

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH

ANNUAL MISSIONS

prayer
GUIDE



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prayer GUIDE

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MISSION & VISION

BETHESDA
BAPTIST CHURCH



BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH IS A CHRIST-CENTERED, BIBLE-TEACHING LOCAL BODY OF BELIEVERS THAT REACHES PEOPLE, TRANSFORMS LIVES, AND EQUIPS EVERY MEMBER TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE.

We believe that God has a will for your life and a desire to have a personal relationship with you as your Savior and Lord. The Bible tells us that He wants your relationship with Him to grow and mature, and that He wants you to be equipped and involved in sharing His love with others.

In order to find God's will for your life, you should be an active member of a New Testament Church. We strive to be the kind of church that will please God, and in so doing, help you please Him as well.

We encourage you to visit our worship services where we celebrate Jesus each week. We also believe that being involved in Sunday School will be beneficial in your growing more like Christ and cooperating with other believers.

You are always welcome at Bethesda Baptist Church. May God bless you and keep you is our prayer for you!

Pastor Wesley Hunt
Assoc. Pastor Andrew Wilfong



ABOUT THIS BOOK

01 Inform

This book is meant to be a helpful guide for informing our members and visitors of the mission opportunities our church participates in throughout the year. It covers both local and cooperative programs that reflect our commitment to serving God and our community. By highlighting these activities, we hope to inspire everyone to get involved, build connections, and share Christ's light each day.

02 Encourage

Our church is committed to serving God through serving our community. We participate in various missions opportunities, both locally and internationally through cooperative programs. By fostering a culture of service, we encourage our members to seize outreach opportunities to deepen their faith while uplifting those in need. United, we aim to shine Christ's light in every corner of the world.

03 Engage

Each page of this monthly ministry guide focuses on a specific service area and invites the congregation to engage in the mission of this local church. We offer prayer prompts for personal reflection and intercession as you seek God's direction in your personal involvement. We also outline opportunities for participation through prayer, volunteering, or other means of support. Our goal is to unify our church's mission focus and see the Gospel of Jesus Christ reach both near and far.

Zambia Barrels of Blessings



Since 2017, Bethesda's Barrels of Blessings for Zambia ministry has been an ongoing mission project in partnership with Todd and Kim Smith of *Mission Opportunities 4 Christ*. Each year, we fill 55-gallon barrels with much-needed items and send them to Nyawa, Zambia for distribution. Bethesda individuals and families generously donate items which not only help to meet the basic needs of those in the Nyawa region but are used to open doors for presenting the Gospel.

Items for barrels include but are not limited to:

- Bibles
- Hand and Farm Tools
- Baby Items/New Mother Packs
- Fleece Blankets
- School Supplies
- Clothing
- Flip Flops
- Water Bottles

A Barrel's Journey

Nyawa, Zambia, Africa

Get Involved

- ▶ Pray for Todd & Kim Smith, missionaries to Zambia, and that the ministry of the Gospel would reach the lost.
- ▶ Participate by donating items to Bethesda's "Barrels of Blessings" mission opportunity.

Read Georgia



Read Georgia is a program where churches partner with local schools to work one-on-one with children on their literacy skills. Organized by the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, this opportunity to minister to academic needs can truly change the trajectory of a child's development, fostering their ability to read and write. The goal of Read Georgia is to see children and their families introduced to the love of Jesus Christ and brought to a saving faith in Him.¹ The program is responsible for staffing and organizing volunteers, donating materials, and collaborating with teachers. Bethesda Baptist Church volunteers can expect to work with children to develop sight words, spelling, and vocabulary skills through reading and playing games in our local Gordon County & Calhoun City school systems. No advance preparation is needed:

Read Georgia provides it all.

Get Involved

- Pray for those volunteering in the Read Georgia program and that their efforts may show the love of Christ to students in our schools.
- Participate in the Read Georgia program by volunteering to become a literacy coach in our schools.

Sanctity of Human Life

Each January, our church collects an offering for Sanctity of Human Life. Your offering directly supports the Calhoun Pregnancy Center as they provide resources for young mothers, encouraging them that every life is uniquely created by God. Please prayerfully consider giving to this special opportunity.



¹. "Welcome to Read Georgia." Mission Georgia. November 17, 2024. <https://missiongeorgia.org/readgeorgia/>.

