

Weekly Prayer Strategy

26 Nov – 1 Dec 2018

This week's prayer strategy is based on the sermon by Tracy Nyamuda entitled:

Praying with Purpose – Pt 2.

Prayer Point 1

Matt 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Pray that we would be a Church that makes:

- disciples of every tribe, tongue and nation.
- provides for the discipleship (including salvation, deliverance, healing and growth in maturity) of all believers in the whole nature and character of God and His Word including as it applies to the work and walk of faith.
- facilitates the expression of that faith in worship and in the sacraments of the Church.
- provides for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry to which they have been called.
- facilitates the extension of the Kingdom in all areas of life.

Prayer Point 2

Acts 2:13-15

Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had too much wine.' Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!

- Pray that we would be a Church that is sensitive to what outsiders think and openly addresses issues facing our communities.

Prayer Point 3

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 19:17-20

When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honour. Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. A number who had practised sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

Acts 3:11-12

While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. When Peter saw this, he said to them: 'Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?

- Pray that we would be a Church that is respected and experiences favour and growth in our city.

Prayer Point 4

Acts 4:6-9

Then Peter said, 'Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.' Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

- Pray that we would be a Church that accepts and restores the rejected.

Prayer Point 5

Acts 4:13

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.

- Pray that we would be a Church that reflects the full nature of Christ.

Prayer Point 6

Acts 4:16

'What are we going to do with these men?' They asked. 'Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it.'

Acts 19:11-12

God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to those who were ill, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

Acts 28:7-10

There was an estate near by that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and showed us generous hospitality for three days. His father was ill in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. When this had happened, the rest of those on the island who were ill came and were cured. They honoured us in many ways; and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed.

- Pray that our Church would demonstrate the supernatural in all its fullness.

Prayer Point 7

Acts 5:16

Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing those who were ill and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

- Pray that our Church would impact the region around the city.

Prayer Point 8

Acts 5:17

Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.

- Pray that we would be a Church that remains resilient and focused even under persecution.

Prayer Point 9

Acts 5:28-29

We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,' he said. 'Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood.' Peter and the other apostles replied: 'We must obey God rather than human beings!

Acts 19:8-10

Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

- Pray that we would be a Church that relentlessly fills the city with the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Prayer Point 10

Acts 5:40-41

His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

Acts 8:5-8

Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralysed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city.

- Pray that we would be a Church that is full of the joy of the Lord and brings that joy to others.

Prayer Point 11

Acts 9:36-39

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time she became ill and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, 'Please come at once!' Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood round him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

- Pray that we would be a Church that raises entrepreneurs who would in turn help the poor in our city.

Prayer Point 12

Acts 10:34-35

Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

- Pray that we would be a true "rainbow church", a church of all ages, race, tribes and culture (biblically permissive culture) with no divisions but modelling reconciliation in our nation.

Prayer Point 13

Acts 17:16-21

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the market-place day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, 'What is this babbling trying to say?' Others remarked, 'He seems to be advocating foreign gods.' They said this

because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, 'May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.' (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

- Pray that we would be a Church that does not tolerate and uproots idolatry in our city.

Prayer Point 14

Acts 17:22-31

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: 'People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship – and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. 'The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. "For in him we live and move and have our being." As some of your own poets have said, "We are his offspring." 'Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone – an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.'

- Pray that we would a Church that communicates the gospel in a way that our city will understand and embrace.

Prayer Point 15

Acts 19:30-31

Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him. Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a message begging him not to venture into the theatre.

- Pray for our Church leaders to healthily connect with other local, provincial and national leaders.

Prayer Point 16

Acts 27:10-11; 21-25

So Paul warned them, 'Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also.' But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship... After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: 'Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me and said, "Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you." So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.'

- Pray that we would be a Church that flows in the prophetic and hears God for warning, protection and hope for the world.

Prayer Point 17

Acts 16:14-15, 40

One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshipper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptised, she invited us to her home. 'If you consider me a believer in the Lord,' she said, 'come and stay at my house.' And she persuaded us.⁴⁰ After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left.

Luke 10:5-7

Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house.' If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the labourer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house.

- Pray that we would be a Church with the wisdom to identify men or women of peace who are key to reaching the cities.

Prayer Point 18

Acts 17:12

As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

- Pray that our Church would reach both the marginalized and the affluent.

Further Prayer Points

Pray the following over our Church:

- A church that is unified; unity (*John 17:21; Acts 2:42-47*).
- A prayerful church (*1 Thess 5:16-18*).
- A faith-filled church (*Heb 11:6*).
- A Spirit-filled church (*Eph 5:18; John 7:39; 20:22*).
- A church filled with love (*John 13:35*).
- A church for the city/nation (*Luke 19:41; Acts 2:42-47*).
- A powerful, disciplined, growing church that discipled (*Acts 2:42-47*).
- The name of Jesus held in honour (*Acts 19:17*).
- A mission-minded church (*Mark 1:35-38*).
- A church that teaches the Word and the Word spreads widely (*Acts 19:8-10, 20; Acts 5:28-29*).
- A church that accepts and restores the rejected (*Acts 2:2-6*).
- A church that is Christ-like (*Acts 4:13; Matt 11:28-29; Mark 1:22; Matt 19:14*).
- A church that demonstrates the supernatural (*Acts 4:16; 19:11-12; Acts 8:5-8*).
- A church that brings joy (*Acts 8:5-8*).
- A generous church (*Acts 9:36-39*).
- A holy Church (*Lev 19:2; Acts 17:16-21*).
- A prayerful church (*Is 56:7; Matt 21:13*).
- An apostolic & prophetic church (*1 Cor 12:28; Acts 27:10-25*).
- A church of divine order (*1 Cor 12:28; 14:40*).
- A relevant church (*Mark 16:15*).
- A church with a Biblical Worldview (*2 Cor 10:3-6; 1 Pet 3:15; Rom 12:2; Col 2:8*).
- An influential church (*Acts 19:30-31*).