



BEYOND BELIEF

EPHESIANS 3:20

Information and Prayer Guide

"ALL GLORY TO GOD, WHO IS ABLE, THROUGH HIS MIGHTY POWER AT WORK
WITHIN US, TO ACCOMPLISH INFINITELY MORE THAN WE MIGHT ASK OR THINK."

EPHESIANS 3:20

Wildewood

In one of the most transformative stories in the Gospels, Jesus conveyed to a desperate father that his son could be healed of his illness, if he believed. The father, in a moment of profound vulnerability, placed his faith alongside his fear and declared, "I believe, now help my unbelief." (Mark 9:24)

The Beyond Belief Campaign, the first one Wildewood has done in over twenty years, will require us to ask God to lead us past fear and into faith.

*As leaders, we have imagined how best to use our building. We envisioned the gym transforming into class spaces for adults; closets converted into restrooms, a vibrant patio, and the café
a state-of-the-art meeting space. We dreamed of a children's area that is safe and family-friendly. We want a gathering place designed specifically for our student ministry.*

We realized that these dreams come with costs that rise each year. We prayed and sought wise counsel from the congregation. Then we asked if God was speaking the same message to you. Your approval vote 'YES' gave us the confidence to move forward

So, what's next in this journey? We continue by seeking God's guidance to continue our robust ministry. Next, we act in faith while using our resources of time, talent, testimony and finances to impact the world for Christ.

I believe that God is able to do far more than we have imagined. We will see greater ministry impact and evangelism than we have ever seen before.

As you read through this brochure, listen for the voice of the one who leads us and allow him to assure you that he is able to do far more than we can imagine. God wants to take us to a place called . . . Beyond Belief.

Pastor Ron Wymer

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Beyond Belief Campaign

Over 60 years ago, 18 people sat in a living room in Ralston and founded Wildewood Christian Church. Their vision and dedication to bringing the message of Jesus to the surrounding community has grown into a church of over 330 families.

The purpose is still the same, reaching those who are far from God with the Gospel story, then discipling them to deepen their faith walk that, in turn, they may pass the message along to others in their neighborhoods and the surrounding community.

While the message never changes, the challenges of contemporary culture dictate the urgency and means of how we share the message of Jesus with our community. Our goal is to be a multi-generational church that supports families in their faith walk.

In the past, Wildewood has taken bold steps to construct space that supports the mission of the church. In 1990, the existing building was dedicated. In subsequent years, two additions were added to accommodate the needs of the growing congregation.

Once again, we are at a point of change. The question is “How can we more effectively serve our congregation and community?”

The “Why” of Beyond Belief

Wildewood Church is growing! Over the past three years, we have developed a plan to help welcome more people into our church family. How do we accommodate this growth? How best can we use what God has given us to meet the needs of our congregation?

During this time we conducted a facility audit, which is a document that outlines how our facility is used and where deficits exist between our mission and our available space. The outcome of this audit revealed a deficit of classroom space and underutilization of the gym space. It challenged us to re-think how we handle the children’s check-in

process and dedicated space for children and students. It also revealed a safety issue; the lack of any smoke or fire alarm system in the building. We believe that now is the time to correct these growth and safety issues for our church.

After three years of study, prayer and discussion, we believe that the Beyond Belief Campaign is the solution to take us to where we can better meet the needs of our congregation, enhance safety issues in the church, and continue to better reach the surrounding community.



Patio with New Windows and Doorways



Your Beyond Belief Financial Commitment

To fund the building renovation, we are launching a 3-year campaign called Beyond Belief. Our goal for the campaign is \$1.4 million. When the congregation voted to proceed with the project, we had 90% approval. This overwhelming agreement in direction is amazing and a testament of unity in purpose. We trust God is leading us in this direction.