Disciple NOW

Disciple NOW is a weekend-long youth retreat in partnership with other churches in the Gordon Memorial Baptist Association. Middle- and High-School students from across the county join together in fellowship, worship, Bible studies, and service projects to build unity among the local body of Christ. All of the efforts of DNOW are aimed at deepening students' relationships with God and helping them grow in their faith.

One of the ways that discipleship is fostered is through intensive study of the Bible led by members of each church body. Bethesda Baptist Church students spend the weekend together with others in our youth group, being mentored by leaders in our own church. Students also stay at the homes of members of our church—"host homes"—with their small group to provide more time for deeper dives into Scripture.



Bethesda Baptist Youth

Disciple NOW 2024

Get Involved

- ▶ Pray for our students and leaders who are attending this year's Disciple NOW.
- ▶ Consider sponsoring a student's registration fee.
- ▶ Partner with the event by providing snacks for a class or by being a host home.

"Disciple NOW weekends were very impactful in my walk with God as a teenager, and I am excited to see how God moves in the lives of Gordon County youth through DNOW!"

—Andrew Wilfong, Minister of Students & Families

Go Ministries



*Youth & Brotherhood
Preparing Bags for Delivery*

Go Ministries is a missions opportunity where cooperating local churches in Gordon County prepare and deliver food to those in need in our area, namely in the Hill House & Golden Circle residences. Every week, a different local church makes meal deliveries in the name of Jesus. Bethesda Baptist Church participates in this rotation every seven weeks by providing a hot dog lunch and praying with anyone who may share prayer requests. Anyone is welcome to serve each Go Ministries date, but we also encourage Sunday School classes to coordinate a date in which your small group can work together to minister in this way.

Get Involved

- ▶ Participate in the preparation and delivery of food bags, individually or with your Sunday School small group.
- ▶ Pray that through the meal delivery efforts, the love of Christ can be shown to our local community.

The Brotherhood

The Brotherhood is the Men's Ministry of the church, mobilized for outreach, fellowship, service, and discipleship. This group meets on select Sunday evenings to discuss outreach opportunities, make visits, fellowship and worship, and raise funds to purchase Bibles for baptismal candidates at the church. The Brotherhood also often discusses benevolence and other ministries that the church can participate in to reach members and visitors alike.

In addition, the Brotherhood group sponsors multiple events—a special breakfast every 5th Sunday, the Wild Game Supper (March) and an annual Fish Fry (October)—with the goal of introducing men to church and sowing Gospel seeds into the lives of the lost.



Brotherhood Events

5th Sunday Breakfast & Fish Fry Outreach



Women on Mission



Women on Mission *Organized Outreach Events*



The focus of Women on Mission at Bethesda is making disciples who live on mission for Jesus. We believe that every Christian is to live out the mandate of the Great Commission...to live “on mission” as we share the good news of Jesus Christ with all people.

Women on Mission traditionally meets on select Sunday evenings to support a mission emphasis in which women from the church and local community are invited to gather, worship, fellowship, and learn about a specific mission opportunity or project. These outreach opportunities are designed for discipleship of those growing in their faith, and all women and children are welcome to attend.

Annie Armstrong

The offering was started in 1895 by Woman's Missionary Union® (WMU) to benefit the work of the Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board). In 1934, it was named in honor of Annie Armstrong, a bold missions advocate and WMU's first national executive leader. Today, more than \$2 billion has been donated by Southern Baptist churches and individuals to support thousands of missionaries in church planting and compassion ministries. Because of this sacrificial giving, millions of lives have been and continue to be transformed by the power of the Gospel.²



Annie Armstrong

*North American Missionary*¹

Get Involved

- Pray for North American missions and that the Gospel will go forth in our country.
- Pray for the North American Mission Board and their efforts to organize missions.
- Donate to the annual Annie Armstrong Easter Offering to support missionaries, church planting, and compassion ministries in North America.

Bethesda Baptist Church collects funds annually for this organization. Your special offering goes directly to the Great Commission efforts in our nation's churches by continually sponsoring missionaries and church plants in North America. For more information, visit www.anniearmstrong.com.

