



40 DAYS OF *Prayer*

A devotional guide for Living Creek Christian
Church as we seek God's will and provision for
The Road Ahead

September 20 - October 29

Helping People Follow Jesus

40 DAYS OF *Prayer*

The Road ahead for our lives is a journey into the unknown.
God calls His people to live out adventures of faith.

Abraham was called to go to settle in a place that he had never seen and where he knew no one. Noah was called to build a ship in a landlocked area and the people around him were left scratching their heads and eventually dog paddling to their death. Moses was asked to take three million people on a forty year camping trip so they would learn to put all of their trust in the Lord's provision.

It didn't stop when Jesus came to earth. Fishermen were asked to leave their nets and boats, and to begin fishing for men. Peter was called to walk on the water. Pharisees were asked to forgive and show grace. Disciples were asked to deny themselves the things of this world, and to take up their crosses and follow Him.

The journey of faith continues in 2015. In addition to being faithful, God calls us to do greater things as groups of believers than we could ever do as individuals. We must trust the journey to the Lord as we fulfill His purpose for our church.

Living Creek's mission is to help people follow Jesus.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:28).

I pray that the next forty days will unite us in that pursuit.

Rejoicing Always,
Randy Roberts, Pastor



40 Days

First, why 40 days? Forty days was the same period of time which Jesus, Moses and Elijah fasted from eating any food. It is considered a time of dedication. It is easy to change a habit, or make a new commitment for a few days or a week. If you really committed yourself for 40 days to set a new direction or begin a new habit, by the end of the 40 days you just might have changed your lifestyle and future destiny.

During these 40 days, we are asking the Living Creek family to dedicate this time to the Lord, to seek His purpose for all of us and the church.

How to use the 40 Days of Prayer Journal

1. Find a time and place where you can read it in peace.
2. If you miss a day, don't beat yourself up. Catch up tomorrow.
3. Don't run through it and read all of them in one sitting. Be reflective about what God may be saying to you.
4. As we all pray together on the same theme, God will continue to unite our congregation.
5. Keep your spiritual antenna up and aware. Ask God to help you notice people and situations. You will have a day, or possibly many days, when you will find a direct application from that day's devotion to your situation. When that happens you will know that God is directing you through your prayers.
6. If you have children or are married, you could possibly set aside a time in the morning or evening when you can read and pray through the journal together.
7. As we are asking God to reveal His wisdom and will for our church, seek Him for how He is calling, growing and stretching you.



Day 1, September 20

Our Mission

“He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned’” (Mark 16:15-16).

Living Creek’s mission is to help people follow Jesus. Is carrying out the mission of Jesus necessary? The Bible teaches us clearly that it is necessary. This is the means by which lost people are to be found. The Son of Man came to seek and save that which was lost. Jesus gave His disciples a great responsibility to go into all the world to proclaim His message about the Kingdom of God. This is a great example for us today. Those of us who follow Christ’s teachings surrender to His authority by carrying out His mission.

Only when the gospel message of Christ is preached in all the world, will there be followers of Christ. The New Testament disciples went from city to city upon the response to the command of Jesus. Those who believed were baptized as a testimony to the power of God, believing that Jesus died for our sins, that His death was in our place, and that His payment for sin is fully acceptable. This is the good news for all who believe, they can be saved from their sins.

PRAYER:

Dear Lord, use me to get the gospel out in the places You have strategically placed me. Thank You for Your amazing gift of salvation and for dying on the cross for the sins of the world. You have destroyed the works of the Devil so that I can live in the freedom of Your grace to live for You and to serve You. May You be glorified in all I do as I go into all the world and preach the good news of Your love. Thank You, in Jesus’ name, amen.



Day 2, September 21

Our Enemy

“You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God” (James 4:4).

The world is a contradiction to Christ’s teaching, “How can two walk together unless they agree?” When it involves people pleasing rather than obeying God, we are seeking friendship with the world; that is, a world of selfishness, failing to recognize its Creator.

Our Lord demonstrated in the desert what the world’s temptations were, and the desires of the cravings of sinful man: the lust of his eyes and boasting of what he has and does. Dying daily to the old life is the responsibility of the followers of Christ. By contrast, we are to put on the new self created in the image of its Creator daily. Let every follower of Christ take pleasure in God by standing firm on Kingdom values, by mentoring, and deepening our friendship with him and his services.

