

THE JOURNEY

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF JOURNEY CHURCH



WELCOME ABOARD!

This is the very first newsletter from Journey Church in Westerville, Ohio.

If you don't know me yet, my name is Pastor Chris. I grew up in Central Ohio, went to Judson College in Illinois and graduated from Seminary in Ashland, Ohio. I've been involved in all kinds of ministry over the years and I love to talk about Jesus.

My wife Dayna and I were married in 1995. We have two kids (Paul and Josi), a dog, two cats and a bird.

If you want to be in touch, please find my email address below. I hope this newsletter will be an encouragement to you!

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PRAYING FOR PEOPLE WE LOVE.

I was asked recently why prayer matters if the Lord already has a plan. It's a good question. If God has the ultimate power and wisdom to handle every situation properly. What impact will our prayers have?

CONTINUED PAGE 2

READ ALONG EACH WEEK.

One of the greatest joys in life is regular Bible reading. People sometimes worry that scripture may be too difficult to understand or even boring.

I'll post passages here that we will cover in service. You're invited to read along and ask any questions you may have if I don't cover them in the message.

Let's read together!

March 1, Acts 22
 March 8, Acts 23
 March 15, Acts 24
 March 22, Acts 25
 March 29, Acts 26:1-18
 April 5, Acts 26:19-32
 April 12, Acts 27:1-26
 April 19, Acts 27-44
 April 26, Acts 28:1-16
 May 3, Acts 28

PALM SUNDAY.
 EASTER!

(We finish ACTS)

May 10

MOTHER'S DAY!

NEED A BIBLE? WE HAVE SOME!

MEET JEFF AND ABBY

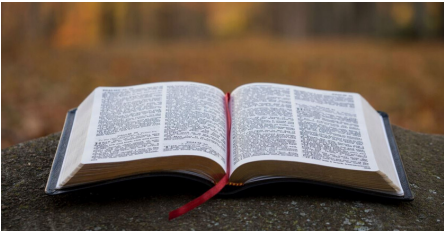
Last fall we had a "Meet a Missionary" Sunday. If you didn't get to meet our missionaries to South Africa, or want to learn more about them. Here they are!

CONTINUED PAGE 3

PRAYING FOR PEOPLE WE LOVE

BY PASTOR CHRIS

I was asked recently why prayer matters if the Lord already has a plan. It's a good question. If God has the ultimate power and wisdom to handle every situation properly. What impact will our prayers have? Praying for People we love can be overwhelming to our hearts and minds. Sometimes we want to fix everything. For clarity, here are five things to consider when praying for others. All from the words of the Apostles to the New Testament believer.



1. Prayer is a Biblical mandate.

Ephesians 6:18 says "Pray at all times in the spirit with every prayer and request and stay alert in this with all perseverance and intercession for all the Saints." 1 Timothy 2:1 Says "First of all then I urge the petitions prayers intercessions and Thanksgiving be made for everyone." Paul instructs the church he planted in Ephesus to pray and he tells young Pastor Timothy to pray for the people. We pray for others because we are told to pray.

2. Prayer brings wisdom and understanding.

James 1:5 Says it this way "Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives to all generously and without criticizing and it will be given to him."

Asking God for wisdom is a great PRAYER to pray. It will grow our understanding of situations. The Lord also says He will open our eyes as we pray.

Colossians 4:2 "Devote yourselves to prayer stay alert in it with Thanksgiving."

If we are alert and serious about prayer, we will become thankful for the wisdom we receive from the Lord as we pray for others.

3. Prayer provides endurance.

In Ephesians 3:16 Paul prays for others to be strengthened internally. "I pray that He may grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power in the inner man through His Spirit."

Inner strength provides endurance as we deal with difficult situations.

We should pray for others to grow in inner strength.

4. Prayer brings Salvation, Spiritual growth and Faith.

Here is a verse for each of these three.

Romans 10:1 is a prayer for others concerning Salvation "Brothers my heart's desire and prayer to God concerning them is for Salvation."

Colossians 1:9 is about spiritual growth "For this reason also since the day we heard this we haven't stopped praying for you we are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding."

