn that there is work for me to do for God everyday and everywhere I am. Simple things that show God's love like caring for my elderly parents and the people I meet through them; Taking time to listen to a customer who just needs someone to talk to, even though it has nothing to do with business; Taking a day off to paint a bedroom at Blue Monarch or set up and man a booth at The Main Street Festival or Pumpkin Fest; Cooking a meal for someone who needs a hand, or giving someone who is enduring a trial a Holding Cross and sharing its message of Gods love and presence. The opportunities are endless and rewarding.

I don't know what "big" mission God has for me or if maybe my big mission is thousands of tiny ones. Whatever God chooses is fine with me. My prayer is that I will be open to be his hands to do whatever He needs done.

### Prayer

"Mighty God, let me be your hands in this world everyday and where ever I am."  
Amen.

Marsha Tucker

### Prayer Focus

Pray for Melissa Hillis, youth missionary, Pray for her preparation to speak and share in our GIC. Pray that God will guide her to her next mission.

## A Time for Reflection

April 7, 2013

**Psalm 131:1-3** “My heart is not proud, O Lord, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. But I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, put your hope in the Lord both now and forevermore.”

Have you ever longed for rest, where there is total quiet...peace...and time to just thank God for all the many Blessings He sends our way each day? Have you ever sat beside the creek...listening to the ripple of the water, as it cascades across the stones within its banks? Can you see your reflection in the water or see the pebbles underneath on the bottom? Do you appreciate the beauty and the wonder of God's creations? Look around you...Do you see the sky, a magnificent blue,with fluffy white clouds? Perhaps you see a robin bringing food to her babies, that wait on her eagerly, in the nest she made for them. Do you see the lovely yellow daffodils that are blooming, ushering in the first signs of spring? Do you breathe in the fresh air and thank God for giving you another day to do His will? God has given us all these things we enjoy. He wants us to take time to rest...to listen to the rippling waters..to see our reflections, yearning to be more like Him...to look around, in awe, at the beauty of the earth, and all that is in it, made by His hands...to delight in His creations...and just to share His love with everyone we meet.

### Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for the beauty that surrounds us and for the Love that you bestow upon us every day. We ask that you guide us in the path that, only, You would have us to go, and to help us share your Love with others so that they may be able to see the beauty and feel your Holy Spirit...and can find a "quiet place" to be alone with you.  
Amen.

Teresa Locke

### Prayer Focus

The Reverend Patrick Friday, one of our key note speakers. The Reverend Patrick Friday is Director of the IN Mission Together Partnership Program of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. Pray that he will find peace, quiet, and rest and hear God's voice as he prepares to participate in our GIC.

## Ambassadors

April 8, 2013

### II Corinthians 5

<sup>20</sup> "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

If we are to be Christ's ambassadors, we are to represent Him in carrying His message of reconciliation with the world. If representatives of Him, then a reflection of His ministry and word....

We are to live and think as Christ would in all situations. Not just wear the bracelet, but truly contemplate, "What Would Jesus Do?". What movies and T.V. shows would Christ watch. What scenes would He laugh at and which would make Him weep? What jokes would He tell and which punch lines would he enjoy? What would He eat and drink; and more importantly how much of it would he consume? Would He smoke or be a glutton? Would He pray before eating, sleeping, upon waking, and all times between? Would He lay healing hands on the sick or cover His mouth and turn away? Would Jesus be an encourager or a discourager, a bigger talker or a more compassionate listener? Who would he hang out with.. only his peers, socialites, the spiritually elite? And would he drive people away with His legalism because He's always right!; or would he be gentle and loving in advice, ready to console or offer appropriate scripture? Tell me, What do you think Jesus would do in these situations? And if God makes His appeal for reconciliation to the world through us, perhaps we should respond as Christ would...

"For Christ's love compels us..., and he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him..." (5:14-15)

"So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:" (5:16-18)

### Prayer

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW.  
Amen.

Marianne Richards

### Prayer Focus

Wycliffe Bible Translators and Eric and Gwen Jones

Pray for new opportunities to translate scripture and make it available in creative ways that oral cultures can appreciate. Pray for Eric and Gwen's personal finances and the resources they need to move ahead in a position of strength for the remainder of 2013. Pray for their son as he makes decisions about his future.