1. "Annie Walker Armstrong, c. 1875." *Wikipedia*. December 1, 2024. https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/8f/Annie_WalkerArmstrong.jpg

2. "The Mission." *Annie Armstrong*. December 2, 2024. <https://www.anniearmstrong.com/the-mission/>

Cowboy Church

Our church is proud to partner with the Cowboy Church in Jerusalem, a local organization that extends the love of Christ in many ways to the local community. Bethesda visits the Cowboy Church annually during their Camp Meeting revivals to spend time together with food, fellowship, worship, and preaching from the Holy Bible.

From the Cowboy Church in Jerusalem:

The Ranch of Hope and Healing, located in Jerusalem, Georgia, is a place for people of all ages who love God and the Cowboy way of life.... It doesn't matter who you are or where you've been, you will be welcome here. Harley or horse, boots or suits, come as you are and join us for Saturday Cowboy Church or come use your time and talents here on the ranch.¹

Get Involved

- Attend our annual Camp Meeting date at the Cowboy Church in Jerusalem.
- Pray for the Cowboy Church ministry and its efforts to share the love of Jesus with children in the community.



Camp Meeting

Cowboy Church in Jerusalem



Gordon Memorial Baptist Association

The Gordon Memorial Baptist Association is a network of churches within Gordon County that shares resources and supports each other in various ways. Cooperation is a key component of Baptist theology as we embrace the Scriptures' message that Christians are all a part of the universal Body of Christ. The organization of the GMBA is largely the responsibility of our Associational Mission Strategist, Tony Chester. Be in prayer for the ministries of the GMBA and its leaders.



Blewer Food Center
WMU Care Packages

Dr. Tony Chester & Mrs. Carey Chester

GMBA Missions Strategist



The main projects of GMBA are SPLASH Gordon, Blewer Food Center, Good Samaritan, and a partnership with the Georgia Baptist Children's Home. The association also hosts various trainings, including an annual Vacation Bible School training (*pictured on next page*). In addition, the Gordon Memorial Baptist Association organizes yearly meetings, inviting churches in the association to gather for worship, a year-end review of ministries, and more.



Beyond uniting with other churches to reach the community for Christ, the GMBA also values strengthening churches by reaching inward. The GMBA organizes a joint youth camp each year (see “Disciple NOW”) and weekly pastoral meetings to encourage growth and vitality in the church. In closing, remember to be in prayer for our association, the work it does to reach the community, and the Baptist churches in Gordon County as we all unite to make Christ known to the lost.



Good Samaritan & Family Ministries



Gordon County Jail

Handmade Christmas Cards*

Through offerings in the general fund, Bethesda also sponsors missions in the local Gordon County Jail. In partnership with brother Joe Hall, Bethesda funds the purchase of Bibles for inmates who, in turn, receive messages from the Word and opportunities to respond to the Gospel. Additionally, a group of women in our congregation designs original artwork for handmade Christmas cards* that spread Christmas cheer and the news of the Savior to those in the jail. Brother Joe Hall asks us to remember him and the evangelistic opportunities he has by specifically praying for them every Tuesday evening.

Backyard Bible Clubs

Looking for outreach opportunities can sometimes mean looking no further than your own back yard! Each year during the months of June and July, church members are invited to host a “Backyard Bible Club,” an event intended to share the Gospel and spread the news about Vacation Bible School. BYBCs are usually sponsored by Sunday School classes and reach local children and families near the host home.

Get Involved

- Host or attend a Backyard Bible Club in partnership with a Sunday School class.
- Volunteer to help in Bethesda Baptist Church’s Vacation Bible School program.
- Pray for the ministry efforts of these two programs to be fruitful in our community, and for the lost to come to know Christ.
- Pray for the Lord to reveal how He desires for you to serve in these ministries.

Backyard Bible Clubs typically last two to three weekdays with each session containing a Bible lesson/story, a missions story, a snack, a game, a time of worship, and an opportunity to receive Christ through a clear presentation of the Gospel; however, each BYBC group can organize their club in whatever way suits their class members and those they host. The focus is to share the love of Jesus and reach others with the Gospel.

Churchwide Missions

*Backyard Bible Clubs
& Vacation Bible School*



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is a week-long, church-wide iteration of the Backyard Bible Club. Each year, Bethesda hosts a VBS program spanning from Sunday through a Friday-night family outreach with water slides, a play, and food. Each day consists of a three-hour evening session: supper & fellowship, a Bible lesson, and attendance at multiple fun, Christ-centered rotations such as Evangelism, Recreation, Missions, Worship, and Crafts.