We believe that everyone has something to contribute to the goal and it will certainly take everyone to meet this goal. Yes, it is beyond belief! However, God promises us in Ephesians 3:20 "Now to him who is able

to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

We are asking everyone to prayerfully consider what God is calling you to give. This amount must be above and beyond what you already give and will require all of us at Wildewood to make a sacrificial commitment. Not everyone can give the same amount, but all of us can make the same sacrifice to complete the campaign. What is God asking of you? You can know by praying and asking God to direct your decision.

Below is a chart of how your 3-year investment can impact the future of our mission to make disciples and reach our community.

MONTHLY	ANNUALLY	3-YR TOTAL
\$50	\$600	\$1800
\$100	\$1,200	\$3,600
\$200	\$2,400	\$7,200
\$300	\$3,600	\$10,800
\$400	\$4,800	\$14,400
\$500	\$6,000	\$18,000
\$750	\$9,000	\$27,000
\$1,000	\$12,000	\$36,000
\$1,250	\$15,000	\$45,000
\$1,500	\$18,000	\$54,000

F.A.Q.

What is the Beyond Belief campaign?

Through meeting together for discussions and prayer, we believe God is calling us to utilize to the fullest what He has given us to continue our mission of making disciples through evangelism and nurture. We believe this goal is best achieved by renovating existing space in the building to better meet our needs rather than constructing a new addition or relocating to a different facility.

What are the plans for the renovation?

1. Create 3 classrooms in the current gym space.
2. Expanding the women's rest room to 5 stalls.
3. Renovating the existing kitchen into a family restroom and storage.
4. Create a new kitchen in the existing gym space.
5. Convert the education wing (south end of the building) into dedicated space for Children/Youth activities.
6. Enhanced security check-in for children.
7. Church-wide smoke/Fire Alarm System.

How long will the Beyond Belief campaign last and what is the project cost?

The campaign will be 3 years (36 months) in length. Financial commitments may be made to last for 36 months or some people may prefer to give an amount up-front. The total cost of the campaign will not exceed \$1.49 million.

What are ways people may contribute toward the "Beyond Belief" campaign?

On Sunday, May 5, we will offer the opportunity to make commitments to the campaign. These commitments can include an initial 'lead gift' that is an upfront contribution to help jump-start the campaign. You may contribute through the normal means of giving, online, through

the church app, or by check or cash. Please designate “Building Fund” in the check memo or online giving category.

What are “Gifts In Kind?”

We have also set up procedures for receiving non-cash and investment donations. Referred to as “Gifts in Kind”, these are items of value which may include property or assets. For example, stocks, bonds or other investments that can be quickly liquidated but often provide tax benefits for the donor.

For more details or questions on these type of donations, please contact Robin Ziegenfuss at robinz@wccomaha.com.

What is the timeline for construction?

Construction would begin as soon as donations and/or financing for the project have been secured. The length of construction is estimated to be 4-5 months. Some parts of the building will be unavailable during the construction process. Ideally, we would begin construction as soon as August 2024. However, contractor availability and appropriate financing will determine the actual start date.



Multi-Purpose Room

Prayer Guide

Our goal has been and will continue to be, following God where He leads us. We want see where God is working in our congregation and then join Him in this work. Jesus said, "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."

We see God working here at Wildewood and are anxious to join Him in this work. We believe the next step involves making changes to our building to better meet this mission. If God is truly leading us in this direction and we are to join Him in His work, our part is not yet over. We must come together as a congregation to trust God in meeting the financial goals needed to make this happen. Our direction should not be giving equal gifts, but rather, making equal sacrifice.

The purpose of the prayer guide is to open the eyes of our hearts to see where God is directing our lives in service, in discipleship, and to deepen our faith-walk. Some specific prayer points for us are:

1. Praying for congregational unity in purpose.
2. Pray for each person to see their role in serving God.
3. Pray for those you know who are far from God.
4. Pray that God grants you wisdom in determining your financial gift.
5. Pray that God shows you where He is working so that you may join Him in His work in your life.