PRAYER:

Dear heavenly Father, keep me from being a friend of the world. Please give me strength, and the grace to overcome temptations and selfish desires. Help me to live a life that is pleasing to God so that You can call me friend. In Jesus’ name, amen.



Day 3, September 22

We Value Truth

John 18:37

“You are right in saying I am a king. In fact for this reason I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

John 14:6 *“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except by me.’”*

Truth is established principle. It is foundational, fundamental and sound doctrine that is universally applicable, and true universally and continually through time. It is stated in the Bible, God’s Word.

In the Declaration of Independence, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal. That they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights. That among these is Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”

There were those who were denying these Truths that our forefathers knew and trusted and were willing to fight and die for. These Truths were endowed by our Creator. They are self-evident and need no proof. They may choose to deny them, but they remain the Truth.

Jesus used the word Truth 50 times in the Gospel of Luke. He knew the Truth and spoke to many people about Truth. There were those who had previously believed what eventually was revealed to be lies. They were skeptical, but hopeful. There were those who were trusting and listened to Him. There were those who weren’t interested in Truth and they refused to listen and hated His Truth and wisdom.

Truth shines and inspires. It is searched for by all, and by some held onto for direction and purpose. It anchors us, defines us, gives us resolve and drives out confusion.

PRAYER:

God, our Father, great and wonderful is Your name and the Truth of who You are and what it is You teach. We are trusting in the message of life and love and living You give to us. We see Your light shining in our dark and confused world. The light comes to us from the Scriptures that contain Your mind and heart. We are tempted to compromise our trust by the attraction of being unified with good intentions that are empty of the content of Your Truth. We are trusting Your Word and we hear Your voice. Thank You for Truth and the Grace of Jesus Christ. In His name we pray, amen.



Day 4, September 23

We Value Grace

Grace means we get something that we don't deserve; unmerited favor; and something we not only receive, but that we also share with those we encounter.

God is abundant in grace. His greatest act of grace is the gift of salvation that He made available for all people through faith.

As a result of accepting His grace, He promises eternal life. It's the promise of a home one day in heaven with Him. His promise is sealed with the Holy Spirit as a guarantee that one day Jesus the Christ will indeed return to earth to claim His purchased possession.

Jesus purchased every sinner with His own blood on the cross at Calvary.

"The bridge of grace will bear your weight, brother. Thousands of big sinners have gone across that bridge, yea, tens of thousands have gone over it. Some have been the chief of sinners and some have come at the very last of their days but the arch has never yielded beneath their weight. I will go with them trusting to the same support. It will bear me over as it has for them." ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Romans 5:1-2 *"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God."*

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus Christ, may Your grace be evident in us.

Father, may Your love shine from us.

Holy Spirit, may Your presence be known in us,
from now and evermore.



Day 5, September 24

We Value Prayer

James 5:16

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”

True prayer is opening our hearts to God. It is coming into His presence, and seeking fellowship with Him, and it is just as important to Him as it is to us. We were created to have a relationship with God. Prayer is an essential part of that relationship. It is so essential that Jesus went off by Himself many times to pray to the Father.

We come to God with requests for ourselves, our family and others: healing, wisdom, direction, finances, salvation, just to name a few. All of these are legitimate concerns and the Father wants us to bring them to Him. But sometimes we forget that God also wants to spend time with us. We need to make sure we are taking the time to tell Him how much we love Him; to thank Him and praise Him; to search our hearts for what needs to be confessed. He is the Almighty, and He deserves our honor and respect.

“We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties.”

~ Oswald Chambers

However, there are times when we are so broken that we don't feel we can come to God. Even when we are unable to pray God is still near. Romans 8:26 says: *“In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.”* Sometimes we just need to be still and know that He is God.

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, we are amazed that You the Creator of all would even allow us into Your presence. Your Glory and Power overwhelm us! Your Grace and Mercy are astounding!

Please Lord, search our hearts and bring to mind whatever is in us that displeases You. Help us to get rid of it.

We lift up all the saints to You today. You know better than any of us, who is in need of Your touch. You are the Great Provider, our Comforter and Redeemer, our Great Physician; and You will direct our paths in the way we should go. We lay all of our concerns at Your feet! And we **thank You**, for we know that You are aware of our needs even before we ask.