Every member is invited and encouraged to participate in VBS. Our church offers classes from birth to Senior Adults, so everyone has a place to get connected. Vacation Bible School has made great impacts for Christ, and we don't want you to miss out!



SPLASH Gordon

“The mission trip without the trip!”

SPLASH Gordon is the effort of several churches working together to Show People Love And Share Him. SPLASH focuses on reaching our community in a variety of ways over the course of two days, including construction projects at locations and homes in the area, through creative ministries at nursing homes and kids’ clubs, and local evangelism.¹

The goals of SPLASH Gordon are:

- Significantly impact the community for Christ
- Provide a multi-generational missions/ministry experience
- Make missions and the sharing of Christ experiential/hands-on, with a focus on Family: the whole family can participate!
- Prepare students to make a SPLASH in their schools
- Help churches work together cooperatively²



Ministry Teams

SPLASH Gordon

Get Involved

- Sign up for SPLASH weekend by visiting splashgordon.net.
- Sponsor a student or another volunteer by covering their fee.
- Know of someone in need? Submit a project request form at <http://www.splashgordon.net/project-request>.
- Pray for souls to be saved through the efforts of SPLASH Gordon.

1. “About Us.” *SPLASH Gordon*. December 19, 2024. <http://www.splashgordon.net/about-us.html>

2. “SPLASH Gordon” *SPLASH Gordon*. December 19, 2024. <http://www.splashgordon.net/>

Mission Partnerships

Joel and Wendi Murphy, sent from Oostanaula Baptist Church in Calhoun, are serving as part of a church planting team in southwest Montana. They have been serving 3 years in Livingston but moved to Big Timber in January 2025. Their heart is to make disciples who make disciples.

Please pray for continued discipleship in Livingston and that new small group leaders will step up, for new contacts in Big Timber, and for the Murphys to be shining lights in Big Timber for the gospel.



Murphys in Montana

Expedition Church, Church Plant



Rydal Baptist Church

Church Plant in Rydal, GA

Established in 2017 and incorporated in 2018 through Pastor David Guthrie's "His Word Lives Ministry," Rydal Baptist Church is a local church plant serving the community of Rydal, Georgia. The church met at a local community facility for close to 5 years during the construction of the church building. Bethesda was involved through donation of funds and participation in multiple construction projects throughout those years and is still a proud partner of Rydal Baptist. According to Pastor David, "Our mission for the future is to continue reaching out into the community...we ask you to pray for continued spiritual growth with our current people, and assistance with going into community and sharing."

Global Hunger Relief

“Southern Baptists join together to fight the hunger crisis by giving to the Global Hunger Relief (GHR) Fund. Established in 1978 as the World Hunger Fund, Global Hunger Relief is an initiative of the Southern Baptist Convention dedicated to providing food and sharing the Bread of Life.

Send Relief, a joint ministry of the North American Mission Board and International Mission Board, carries out missions-focused GHR projects.

GHR funds are used in gospel-centered hunger projects that share God’s love in both word and deed.

In addition to meeting crisis hunger needs during famine and natural disasters, GHR-funded projects focus on long-term, sustainable solutions to end chronic hunger through job skills training, livestock and seed distribution, clean water, home reconstruction, medical care and more.”¹



Global Hunger Relief

A Southern Baptist Convention Initiative

Get Involved

- Prayerfully consider what God would have you give to the annual Global Hunger offering.
- Participate in our fundraiser event by cooking a dish.
- Prayer for the efforts of GHR to impact the world with the Gospel.

Mission Partnership

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

The mission of FCA is to impact the world through the influence of coaches and athletes. Our local FCA has the goal of sharing the Gospel with all 118 sports teams in Calhoun City and Gordon County Schools. FCA does this by hosting team-building events where teams come and participate, opening the door for Gospel presentations.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter in Gordon County also hosts Bible studies for coaches. Pastor Wesley leads one at Red Bud Middle School. Through the efforts of FCA, teachers also have a platform to reach students on their campus.

Get Involved

- Volunteer to be paired with a team to lead a weekly devotion.
- Volunteer to help with team-building activities.
- Volunteer to help set up FCA events in the community.
- Pray for the mission of FCA to see Gordon County impacted by the Gospel.