WEEK 1

Day 1: Monday, May 15

BECOME A GENEROUS GIVER

By Max Thacker, Wildewood Elder

Proverbs 3:9-10

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."

It really matters what you do with your money. Give God 'the first and best'. If you get your giving right, you discover the truth of the promise that God will supply all your needs.

Prayer:

Lord help me to see the value in giving and to understand the joy that it brings. Guide me to give without hesitation or expectation and to do so with love.

Day 2: Tuesday, May 16

ARE YOU READY?

1 Peter 4:7-10

“The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

Scripture says no one knows the day of Jesus’ return, but we should all be preparing for that day. The call to love each other deeply is a huge challenge for all of us. What does this look like in your life? It’s easy to love people who are familiar to us or people that we already ‘like’. What about loving others that are strangers? Those who may make us uncomfortable? Those that look and live differently than we do? This call to love and to serve transcends our comfort levels and challenges us to reach past our pre-determined opinions of others. Being faithful stewards of all that God has given to us. Imagine living in a world where every believer uses all their gifts to serve others? What are you waiting for? You can start today!

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me and gifting me to serve and to love others. I pray that my life is open to your leading me on where and who I should serve with these gifts. I pray that the glory is yours as I yield my life to your will and your ways.

Amen!

Day 3: Wednesday, May 17

TREASURING HIS PRESENCE

By Dylan Ferguson, Worship Pastor

Psalm 73:28

“But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.”

The writer of this Psalm, Asaph, recognizes what is often overlooked in our busy day-to-day lives: to walk in the presence of God is to walk in a

safe, peaceful place. Earlier in the Psalm, Asaph recounts in dismay that he has often witnessed the wicked (who do not walk with God) succeed- in contrast to the faithful. Yet, before he can go so far as to claim that this is a permanent state, Asaph rejoices in a newfound truth: those who walk with God are in an enviable state, not the other way around. In God's presence, we are shielded from the onslaught of life; while trials will come, we have a sustaining shield to stand behind. To intentionally walk with Him is to make one's heart available to His whisper throughout the day, and to set one's feet for His sending. Today, let's walk in the awareness of God's presence, making ourselves present to His every move.



Prayer:

Lord, it is often quite easy for us to become discouraged in this world; while others don't love you and still succeed, your people face trials day-in and day-out. In these times of doubt, remind us that we, your children who love you, are led into green pastures by your good hand. Bring to our minds the peace and safety offered in your presence, as we take hold of the joy that you have freely given. Strengthen us to walk in your presence today. In Jesus' Name, amen.

Day 4: Thursday, May 18

GET UP!

By Linda McDowall, Wildewood Member

Mark 2:11

"I tell you, " Get up! Pick up your mat and go home." At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked out in full view."

We are here because, as a church family, we felt the Lord call us to move ahead on this building project, to "pick up our mats and walk out in full view." For some, reaching into your pockets may seem easy; for others, it may take more reach. Challenge us to give with excited and cheerful hearts so we may take you at your promise and watch you throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that we will not have room enough for it.

Prayer:

Lord, I pray our encounter with you will penetrate our hearts deeper. May you forever change my heart and the hearts of my brothers and sisters. May we see each other's faith grow and make moves in one another's faith that we need to encourage. We came together feeling You had met us; that alone should forever change us. Amen

Day 5: Friday, May 19

DOES GOD REALLY KNOW ME? (Part 1)

By Robin Ziegenfuss, Wildewood

Psalm 139:1-6

1 You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. "You discern my going out and my lying down; you are

familiar with all my ways. 4 Before a word is on

my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. 5

You hem me in behind and before, and you lay

your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too

wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain."



The creator of the universe has intimate knowledge of who we are. As the scripture says, "you are familiar with all my ways."

However, sometimes we try to hide our true selves, even from our own thinking. Why is it that we want to avoid being confronted with the truth? We somehow imagine that if we just

hide, we can avoid facing the reality of who we are or what we've done. Here David writes so disarmingly truthful, reminding us that we cannot escape God's presence nor his knowledge of us.