We pray for those in authority, and those in need of salvation. Your will be done!

Holy Spirit, fill us with Your power that we may be effective for the work God gives us to do.

Christ Jesus, it is in Your Holy and Precious name that we pray, amen.

Day 6, September 25

We Value Integrity

“According to Scripture, virtually everything that truly qualifies a person for leadership is directly related to character. It’s not about style, status, personal charisma, clout, or worldly measurements of success. Integrity is the main issue that makes the difference between a good leader and a bad one.” ~ **John MacArthur**

We sometimes have the tendency to let trust grow to the point where a lack of integrity is overlooked. Charismatic personalities may cause us to ignore a well liked leader’s inconsistencies.

If their words about love, honesty, integrity, and humility are just words and contradict their actions - it’s time to consider another place to grow in your faith.

Proverbs 28:18 - *“Whoever walks in integrity will be delivered, but he who is crooked in his ways will suddenly fall.”*

PRAYER:

Father, we pray that we might live an infectious and godly lifestyle; that the people we rub shoulders with everyday would be the kind that challenge us to live in a way that reflects Your presence in us.

We pray that we will remain mindful of Your moral principles and that we would honor You in our actions and words.

We pray for the Godly integrity of Living Creek Christian Church.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.



Day 7, September 26

We Value Worship

"I'm about to get my worship on!"

Psalm 100: 1-2 & 4-5

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs."

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

During the focus groups with the 95 Network, we learned that Living Creek Christian Church values worship, and we do it well! However, we know that we can always improve upon our worship. Worship should not take place just one day a week, but also, in our everyday lives. Yes it is easy to come to a building and sing and praise shoulder to shoulder with other Christians, but what about when we are surrounded by unbelievers, or even alone in our cars or homes?

Do we willingly and joyfully come into God's presence, or are we just going through the motions? Attitude plays a big part in our personal worship time. Do we have an attitude of gratitude? How can we not? God alone is worthy of our praise! Look back at Psalm 100:5, *"his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."* This means He will never stop loving us, even when we have made a mess of our lives, and He will be faithful in supplying our needs!

When you find it hard to turn off the world and get more into a worshipful attitude, start by entering in to His gate with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Look to Scripture, especially the Psalms. Turn on Christian music in your car or home and really listen to the words. Next, begin thanking and praising God for everything He has given you.

It's time to get your worship on!

PRAYER:

Father, we praise You for being our Jehovah Jira - our provider! We thank You for Your faithfulness and Your grace, even though we have done nothing to deserve it! We can never thank You enough for our salvation; that even though we are sinners, Christ died for us. We worship and praise You for You alone are WORTHY of our praise. Amen.



Day 8, September 27

Our Niche - Living Creek is the simple church where differences stop at the door.

1 Corinthians 1:10

"I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought."

"Go Cubs Go! Go Cubs Go! Hey Chicago, whaddya say? The Cubs are gonna win today!" Some of you are singing right along while the rest of you are disgusted. Some of you hear "You can put it on the board! Yes!" or "He gone!" and swell with pride, while others hear that and think that The Hawk doesn't have anything on Harry Caray. Some of you are reading this and don't care at all about baseball. We're all different.

There are many things that can cause division among us besides which Chicago baseball team you cheer for (or don't); our skin color, our hometown, our language, our musical taste, our clothing...it goes on and on. All of these things can cause division among us, but God sees none of it. We are all His children and we believe very strongly that we are being called to be a church where differences stop at the door.

We need to continue to be a place where people from all backgrounds and circumstances can come together and be united as children of God. Although someone could come into Living Creek and begin to mentally separate us into groups of people based on any number of factors, we want to drop all of those differences and simply be known as Christians.

Let's pray that our church will be known for a place where ALL are welcome.

PRAYER:

Lord, we thank You that You gave Your son, Jesus, as a sacrifice for our sins. We know that You love all people and that Your grace is meant for all of us. Help us to accept and love all the people that walk in the door and let us be known as a place for everyone to come and encounter Your perfect love and forgiveness. We pray this in Jesus' name, amen.



Day 9, September 28

Our Target - We are trying to reach families who are turning to God.