## The Great Commission

April 9, 2013

**Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)** “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

After His resurrection, Jesus addressed His disciples and instructed His followers to share His message with the world. This applies to Christians of every generation, including our own.

As believers, we are called to share the Good News of Jesus with our families, with our neighbors, and with the world. Christ commanded His disciples to become fishers of men. We must do likewise, and we must do so today. Tomorrow may indeed be too late.

“Our commission is quite specific. We are told to be His witness to all nations. For us, as His disciples, to refuse any part of this commission frustrates the love of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” Catherine Marshall

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, every man and woman is Your child. You desire that all Your children know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Father, let me be part of Your Great Commission. Let me “be the one” to give, let me “be the one” to pray and let me “be the one” to go out into this world so that I might be Your worthy disciple, today and everyday.  
Amen.

Peggy Hawkins

### Prayer Focus

Jubilee Project and The Reverend Allen Karnes

The Jubilee project serves people in need in Hancock County, Tennessee.

Pray for vans to transport the youth. Pray for a 4X4 SUV to deliver meals to shut-ons. Pray for Financial support so Jubilee can continue to serve Hancock County, TN. Pray for the Jubilee staff so that they can continue to minister and perform all needed tasks. Pray for additional staff.

## Loving God's People through Music

**April 10, 2013**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.

Last summer several choir members got to go to some countries in middle Europe on a choir mission trip. It was truly the trip of a lifetime. We got to sing in many beautiful settings many songs in praise of God. Two were exceptional. We sang at the international church in Vienna. There were people from Ireland, Indonesia, and Mulawi. Those are just some of the people I talked with. The feeling in the room was so spirit filled.

Then we went to Prague. This was a country that had been behind the Iron Curtain. We were told that no one would smile at us. So that afternoon when we went to the home for the sight impaired, I was really apprehensive. Laurie began singing "Offer them Christ." And she began to go around the room touching the arms of the people there. I can still see their faces uplifted to God. Phil Barfoot said "My eyes are sweating." I will never forget it.

### **Prayer**

Dear Lord, help me to be your instrument through music.  
Amen.

Maggie Mefford

### **Prayer Focus**

Pray for those planning and participating in the worship services during the GIC.  
Pray for The Reverend Patrick Friday, Director of the In Mission Together Partnership Program of the General Board of Global Ministries. This partnership program facilitates healthy, balanced relationships between mission partners around the world.

## Be Mature

April 11, 2013

Here is Paul's message to the churches at Ephesus, as translated in "The Message" Bible,  
**Ephesians 4:1-6 (MSG)**

To Be Mature:

<sup>1-3</sup> "In light of all this, here's what I want you to do. While I'm locked up here, a prisoner for the Master, I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run!— on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline— not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences."

<sup>4-6</sup> You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness."

### Prayer

Precious Lord, Help us on this day, to be strong like those first Christians, and pour ourselves out in acts of love and understanding, to each other, and to those we meet along the way.

In Christ's Name, Amen.

Bea Ball

### Prayer Focus

Blue Monarch

Pray for this ministry to women who have been addicted to methamphetamine, other drugs and alcohol who have lost custody of their children, and who are striving to rebuild their lives. Pray for the dedicated staff who lovingly and wisely guide these women back to productive lives.

Pray that these women can be healed and be able to be reunited with their children.

## Be an Answer to Someone's Prayer

April 12, 2013

**Matthew 25:40** “And the King will answer them, truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers you did it to me.”

What a great honor it would be to be the answer to someone's prayer! In life I have been honored to be many things... a mother, daughter, sister, friend and caregiver. All of those honors were to people I knew or had met at some time. Yet what if there was a person out there I did not know and my actions were to affect them in some way and be an answer to their prayer? There is a homeless man whose name I do not know. I see him frequently at a red light selling a newspaper. Not quite understanding the exact reasons, I am compelled to look for him if I'm in the area. I feel led to buy him dinner or a snack to give him along with the monetary gift I know he needs. I know God's ways are not our ways and so I haven't questioned this urge to help a man I don't even know. By being the hands and feet of God we can be the answer to another's prayer. Will you answer that call? Will you be that blessing on someone else's life either in your own neighborhood or across the world? Would you accept one of life's greatest honors if given the chance?