We played "hide and seek" as children but for some people, that little game has continued with God. Our prayers often reflect more on material concerns rather than focus on who we really are. You are fully seen by God. Now is the time to ask yourself if you are ready to accept being fully known by your Creator.

Prayer:

Our Father, you know my inner-most being. You know my secrets and my heart. Even still you protect me, love me and want to have a deep relationship with me. Cleanse me from my sin, make me new again. Open my heart to yours that I may walk in the light and enjoy the comfort of your presence. Renew my spirit and bring healing to my soul. Only You can bring the refreshment that my heart longs for. Amen.

Day 6: Saturday, April 20

DOES GOD REALLY KNOW ME? (Part 2)

By Robin Ziegenfuss, Wildewood

Psalm 139:7-12

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, 10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," 12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you."

Is there some aspect of your life that you are avoiding talking with God about? Perhaps you are choosing to ignore it. After all, if you are busy

with other things, maybe God will forget about it, or at least you will . . . but you won't. David reminds us that no amount of finagling or neglect on our part makes things go away. Adam and Eve tried hiding from God and it didn't work them, and it hasn't worked for anyone since! After all, wherever we go mentally or physically, "God is there." If shame has you wanting to hide something from God, it's time to step into the light and cast your burden on the Lord.

Prayer:

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen
—from the Book of Common Prayer.

Day 7: Sunday, April 21

DOES GOD REALLY KNOW ME? (Part 3)

By Robin Ziegenfuss, Wildewood

Psalm 139:13-17

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

17 How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!"



While God knows every part of our being, can we really know the thoughts of God? He is urging us to come before

our Creator and come clean as we journey with Jesus on his path to the cross. We are challenged to recognize the heavenly world that surrounds us and to live in that world as well as this earthly material one. Is there something in your life that needs God's attention? Do you see God's tender love and care for you expressed in this passage? David has given us a wonderful perspective in this psalm to help us live in the truth. If you are in the dark or running from God, you can't get away. He knows right where you are and loves you. His hand will guide you and his strength will support you.

Prayer:

Father God, You are so good and Your love endures forever. I know your love for me exceeds my understanding. You see all of me and long for me to recognize Your hand in my life. I pray that as You guide me with Your strength that I will trust you enough to release my darkness into Your light. Help me to see beyond the material world into the fullness of Your love and mercy.



WEEK 2

Day 8: Monday, April 22

GOD WANTS US TO TRUST HIM

By Kaitlin Thege,, Wildewood Member

Psalm 28:7-8



“The Lord is my strength and shield. I trust Him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving. 8 The Lord gives His people strength. He is a safe fortress for His anointed king. ”

In all sorts of trials and tribulations we will feel lost, worried, confused, hurt, etc. God does not want us to feel that way. He wants us to be at peace through our trials and tribulations...is it hard at times to be at peace during our trials and tribulations? Absolutely! It isn't doing to be easy but it will be worth it.

To trust Him means to know who He is and what He can do. He is our protector in

any situation, He will guide you through your situation. He loves us so much that He doesn't want us to go through this life alone...He wants to be with us! We need Him to get through this life and He will never leave us no matter what we walk through.

Prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, I pray that we all learn to trust You. Only You can guide us through our messy middle. Trusting You can be difficult but with Your love for us we can remember through reading Your Word that You are right here with us in our situations. You will never forsake us because You love us so much, You even gave Your One and Only Son for us! Thank You for who You are, Our Almighty Creator and so much more! In Jesus' Name I pray Amen!

Day 9: Tuesday, April 23

SEEN AND UNSEEN

By Jeff Wilson

2 Kings 6:15-17

"When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked.