Genesis 2:24 *“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and they will become one flesh.”*

Family is a group of kindred, or closely related individuals, parents and children, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and great grandparents, constituting the fundamental social unit in civilized society. Within this group, great truths are modeled and communicated as: truth, justice, honesty, mercy, love, encouragement, responsibility, integrity, service, and the love of one’s soul. These great principles bind and strengthen life. If they are neglected or violated, then the examples and teachings are negative and destructive and people are alone, isolated from others and themselves.

In Genesis, Joseph is sold into slavery by his brothers. Years later they meet him in their effort to buy food for themselves and their families. They don’t recognize Joseph but he recognizes them. He is overcome with feeling seeing them. Separation and alienation is overcome. Eventually they are reconciled. Family.

Jacob stole his brother Esau’s birthright and fled from him to save his life. He married, raised a large family, became prosperous and went home, risking death meeting his brother. He was reconciled with his brother and met his mother and father and kinsmen. Family.

Jesus was left behind when Joseph and Mary returned from Jerusalem. After searching three days they found him at the temple. *“Why have you done this to us?”* Their child was missing. Jesus returned home with them. Family.

PRAYER

Our Father, great is Your Name and wonderful Your plans and truth for all Your children. A mindless and unknowing culture surrounds us today, believing in nothing except what is popular, current, accepted and eroding the moral fiber of families, pushing people apart. The strong bonds of family and the sacred duty of responsible living with our own are weakened, and many believe in nothing and are wandering, lost. They have been deceived with the lies of unprincipled and rebellious people. We pray for the truth that sets men free, for the light of Christ to shine in every heart. We pray the truth that lives in Jesus Christ to be victorious here today. In Jesus’ name, amen.



Day 10, September 29

Our Vision - Reach one percent of the people within 10 miles of Living Creek locations.

Luke 19:10 *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*

When was the last time that you lost your keys? That's annoying, right? Have you ever misplaced your wallet or purse? That's frustrating! Have you ever lost your child in a store? That's terrifying! The tough thing about losing a child in a store is that oftentimes the child doesn't know that he is lost. He will continue to wander throughout the store, perhaps looking at the toys and being temporarily mesmerized by the colorful, plastic wonderland. The child doesn't even realize he is lost and can continue to happily wander around the store for quite some time. At some point, the child looks around and finally realizes that he is lost and then the panic sets in.

Friends, there are people all around us who are lost. Many of them don't even know it! They are happily living their lives to the best of their ability. They might be kind, generous, and even helpful people who are being "good people" because that's what they were taught as children, but they are lost. We have a God-sized goal of reaching 1% of the people within a 10 mile radius of Living Creek Christian Church locations. This can only happen one person at a time. There is no possible way this can happen due to any one person's efforts. The staff can't do it alone, nor can the elders.

Would you pray with us that we would be effective in reaching the lost just as Jesus came into this world?

PRAYER:

Father, we pray that You would open our eyes around us to the thousands of people who are lost and in need of a Savior. We know that You will draw all people to You when we lift up Your name, so Lord help us to do that. We ask for courage to speak to our co-workers, neighbors, friends, and family who need You. Give us the words to say. May we be known as a church where people meet You and the lost are found. We pray this in Jesus' name, amen.



Day 11, September 30

John 7:37-39 (NLT):

“On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, ‘Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’” (When he said ‘living water,’ he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)”

Wow! What a promise! Christ tells His followers that after He is resurrected from the dead, God’s Spirit will permanently live inside of them. The desire for real purpose and eternal significance inside of every person cannot be satisfied with power, money, beauty, fame or even service in the church. But those who know and follow Jesus will find internal - and eternal - fulfillment. Here our Lord promises that His Holy Spirit will be like a spring of water in a parched desert that quenches their greatest thirst.

PRAYER:

Dear Father, thank You for giving our church and me Your Holy Spirit. Teach us as a people to trust in Your spirit and the wisdom and counsel and fulfillment that only You can offer. I ask You to provide my church, my family and me with the wisdom we need to draw on the Spirit’s unlimited power when we face obstacles and adversity. Infuse us with courage. May we never despair, for we know Your precious promises are always true. Amen.



Day 12, October 1

1 Peter 4:7

“The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.”

There is an urgency to be ready for the day of Christ’s return. Our culture makes it easy and obvious to see how people could be unprepared for the end of time. Some of us are so distracted that we might not know when it begins.

In order to be in tune with God, His timing and what He is up to in the world, we must pray. But our schedules, demands and passions keep our mind occupied with other things.