### Prayer

Father, open my heart to the cry of a stranger in need. Allow my actions to reflect Your goodness and grace. Let me be an example of Your Almighty power and by my faith be a witness to Your abundant love and kindness. Thank you Father, for the opportunities you provide to share your love with others who are not as fortunate.  
Amen.

Debbie Temple

### Prayer Focus

UMCOR - a ministry of the United Methodist Church that responds to disasters in our country and around the world. UMCOR helps alleviate human suffering by providing humanitarian support and relief after natural disaster, wars or conflict. Pray for the survivors of the January 30 tornadoes. Pray for the survivors of past disasters who are still recovering. Pray for spiritual and emotional healing for the survivors of these disasters. Pray for passionate and available “disaster disciples” who give their blood, sweat and tears to be God's love in these circumstances.

## Doing God's Good Work

April 13, 2013

### Genesis 1-2

God created His world of ours? with perfect ORDER! He thought of everything! He separated light from dark, land from water, designed and created living creatures for every purpose and means for their sustenance. He blessed His World with everything necessary to sustain abundant life. 'He did Good, very PERFECTLY EXCELLENT'.

Notice, He set the entire stage before he created man in "his own image". Therefore; God, being a Spiritual being, gives us a Spirit to commune with Him, capable to understand and exhibit His Godly characteristics of Holiness, Righteousness, and Justice. We should therefore accept the premise that He has given us the capabilities of doing His work 'Good', 'very GOOD',..... but not without His Spiritual direction!

So therefore;

1. God created all we need.....
2. He created us capable.....
3. We need to be obedient and follow His lead so His world will be a more Blessed place because of us.....

**A/men** and A/women, Let's begin.....

Marianne Richards

### Prayer Focus

Pray for God to open your heart and mind during the GIC to His plan for you in ministering to others in His name.

Pray for The Reverend Carolyn Moore, one of our keynote speakers. Reverend Moore is the pastor of Mosaic United Methodist Church in Evans, Georgia. Her church is very involved in mission in their city and around the world. Pray that God will lead her as she prepares her message for us.

## Those who answer the Call

April 14, 2013

### **Romans 10: 13-15**

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

These verses from Romans are a message for each one of us not just for those who are “set aside” or ordained to preach the good news. Jesus gave the The Great Commission to every believer, and we are sent to tell that Jesus gave His only begotten Son for whoever believes.

The Global Impact Celebration gives us an opportunity to meet and celebrate “the beautiful feet” of those who are set apart to preach the good news. Let us pray for our missionaries as they come and for ourselves as we open our hearts and minds to hear God’s call on our lives and how we may be a part of telling the “good news of Jesus Christ.” Luke 10:2 says, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field.” What would God have me to do?

### **Prayer**

Dear God, how we thank you for those who have committed their lives to spread the “good news of Jesus Christ” to all the world. Help us to be open to follow you wherever you may lead us to be messengers of your wonderful unconditional love in sending your only Son, Jesus. Amen.

Aline Wesley

### **Prayer Focus**

Jason Brock and UMCOR ministries. Pray that God will guide Jason as he brings God’s message to us. Pray for those who are still recovering from floods and tornadoes. Pray for adequate resources and volunteers to help those in need.

Pray for The Reverend Jacob Armstrong, Providence Church, Mt. Juliet who is our speaker on Sunday night. Pray that God will guide his preparation for our GIC.

## Serving Others in Jesus' Name

April 15, 2013

**I Peter 4:8-11** “<sup>8</sup>Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup>Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup>Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. <sup>11</sup>If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”

What gifts HE gives us; the ability to reach-out to others in love through prayer, the Word, financial support, listening and physical skills. I can better express my feelings through the following chorus of the hymn; The Longer I Serve Him:

“The longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows.  
The more that I love Him, more love He bestows;  
Each day is like heaven, my heart overflows,  
The longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows.”

and an experience I had serving Him in June of 2012:

Our mission volunteers spent the first day of the week sorting through food donations before putting them up for the food kitchen at Upper Sand Mountain Parish in the mountains of NE Alabama. Then a call came in for support to finish the rebuild of a home totally destroyed by the tornadoes in the spring of 2011. As we drove over to see how we could use our skills, we went by wooded areas with few trees left standing, one or two of many previous homes still standing and several new/repaired ones across barren fields. Just over a ridge, we looked down across a field of tree stumps to a beautiful home with a long ramp leading to up to the front porch. A gentleman in a wheelchair, grandpa, waved to us. He was excited that they would be able to move in that Friday, assuming we could complete final tasks (paint and hang all interior doors, paint trim work, install closet shelves, bathroom mirrors/fixtures, kitchen appliances, etc.) with a couple who had been coordinating the total build for the past 30 days. As we came closer to the porch, a pink cross with a baby doll attached and several stuffed toys at the foot shown near the side of the home. The name Hannah Jane Goins was printed on it. Grandpa Goins told us that nine of them, three families, were in the home when the tornado hit. He was in ICU for many days, surviving following the amputation of his lower right leg, but they’d lost his 3-year old granddaughter, Hannah. Grandpa shared his sorrow, his love/thanks to God and how thankful he was for the servants who came to help. HE enabled them to move in that Friday. Praise the Lord!

### **PRAYER**

Thank you Jesus for the opportunities you give us to serve you.  
Show us the way Lord.  
Amen.

Vic Lindberg

### **Prayer Focus**

Pray for Allen Karnes and the Jubilee Project. Pray for Volunteer in Missions (VIM) ministry and volunteers. Pray that more will join them in volunteering to help others who have survived disasters, but need help rebuilding their homes and lives.

## Are you waiting and not seeing?

April 16, 2013

Once there was a poor cobbler who had a dream that Jesus was coming to visit him. The Lord bade him prepare for his arrival. The cobbler awoke the next day and began preparations. He had little food, but used the last of his flour to bake a loaf of bread. He had little comfort in his home, but he gathered the last of his kindling for a fire when his guest arrived. And he took his best pair of shoes and prepared them as a gift for his guest. And then he began to wait.

There came a knock at the door. His guest had arrived! But when he opened the door, there was a woman, great with child. "Please sir. I haven't eaten in days, and my baby will come soon. I must have strength for the birth. Have you any food to spare?"

Without hesitation, the cobbler went to get the loaf of bread he had prepared. "The Lord will understand," he told himself. He gave it to the woman, who thanked him and made her way back into the streets of the town.

Some time passed. Again, a knock came from the door. At last! But when he opened the door, there was a small boy. "Please sir. My family is shivering at home and my parents are ill and we have no wood for the fire. Could you spare some kindling?" Again, without hesitating, the cobbler gathered what he had to give it away. "Surely, the Lord will understand." He tied the bundle and helped the boy to hoist it upon his back. He walked away with his happy burden, smiling and thanking the cobbler.

It was, by now, getting late. The cobbler was worried that he had missed the coming of the Lord in all the distractions. He was becoming distraught when another knock came from the door. Springing to his feet, he threw the door open. Alas, it was a wizened little man, twisted with age, and blue with cold. "I do not wish to trouble you, but I am journeying to the next town and have grown so cold. Would you let me warm my feet by your fire for a moment?" Looking down, the cobbler saw that the man's feet were wrapped in rags. He brought the man to his fireplace, apologizing that he had no fire. "But wait just a minute. I may have something better." He went to the bench where he practiced his trade, and discovered that the only shoes that would possibly fit the old man were the special gift he had saved for the Lord. Taking a deep breath, he picked up the shoes and took them to the hearth where the man sat. The fit was perfect.

"I cannot pay for these! You must take them back!" "There is no charge. They are a gift. Wear them in good health. Blessings upon your journey." With tears in his eyes, the old man resumed his journey, smiling his thanks at the cobbler until he rounded the bend and was lost to sight.

The cobbler closed his door. Darkness was falling, and he was dejected. He had begun to hope that Christ would not come. He had no bread to break. He had no kindling to lay for a fire. And his special gift was on its way to the next village.

With a tear in his eye, he went to bed. As he dreamed, the Lord appeared again. "Well done, my good and faithful servant!" "But Lord! I gave away that which was meant for you! And I was so looking forward to seeing you!" "But you did see me. And those gifts which you meant for

me were given to me, for I was the woman great with child. I was the little boy in need of assistance. And I was the old man upon his journey. Three times I visited you this day, and three times you greeted me with the love I have asked of you."

**Read Matthew 25:40**

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

**Reflection**

1. Where during this week did you see Christ in your world?
2. Describe a time where you overlooked an opportunity to serve Christ because you were looking for something or someone else?