"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

I've always loved the hymn 'Be Thou my vision'. When I hear it, I think of this passage of scripture. Too often we are like Elisha's servant. We see the surrounding enemy, and we go into crisis mode. Our fear overcomes our faith and we bemoan our fate. What we can see has filled us with fear.

But if we let our Lord open our eyes, we see an entirely different scene. The danger is still there, but we see God's power is greater. We see the chariots of fire and the host of angels surrounding us. We need to let God open our eyes and trust in His power. In Him, we are more than conquerors. In Him, we can do all things.

Prayer:

Lord, open my eyes today. Let me see Your power and Your grace as I walk in You. Help me to trust in what is unseen and not to fear what is seen. Be my vision today. Amen.



Day 10: Wednesday, April 24

PRAYER IS LIKE BREATHING FOR CHRISTIANS

By Max Thacker, Wildewood Elder

Matthew 17:20

“Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you”

Prayer enables us to not simply be victims of this world, but instead be victors. We can move heaven and earth with our prayers because prayer moves the hand of God on our behalf. The people who carry the gospel move through constant prayer and dependence on God.

We serve a God who is able to do the impossible! What is impossible for us is possible with God. God does impossible things on a regular basis. When is the last time you prayed for something that seems impossible?

Prayer:

Lord, you are the same yesterday, today and forever. Your power is unlimited and everlasting. May people be struck with awe and amazement as they witness your remarkable answers to our prayers.

Day 11: Thursday, April 25

DO IT AGAIN!

By Kristi Diffendaffer, Children’s Ministry

2 Chronicles 7:14

“If my people who are called by my name 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.”

One of my favorite songs is titled Like a Billy Graham Revival, by Zach Williams. In the song Zach Williams sings about watching Billy Graham

on TV as a child “speaking to the world, looking right at me”

John Wesley and Billy Graham were two of the most influential speakers in the history of the Church. God used these men to bring Revival not only to their respective countries, but also to the world. When Billy Graham was in college, he visited the home of John Wesley on tour for one of his classes. When his professor was ready to leave, he found young Billy kneeling by the bed praying “Do it again God, do it again!” God used Billy’s prayer to bring millions of people to Him.



What about you? What prayers are you praying? Are you boldly asking God to do a mighty work through you? Are you asking God to do it again? Do you believe that God can do it again?

Prayer:

Dear Father in Heaven, I humbly come before you today and ask you to do a mighty work in my life. I’m asking you to “Do it again!” through me. Lord, today I give you my heart, my talents, my time, and my desires for you to use in whatever way you see fit. In your precious name I pray. Amen.

Song: Like a Billy Graham Revival - Zach Williams
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hgao_oi6LRs

Day 12: Friday, April 26

KEEPING OUR EYES FIXED ON JESUS

By Kristi Diffendaffer, Children's Ministry

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-2

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Sometimes we get so focused on the "Thing that hinders us" such as a person who hurt us, a song in church that was too loud, or that sin that Satan keeps reminding us of. We focus on what we have done in the past, that we forget to focus on Christ, on being the person that God wants us to be. We get so focused on caring about what others think or on pleasing them that we forget to remember that God is the perfecter of our faith. We need to make sure our focus is on pleasing God and not people.

What are some ways that we can fix our eyes on God? Meditating on and learning scripture is a great place to start. If we are fixing our eyes on the goal, instead of fixing our eyes on the problems, God will carry us through, and the problems won't really seem like problems anymore! We have an eternal reward waiting for us in Heaven that is worth so much more than anything we might worry about here on Earth!

Prayer:

Dear Father in Heaven, please forgive me for the times I fail to keep my eyes fixed on you. I humbly ask you to help me to focus on your goodness and your unfailing love when the world tries to distract me from your presence. I thank you for your goodness and mercy, Lord

and forgiveness for all the times I have let you down. In your name I pray Amen.