The text above suggests that we can’t even pray to God if we don’t remove the clutter. We need to have a clear and controlled mind. During these next 40 days we need to find a place of solitude and a time of day when we can focus upon God.

PRAYER:

Father in Heaven, help me to clear my thoughts of distractions that keep me from being focused on You and what You are doing in the world around me. Help me to see Your hand move and prepare the way for me in my schedule, my relationships and my commitments. Provide a time and place for me to detach from the world around me and connect more directly to Your spirit, amen.



Day 13, October 2

Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Giving your life to Christ means that you give up having the final say about what you do, what you say, whom you hang around with, how you spend your time and your money. It means that every aspect of your life is now under new management. Your preferences are gone, His prevail. Your actions, your thoughts, and your will are to be conformed to His. You have to give up control.

That's one of the hardest things for us to do. Our culture, our history, and our natural inclinations tell us to take charge, to stand up for our rights, be strong. When we do that, we win, right?

But Jesus says to follow His lead, to acknowledge our frailty, to let Him take charge. And when we do **that**, we **really** win.

PRAYER:

Lord, we want to follow, we truly do. We want to walk with You into that future which You have made ready for us. But we are so limited in our understanding. We make so many mistakes as we try to figure out what You would have us do. Please make our path crystal clear, Lord. Help us to hold on to Your hand, and walk safely and joyfully at Your side, amen.



Day 14, October 3

Psalm 24:1

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;"

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

"You are not your own; you were bought at a price."

When two children want the same object, you will often hear both of them say, "Let go! This is mine." Some of us grow up and continue to play that game. We want more time or money for the time we invest. ("This is mine - I deserve it.") We want more from a relationship. ("You owe me!")

Can you imagine how our possessiveness is perceived by God? He is watching from Heaven and wants to remind us, "Let go! That is mine." Everything in the world is the Lord's. We are simply managers of all we have.

The interesting thing is, we do not even own ourselves. God bought us through the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross. We are His. How does God want you, His son or daughter, to live? Where does God want you to go? What does God want you to say? He paid for you. You are His.

PRAYER:

God and Father, we acknowledge that nothing we have is our own. Everything is Yours. God, we also commit our life to You. It is Yours, also. Order our steps this day. Help us to do and say only that which is pleasing to You. Amen!



Day 15, October 4

Proverbs 16:3

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed.”

As you look at your day ahead, how many of your tasks and assignments have you dedicated to God? As you do this, everything becomes an act of worship. **Whatever** we do will succeed if it is committed to the Lord? That’s what it says! What is on your agenda today that you need to give to the Lord? What will your family face this week that needs to be committed to the Lord? What will be the projects and tasks that you will have to handle at work that need to be committed to the Lord? What is the vision to which God is calling Living Creek that must be committed to the Lord?

PRAYER:

God, Your knowledge of success for us is perfect. You are perfect. Your allowing us to succeed in the things that we commit to You is fantastic. God, we acknowledge that our understanding is finite and You are infinite. Only You know how to have us succeed with what is best for us. And with trust we know that You will provide all that we need, all the resources we need as men and women that love You, as a church seeking to tell others about You, and as a people seeking to be with You in eternity. Praise You, Father! Praise You, Lord! Thank You for encouragement. We believe that *“blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him”* (Jeremiah 17:7). Amen.



Day 16, October 5

Jeremiah 29:11-13

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.’”

A few years ago I listened to a pastor say, with the best of intentions, that the congregation should “be about the business of building the church of your dreams!”

I know what he meant. He simply wanted to inspire his flock to support their church. But what he said was wrong. It's never been about building the church of **our** dreams – it's always been about building the church of **God's** dreams. Our own preferences don't even enter into the equation. It's His church, not ours. Our only task is to be faithful and follow the guidance He gives us.

PRAYER:

Dear God, You have blessed our church with love and unity. This we do not take for granted. Your Word helps us to know Your heart. We take great joy in Your desire to prosper us, to give us hope and a Future, just as You did to those in exile in the days of old. Listen to our seeking You Lord, we pray. Help us to seek to know You with all of our hearts. Keep us as one in You, move us forward in the spirit of love and unity. Prosper Your church for Your purposes, Lord. We love You, amen.