Mission Partnerships

“The Georgia Baptist Mission Board exists to be a valuable resource for Georgia’s pastors, ministry leaders, and churches by providing guidance, resources, and training to equip them for spiritual growth and understanding of the Christian faith. In addition, [Mission Georgia models] ministry for churches and mobilizes them to express compassion as Jesus did through Gospel-centered ministry to people who are hurting in our communities throughout the state and the world.”¹ Bethesda Baptist supports Mission Georgia with an annual offering emphasis every September. Your giving goes directly to the organization and its causes.



Mission Georgia

Georgia Baptist Mission Board²



Fair Ministries

*Gospel Ministries to Children
(pictured above)*

Bethesda Baptist Church is also in partnership with multiple evangelistic ministries founded by local Christians with the purpose of sharing the Gospel clearly in public places. Brother George Southgate—founder of “Gospel Ministries to Children”—and Brother Mark Yoho—founder of “Fourth Watch Ministry”—are two local missionaries supported by our church. In addition to the monetary support these ministries receive from your offering to the church’s general funds, both of these ministries could use your prayers for boldness, favor, and fruitfulness for the Gospel of Christ.

1. “About.” *Georgia Baptist Mission Board*. December 19, 2024. <https://gabaptist.org/about/>.

2. “Georgia Baptist Mission Board Logo.” *Georgia Baptist Mission Board*. December 19, 2024. https://confluencega.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/GBMB_UpdatedGBLogo_GB_300dpiPNG-1.png

Cape Hunger Project



**Lakeview Community
Church**
*Pastors Gerald &
Desiree November*



Feeding Ministry
Cape Town, ZA

Lakeview Baptist Church (South Africa), is an active church in the Cape Town community. They are located in the center of five communities who are suffering from the effects of poverty, underemployment, drugs, and gang violence. The main aim of Lakeview Community is to effectively share the Gospel without ignoring the socio-economic needs of the community. To do this, the church both preaches the Word and reaches out with various ministries.

First and foremost, two of the broadest outreach programs Lakeview has are its feeding and drug rehabilitation programs. The church also provides care for newborn babies and their mothers by supplying diapers, baby food, clothing, and other services. Prenatal care is offered for young mothers in the community.

According to Pastor Gerald November, “The Lord is faithful, and he supplies all of our needs as time goes by.” Bethesda Baptist Church helps support the Lakeview efforts through giving in its general funds and has previously sent members to Cape Town to serve alongside the Novembers.

Please continue to be in prayer for Pastor Gerald, his wife Desiree, and the church’s efforts to meet the physical and spiritual needs of those in Lakeview through the Gospel of Christ.

Chinese Ministry 中文福音事工

“On Thanksgiving of 2021, God led us through the Holy Spirit and through the encouragement of Pastor Wesley to start an outreach to local Chinese people. This ministry has grown, and we have seen God work mightily. We normally have outreach events on both Chinese or American holidays. This is a chance to invite other Chinese people to come together, which gives us the opportunity to share the Gospel.”

—Heath & Margaret Walraven



The Great Commission calls us to “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:19), but we do not always have to travel far to reach the nations! With the growing community of Mandarin-speaking Chinese in Gordon County, you can be a part of showing God’s love by supporting our church’s outreach programs.



Mid-Autumn Festival

Bethesda Baptist Church

Get Involved

- Attend our Chinese outreach events, such as the Mid-Autumn Festival or other holiday services.
- Help support these events by preparing food, setting up decorations and seating in the fellowship hall, or other needs.
- Pray for God to move and draw people to Him through the Chinese outreach ministry.

The Kentucky Project

Get Involved

Our mission is to share Jesus with the less fortunate people of the Appalachian Mountains in the Kings Creek Community of Kentucky. Donations go to supply food boxes, clothing, toys, and hygiene items. We also take Christmas bags for the children, each filled with small toys, throws, coloring books with crayons, and Christmas candy. In addition, we provide “Mom Bags” with items just for her. Our ultimate goal is to be servants for God and shine His light to others. Thank you for your support of the Kentucky Project.