Day 13: Saturday, April 27

YOUR TREASURE

Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”



This familiar passage of scripture is often used to remind us that we brought nothing with us into this world and we won't take anything with us when we leave. Our earthly possessions and pursuits, while important, are only temporary. What truly matters is the state of our hearts and our investments in God's kingdom. Our giving, service, and love for others are the treasures we lay up in heaven. As followers of Jesus, our goal, our purpose is to leave a legacy of kindness, love, generosity and sacrifice. Where are your priorities today? There is nothing wrong with obtaining material things in this world. However, that pursuit must be aligned

with God's purpose in investing in the eternal. How do we do this? Ask God to search your heart and purposes and be drawn closer to God as you live your life.

Prayer:

Eternal Father, you are strong to save us. We ask for your wisdom in prioritizing our possessions, time and talents to best serve Your

kingdom. We ask you align our hearts with your good and perfect will. Guide us and direct us for the benefit of your Kingdom. Amen!

Day 14: Sunday, April 28

GENEROUS HEARTS

2 Corinthians 8:2-5

"In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. 5 And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us."

This story about the believers in Macedonia is a reminder of the joy of giving, even in times of trial. Paul's letter does not detail the circumstance of the trial, only the story of people who gave themselves, first to the Lord and second, to others. Their story is not one of boasting in the gifts that were given, but rather, the movement of God in the lives of people who are yielding to His will. Our faith may be tested by trials of 'many kinds' as we walk in this world. However, our victory is in Jesus, who had already conquered death and world. We can allow God to work from the abundance of our hearts even in the face of difficulties.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, you have shown us time and time again that you are trustworthy and that your love endures forever. As you have blessed us generously may we enjoy the blessing of giving generously with gracious hearts full of joy for the rich blessings you have give to us. Amen!



WEEK 3

Day 15: Monday, April 29

MOSES PRAYED

By Mark S. Krause, Wildewood Academy

Psalm 90:17

“May the favor of the LORD our God rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—
yes, establish the work of our hands.”

We don't often think of Moses as a man of prayer ... but he was. Several places record something like, “Moses prayed for the people” (Numbers 21:7). But what did he pray? Psalm 90 is a prayer of Moses, so we have the actual words of one of his prayers. At the end of this prayer, Moses asks that “the favor of the LORD” come to his people. He prays that the “work” of their “hands” be established in their midst. As the New Living Translation put it, “May the Lord our God show us his approval and make our efforts successful.”

Moses did not pray for the Lord to come and do everything for us. He prayed that the Lord bless the work we are doing for him. This is a timeless direction for our prayers, whether we are building a tabernacle in the ancient desert or working as a congregation to serve the Lord in our community today.

Prayer:

Lord God, may you bless our plans and give favor to our work for you. May we please you by what we do and how we do it. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus, Amen.

Day 16: Tuesday, April 30**WHO DO YOU TRUST?**

By Jeff Wilson, Wildewood Elder

Psalm 20:7 & 8

“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm.”

People today place their trust in many things. Some trust their wealth to see them through. Some trust in government to take care of their needs. Some trust in themselves to provide their needs. But as the psalmist says in our text, they will be brought to their knees and fall.

Wealth may not last or may be lost. People will fail us.

Only God is unfailing. He will keep us in the day of trial. His everlasting love and grace provide just what we need, just when we need it. In Him we can rise up and stand firm in every circumstance. We need not fear what will come, for He shall sustain us. Let us put our trust in Him.

Prayer:

Lord, help us to trust you in every circumstance. Hold us close in life's storms, and bring us comfort when times are hard. Help us to walk in faith, trusting You as we step forth. Lord, let Your hand guide us in the days to come. Amen

Day 17: Wednesday, May 1**WHO GAVE MANKIND THEIR MOUTHS?**

By Dylan Ferguson, Worship Pastor

Exodus 4:10-13

"Moses said to the Lord, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." The Lord said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." But Moses said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else."