**"THROUGH PRAYER
AND PETITION WITH
THANKSGIVING, LET
YOUR REQUESTS BE
MADE KNOWN TO
GOD."
PHIL. 4:6**



In Colossians 4:12 Paul talks about a man named Epaphras who consistently prays for the faith of others. "He is always contending for you in his prayers, so that you can stand mature and fully assured in everything God wills."

We should be praying for others to be saved, grow in spiritual understanding and faith.

5. Prayer leads to a comforted and disciplined life.

One of the most well-known passages on prayer is Philippians 4:6 Paul tells believers this, "Don't worry about anything but in everything through prayer and petition with thanksgiving let your request be made known To God."

Over time prayer teaches us how to tell Jesus about all our concerns. So we can relax.

We should not only pray for others, but we should also encourage them to reap the benefits of prayer. A life with less worry and greater discipline.

One Final Word on Praying for others.

PRACTICE

See the Bible verse below 1 Peter 4:7.

Discipline means we have become good at something. Doing it properly is second nature. If you are a diver, you must develop discipline, you must be serious regarding your focus and you must do this to stay safe while diving.

This is how serious our prayer life should be for others as the return of Jesus nears.

**"NOW THAT THE END
OF ALL THINGS IS NEAR
THEREFORE BE
SERIOUS AND
DISCIPLINED FOR
PRAYER."
1 PETER 4:7**

MEET JEFF AND ABBY

BY JEFF AND ABBY

Our Calling: Sharing the love of Jesus with the overlooked and hurting children of Africa.

Our Passion: The Children of South Africa who are affected, damaged, neglected, infected, abandoned, orphaned, and dying as a result of the AIDS pandemic sweeping the country. They break our hearts, and

they stir us to action. 2 Corinthians 5:14 says, it is "God's love and passion for them that compels us and convinces us not to give up". We have been called to share Christ here until South Africa's children are living life to the full for Him.

Our Location: Rustenburg, South Africa.

Rustenburg is the fastest growing city in South Africa. It is located in one of the wealthiest valleys in Africa and produces more than 75% of the world's platinum. However, it is also home to some of the poorest people in the region. Many of whom live in small shacks in informal settlements because they cannot afford proper housing.

**"WE AT ENGAGE AFRICA ARE GRATEFUL TO THE MANY PARTNERS WHO SUPPORT US THROUGH ENCOURAGEMENT, FINANCE, FRIENDSHIP & PRAYER."
- JEFF & ABBY**



A LITTLE ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA

BY ABBY HUNT

Diversity is a key feature of South Africa. It is not surprising that South Africa is known as the "Land of Contrasts" when you consider that 11 languages are recognized as official. Community leaders include rabbis and chieftains, rugby players and returned exiles. Traditional healers and witch doctors ply their trades around the corner from stockbrokers and housing ranges from mud huts to palatial homes with swimming pools and sprawling English gardens.

With 11 national languages, you can imagine the number of people groups that call this amazing country home. Along with the large number of people groups come many religions. South Africa is officially considered a pluralist nation, meaning all faiths are equally recognized and respected. Sadly this also means many people who claim to believe and follow Christianity have blended their belief in Jesus with other beliefs such as ancestral worship, witchcraft and other cultural traditions.

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THE JOURNEY

BACKPAGE



KNOWING JESUS

In Acts Chapter 2 Peter delivers the first sermon after the death and resurrection of Jesus. At the end of the message people rush to him and ask him how to be saved by Jesus.

Peter tells them plainly in verses 38 to repent and be baptized in Jesus name. The word repent here literally means to turn. Turn from the old ways of living for yourself and face Jesus.

Likewise baptism is an outward sign that shows you have decided to follow Jesus and grow in His word with His people. Turning to Jesus and committing to Him in baptism has another great blessing.

Verse 39 says the promise of Christ isn't just for us but for all who are far from Him. This is good news.

I hope you have turned to Jesus. He wants to give you a full life with Him. He wants us to share this good news!

GROWING IN JESUS

One of the best things to do after turning to Jesus and committing to following Him as Lord is to find a local Church. Other believers should encourage your faith and share the joy in the new life you've found.

Encouragement in Bible reading and living out our faith is best done in community.

I'd like to invite you to stop into Journey any Sunday. We are casual, coffee will be on and we would love to get to know you.

Hope to see you at 11 am this Sunday!



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