

“TOP TEN” WSBC PRAYER NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY 2012



Pray that we continue to pursue our church purpose this month: “To glorify God by helping as many as possible to become fully-committed, lifelong followers of Christ.”

Pray that WSBC becomes a “house of prayer for all nations.” (Matthew 21.13)

Pray that our team of volunteer worship musicians, audio-visual people, ushers, and greeters serve with great joy each Sunday morning as we gather for worship.

Pray for a strong presentation of God’s Word as we conclude the Current Message Series, “Jesus: Who is This Man?” on February 12, and begin our New Series, “Six: Bible insights that can make or break you” (February 19-March 25).

Pray for a fun evening with many friends at the 3rd Annual Women’s Overnighter on February 3-4.

Pray for a generous response to our “Super Bowl Canned Food Drive” that concludes on February 5. Items will be donated to our Caring Cupboard Food Pantry and the Harbor Country Emergency Food Pantry in Three Oaks.

Pray for a good turnout at the “Young Adult Supper and Game Night” on February 11. This is the first of several evenings this year to encourage friendships between adults in their 20s, 30s, and 40s.

Pray for “Miss Dolly” as she leads our 4th/5th graders on a special “Avalanche Retreat” to Center Lake Bible Camp on February 24-25. Pray that each elementary student develops a lifelong, full-commitment to Christ.

Pray that many people support our Saturday at the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen on February 25, and Red Cross Blood Drive on February 28.

Pray for generous financial support of the “2012 Ministry Operating Budget” each Sunday.

The monthly Prayer Digest is written by Pastor John Bedford and Pastor Scott Brown.

Woodland Shores Baptist Church ~ Bridgman, Michigan
Website: www.wsbchurch.com

PRAYER DIGEST WOODLAND SHORES BAPTIST CHURCH – FEBRUARY 2012

Jesus said, “Always pray and never lose heart.”

“A Pastor’s Prayer for His People”

The Apostle Paul was a man who cared deeply for the people of God, and believed greatly in the power of prayer. He rejoiced in the privilege of prayer and made much of the opportunity of prayer. Throughout his Holy Spirit-inspired letters to the churches under his ministry, Paul offers up petitions to God on behalf of His people.

One such inspired prayer is found in **Ephesians 3.14-19**:

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”

Notice four petitions the Apostle offers up to God:

Paul prays that they may be strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit in their inward being.

As a kid, one of my favorite cartoons was Popeye. I loved watching how Popeye would get out of trouble time and again – when all hope seemed lost – as he would simply eat a can of spinach get some kind of supernatural power. “Pow! Boom! Bam!”

Christ-followers need spiritual energy to face the challenges and difficulties of our world, to overcome evil, and to serve God. This very real power is available through the Holy Spirit!

“Christians may experience and know the love of God that surpasses knowledge.”

Paul prays that Christ may dwell in their hearts.

Someone once wrote that, “In some Christ is present, in others He is prominent, and in others He is preeminent.” Which is it for you?

Paul was praying that Christ would dwell in their hearts so fully that their entire being would be molded and controlled by His dynamic presence.

Paul prays for a comprehension of the incomprehensible love of God.

God’s love is without limit and therefore impossible to be fully understood. It is wide without being shallow. Long without being thin. Deep without being narrow. And it is high yet within the reach of all. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Christians may experience and know the love of God that surpasses knowledge.

Paul prays for the fullness of God.

Out of his deep care for the people of God, the Apostle prayed that they would enter into the fullness of energies and attributes of God. He was eager that they would receive all the blessings that God is willing and able to bestow.

Even as I prepare this article, these are my petitions to God for His people at Woodland Shores.

Be strong. Be encouraged. Persevere. Rejoice!

Pastor Scott

OUR MIGHTY FORTRESS

Joni Eareckson Tada, the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Joni and Friends International Disability Center (www.joniandfriends.org), is an international advocate for people with disabilities. A diving accident in 1967 left Joni Eareckson, then 17, a quadriplegic in a wheelchair, unable to use her hands. After two years of rehabilitation, she emerged with new skills and a fresh determination to help others in similar situations. Joni has written over 70 books and numerous magazine articles. She was inducted into the Christian Booksellers' Association's Hall of Honor in 1995 and received the Gold Medallion Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003 from the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association.

She wrote this prayer for the "2011 National Day of Prayer" on May 5:

"Almighty God, you are our Mighty Fortress, our refuge and the God in whom we place our trust. As our nation faces great distress and uncertainty, we ask your Holy Spirit to fall afresh upon your people. Convict us of sin and inflame within us a passion to pray for our land and its people. Grant the leaders of our country an awareness of their desperate need of wisdom and salvation in You until sin becomes a reproach to all and righteousness exalts this nation.

Protect and defend us against our enemies, and may the cause of Christ always prevail in our schools, courts, home, and churches. Lord God, send a spirit of revival, and may it begin in our own hearts.

Remember America, we pray. Remember the foundations on which this country was built. Remember the prayers of our nation's fathers and mothers, and do not forget us in our time of need.

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen."

PRAY EACH DAY WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

MONDAY. (Personal) "Dear Heavenly Father, I begin this week with a new desire to make time to meet with You each day – in prayer and as I read from the pages of Scripture. Please provide fresh inspiration so that I give my best efforts and full attention to your leadership in my life. Amen."

TUESDAY. (Family/Friends) "Eternal Father, today I pray for my family and friends – that each would experience your grace and favor, and that each could see Christ in me. I pray for your guidance for those who need wisdom, healing for those who are ill, and salvation for those who do not yet know you. Help me to be a faithful friend at all times. Amen."

WEDNESDAY. (Unsaved friend) "Heavenly Father, you so loved _____(name) that you gave your one and only Son for _____(name), so that if _____(name) believes in You, he will not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3.16). I believe that "the king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, and that you turn it wherever you wish" (Proverbs 21.1). Please turn _____'s (name) heart to you. Amen."

THURSDAY. (Government) "In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I 'pray for all who are in authority so that we can live in peace and quietness, in godliness and dignity' (1 Timothy 2.2). I pray that godly counsel and wisdom come from each advisor and friend who is closest to our political leaders. I pray that you will help your church to lead the way in serving our nation by laboring for justice and mercy (Micah 6.8). Amen."

FRIDAY. (Local church) "Loving Lord, in my mind and heart today, I bring before you _____(name of WSBC friend and/or leader). Work in their life by your Spirit and draw them close to you. Inspire them to be fully committed to your Word, to prayer, to your church, and to the advancement of your Kingdom. Amen."

"Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart."

Colossians 4.2

"Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer."

John Bunyan
Author of The Pilgrim's Progress
(1628-1688)