In the greater context of this passage, God is sending Moses to lead the people of Israel out of their Egyptian slavery. Moses had been privy to God's power; he encountered a bush that was on fire but not burned up, a voice speaking to him from those flames, and his wooden rod turned into an organic snake. He even saw his own hand become



consumed with disease-
only to be healed
instantaneously. Quite the
proof of God's
awesomeness, right? Still,
when told to speak to the
Egyptian ruler, Moses
does not want to go. He
uses his speaking
disability as reason for

being unqualified for the mission, despite God's clear ability to do the miraculous. How often are we like Moses here? When God leads us to a person, place, or assignment, we can come up with many excuses for why we are not fit to act out his will. All the while, God walks with us, patiently saying, "who made you? Was it not I, the Lord?". Oh, what our lives would look like if we accepted God's invitation instead of living in fear!

Prayer:

Lord, I confess that fear often clouds your commands. Instead of trusting that you will see me through, my inability becomes an excuse

to reject your assignments. I'm sorry. I thank you for your patience with me, and ask for courage today. Wherever you lead me, I will go- I don't need a burning bush to know you can use me for your glory. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 18: Thursday, May 2

WHAT WILL OTHERS SEE?

2 Corinthians 9:13

"Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else."

Do we know what the community sees or thinks when they drive by our church? How are we impacting our community for Jesus and demonstrating His love to others? Are we earnestly seeking to reach others through our words and deeds? As we change our building to better prepare us for ministry, may our faith be demonstrated by our actions and not just by our words.

Prayer:

Lord, we pray that our lives, our deeds and our words be a testimony to new believers in our midst as they see the hand of God providing and answering our prayers. May we always remain faithful servants to your good and perfect will as we trust you for everything we have received so far and all that is yet to come. Amen!

Day 19: Friday, May 3

THE PLUMB LINE

By Linda McDowall, Wildewood Member

Amos 7:7-8

"This is what he showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord asked me, "What do you see, Amos?" "A plumb line," I replied.

Then the Lord said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer."

As God's children, we must focus on the plumb line he has set before us. He wants his children to return to the plumb lines He has given them. There is no doubt, no guessing, for He shows His children the right paths to take, the exact supplies to bring, and the exact clothing to wear for each job He appoints them to do. When following the plumb line, God's children are building upon the Master builder's foundation. Let each worker return to the plumb line he/she has been given before the Master Builder decides to cut it. Get back to the plumb line and join others in building His kingdom. Get back to the plumb line He has given, for it does not sway but is straight and narrow, leading to eternity.

Prayer:

Lord, search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting. It is by your plumb line alone I seek to follow. If I have swayed, I ask for forgiveness and thank you for your saving grace. Amen

Day 20: Saturday, May 4 **THE POWER OF PRAYER**

1 Thess 5:16-18

"Always be joyful. 17 Never stop praying. 18 Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."

What is prayer? The Bible provides myriad examples of prayer and how to pray. These examples show ordinary men and women laying their hearts before God, seeking Him in humility and praise. We pray to align our hearts with God



and to seek His guidance in the moments of our days. The power of prayer is more than what God does for us, it's what He does through us. Make yourself available to God to be the answer to someone else's prayers!

Prayer:

Lord, may our days be full of joy as we seek to make our hearts a place for you dwell with us every day. Help us to make ourselves available to you to be the answer for someone's prayer who is lonely, in need of love and doubting there are any answers for them. As you have loves us, may we also learn to better love others. Amen!

Day 21: Sunday, May 5
BRANCHING OUT

John 15:5

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."

These words of Jesus remind us of our utter dependence on Him. On our own, we might believe that we can make a significant, spiritual impact on the world. However, Jesus reminds us that through Him our mission, our impact is profoundly magnified when we remain (abide) in Him. We can rest assured that when we allow Jesus to lead us, rather following our own pursuits, will we see significant and lasting impact on the world.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, keep us close to your heart and connected to you. Help us set aside our selfish ambitions and fully allow you to transform our lives into a living testament of your to power. Amen!



Photos by Karina Struble

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