**Prayer**

Ask God to keep you aware of places to serve others in your daily life so that you don't miss the blessings of Christ.

Amen.

Brad Fiscus

**Prayer Focus**

Pray that God will open your heart and mind during the GIC to guide you to the mission He has prepared for you. Pray for Project AK-47. Pray for their work in providing freedom for child soldiers. Pray for the safety of the staff as they travel and as they work with the governments and individuals to provide release for the child soldiers.

Pray for Melissa Hillis, Youth Missionary as she prepares for our GIC. Pray that God will fill her with the Holy Spirit and enable her witness to be powerful.

## Pray Continually and Give Thanks

April 17, 2013

**I Thessalonians 5:16-18** Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstance, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

I am thankful for the GIC. This event has transformed my thinking and actions concerning missions. The GIC has motivated me to "get off the sidelines" and be involved in others' lives in the name of Jesus.

The faithful witness of others has inspired me to surrender to God and take Him seriously about "going into the world to share the Good News of Jesus" and to minister to all in need. After listening to the stories of the missionaries and speakers who have come to our GIC, I am always inspired by their simple obedience. They are ordinary people doing extraordinary service. They are faithful and obedient to God's calling.

I now listen every day to how and to whom and where God is calling me to serve and witness. What a blessing to serve dinner at Room in the Inn and sit and talk with our guests. What a blessing to paint a room at Blue Monarch so that the women have a clean, bright room of their own and to know that someone loves them! What a blessing to share Jesus and the Holding Crosses at the Franklin Main Street Festival and Pumpkin Fest! What a blessing to help the Nepali's learn English!

I am grateful to those in our church who have encouraged me to be involved, "hands-on", with the mission opportunities our church has chosen to support. I am praying for our upcoming GIC that our hearts are changed to "get off the sidelines" and to go, teach, serve, and love in Jesus' name. I am giving thanks for those servants who are coming to spend an entire weekend with us sharing their calling and their experiences in missions. I am joyful that Epworth UMC is taking seriously Jesus' calling that we are to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Samaria, Judea, and to the ends of the earth.

During the GIC pray that God will change your heart and show you where He is calling you to serve and love others in Jesus' name.

### Prayer

Father, we know that when there is a need, that you answer prayers by sending us. Enable us to be open to your calling in our every day. In His precious name, Jesus, Amen.

Penny Vaughan

### Prayer Focus

The Reverend Jacob Armstrong, keynote speaker on Sunday night. Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower him as he speaks to us on Sunday night.

## Serving in Gratitude

April 18, 2013

**II Corinthians 9:8** <sup>15</sup> “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.....Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.”

“Gratitude begins in our hearts and then dovetails into behavior. It almost always makes you willing to be of service, which is where the joy resides. It means you are willing to stop being such a jerk. When you are aware of all that has been given to you, in your lifetime and in the past few days, it is hard not to be humbled, and pleased to give back.”

Anne Lamott  
Help, Thanks, Wow

Dear Jesus,

All good things come from you. Any good thing I might do You thought of first and planted in my heart so that I could be your hands and feet in this world. Listen more, talk less- my new prayer so that I might know what you would have me do. I only walk this earth once. Please help me do all I can.

Amen.

Vicky Smoot

### Prayer Focus

Pray that our hearts will be renewed, and that out of our gratitude, we will serve others in Jesus' name.

Pray for The Reverend Patrick Friday, The Reverend Carolyn Moore, and The Reverend Jacob Armstrong, our keynote speakers. Pray that the power of the Holy Spirit will fill them and give them the messages that God wants us to hear and embrace.

Pray for our missionaries. Pray for their safe travel, their preparation, their missions. Pray that the power of the Holy Spirit will fill them and use them.

Rev. Jason Brock - TN Conference United Methodist Relief

Erin Medin and Courtney Aldrich - Project Transformation

Rev. Allen Karnes & Heidi Taylor - Jubilee Project

Clemmie Greenlee - Nashville Peacemakers

Marcus Young - Project AK-47

Eric and Gwen Jones - Wycliffe Bible Translators

Melissa Hillis - Youth Missionary



**Epworth United Methodist Church**  
4241 Arno Road (Office)  
4340 Arno Road (Worship), Franklin, TN 37064  
(615) 790-6695 Phone (615) 790-1665 Fax

**Pastor, Reverend Chip Hunter**