—Keith & Candy Garner

- Support the Kentucky Project with a monetary gift at our annual fundraiser.
- Volunteer at First Fruit Ministries processing center by assembling food boxes.
- Attend the annual mission trip to Kings Creek, Kentucky.



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse that delivers gift-filled shoeboxes to children around the world in Jesus' name. Bethesda Baptist Church has been participating in this ministry for more than 15 years. We believe this ministry allows our members to fulfill the Great Commission: to go into the world and spread the Gospel to all nations. Bethesda is also the drop-off location for other donations in Gordon County, serving as a hub where local churches, groups, and individuals can drop off their shoeboxes during National Collection Week.

Our Sunday School classes participate in packing parties, gathering in fellowship to pack shoeboxes, and praying for the recipients. We have a packing party for TeamKids on the Wednesday night before National Collection Week. On average, our youth & children pack approximately seventy-five shoeboxes after writing personalized letters about themselves and God's love to enclose in the boxes. Some of our church members serve as volunteers in the Atlanta processing center where shoeboxes are prepared for transportation to 110 countries.



Making a Shoebox *Operation Christmas Child*

Get Involved

- ▶ Host or attend an OCC packing party with your Sunday School small group.
- ▶ Pack shoeboxes with your family, either with boxes and labels from Bethesda or online.
- ▶ Volunteer at the Atlanta processing center.
- ▶ Spend time in prayer for this ministry and that the shoeboxes would help spread the Gospel around the world.

Angel Tree

Angel Tree is a ministry in which local families in need may complete an application to receive Christmas gifts. This ministry is typically directed towards church members and children who attend during midweek services. Information about a family's specific needs is anonymously shared with the church, and members volunteer to purchase and wrap the gifts before returning them at a designated date. Members may also participate with their Sunday school class, family, or individually by supplying the gifts. Before Christmas, the receiving families meet with a team of church members who minister through conversation, giving them the gifts and sharing the good news of Jesus' birth!



Get Involved

- Find your own “angel” to support this Christmas season by taking a tag off the tree.
- Volunteer to be at our pickup event to meet and minister to members of our local community.
- Pray that the efforts of Angel Tree will show the love of Christ and encourage others to turn to Him.

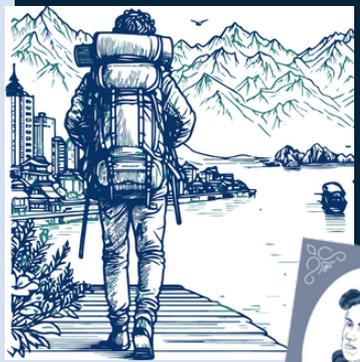
Lottie Moon

Growing up in Virginia, Lottie Moon and her siblings chose to rebel against Christianity. At 18, Lottie followed Christ and was baptized. When she was 33, she sailed to China as a Southern Baptist missionary. She saw firsthand the world's greatest problem - LOSTNESS.

In letters to Southern Baptists in America, she pleaded for increasing prayer and giving. Her letters raised more support for missionaries to be sent to China.

Every year, Southern Baptists collect the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering where **100% of the money given sends and supports missionaries.**²

Bethesda Baptist Church gives annually to this fund through your generosity.



Lottie Moon
*Missionary to China*¹

Get Involved

- Pray for foreign missions and those who give their lives and livelihoods for the cause of Christ.
- Prayerfully consider giving a monetary offering to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

1. "Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Hero." *International Mission Board*. December 1, 2024. https://www.imb.org/generosity/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2024/10/Imco_gp_hero_desktop-UPDATED.jpg

2. "What is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?" *International Mission Board*. December 1, 2024. https://www.imb.org/generosity/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2024/09/24-Lottie-Moon-Insert_digital-1.pdf

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

“Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.

We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

In the midst of life’s uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love. In the midst of life’s inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need. In the midst of life’s temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in Your sight, regardless of the cost. And in the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need. May our constant prayer be that of the ancient Psalmist: “Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end” (Psalm 119:33)....

As we look back over this past year we thank You for Your goodness to us—far beyond what we have deserved. May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may they instead lead us to repentance, and to a new commitment to make You the foundation and center of our lives this year.

And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This I ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come.”¹

“BUT YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE
HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU; AND
YOU SHALL BE WITNESSES TO ME IN
JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND
SAMARIA, AND TO THE END OF THE EARTH.”



Acts 1:8