Day 17, October 6

Romans 15:5-6

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

One of the oldest maxims of war is “divide and conquer.” Victory is never achieved by those who are fighting amongst themselves. Satan knows this. He is never more pleased than when he can turn discussions into arguments, preferences into divisions, misunderstandings into conflicts.

But we who are one in Christ must be ever on guard against our enemy. We must deny him the foothold he desires. When we place the needs of the Kingdom above our own needs, when we work together in unity of purpose and in Christian love for one another, we become truly the body of Christ, and the gates of Hell cannot stand against us.

PRAYER:

Lord, we sometimes get sidetracked in our walk with You. We get distracted by things that aren't really important. We focus on the superficial ways in which we differ, forgetting the fundamental ways in which we are the same. Help us, Lord, to be truly one in You, to conform our wills to Yours, and walk in the light of Your grace, amen.



Day 18, October 7

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."

"So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others" (1 Corinthians 12:27). We, of the Living Creek Christian Church, are one body, a community, under the Lordship of Christ (having Christ in the control tower). We learn from Paul that our desires should be limited only to that which we believe God wants us to have, and that which God wants us to achieve.

We can be content in knowing that God wants to stretch us to achieve His glory. Christ gave each of us a goal: *"Therefore go and make disciples..."* (Mathew 28:19). Setting goals for the Christian is simply planned, organized stretching, under Christ's Lordship. Our challenge is to deal with the fear of being stretched beyond our imagination and to rely on His power within us. We must persevere in completing the goals we have set in His name, which means stopping, not because we are tired, but because the task has been accomplished.

PRAYER:

Dear heavenly Father, help us, as one body, to overcome our doubts and fears of moving forward with earthly plans of building a new church, in a new location, so as to accomplish Your heavenly goal of reaching those who are lost. Help us to understand that we can do all things under the Lordship of Christ, and to feel a total commitment of all that we have to persevere in carrying out Your work. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.



Day 19, October 8

John 17:20-21

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

I ran track in high school. One of the events that I competed in was the 4x100 meter relay. At one meet, we were winning the race before two of my teammates dropped the baton. It fell out of our lane and we were disqualified. After that, our coach made us practice the baton handoff over and over to the point I was sick of it. We never dropped the baton again that entire year because we learned to work together.

If we don't work together as the church, we will fail at fulfilling our purpose here on the earth. Our responsibility is to love one another and show the world that we are unified under the cross of Christ. The church is a beautifully broken collection of people from differing backgrounds who unite under a single cause and a singular purpose. Let's remember that as we look to the future of Living Creek Christian Church.

PRAYER:

Lord, we ask that You help us to love those around us. Help us to look past our conflicts with our brothers and sisters in Christ and focus on being united. Thank You for Your Son, Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.



Day 20, October 9

John 15:5

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

I have a wonderful TV set. It brings news from around the world, allows me to see events that take place thousands of miles away, keeps me informed and entertained, but only if it's plugged in. Without electricity, it is nothing more than a giant paperweight. It just takes up space. It has great potential and great capability, but until it is connected to its power source, it serves no purpose.

I am the same. Unless I am “plugged in” to my spiritual power source, Jesus Christ, I am useless.

As a church, let us always remember that, on our own, we can do nothing. We may desire to make great strides for the Kingdom, to reach the lost, to witness for our Lord. But that can only happen when we make our connection to Him, our first priority. Otherwise, we make great strides toward nothing—we reach the lost and find we have nothing to give them.

PRAYER:

Lord, remind us at every step that when we trust to our own understanding, rely on our own strength, and follow our own wisdom, we fail. And also remind us that when we trust and obey, seeking Your path, striving to be faithful rather than successful, then Your Kingdom advances and we fulfill our purpose. Amen.



Day 21, October 10

Isaiah 6:8

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”

Sometimes it's just that simple.

God points out a need, and you take care of it - not the government, not the church deacons, not the pastor – **you**.

No committee, no planning sessions, no budget projections, just one person doing what they are led to do.

I believe that when we pray for some need to be met, for God to handle some situation, He often answers by saying, “Well, what have you got planned for this afternoon?”

PRAYER:

Lord, we are convinced that You will equip us for any task You set before us. We trust that, even though we may be untrained and inexperienced, You can use us for Your purposes. And, in whatever You may have us do, if we follow Your leading, we work to Your glory. We wish to be a tool in Your hand, Lord. Keep us sharp and close by. Amen.



Day 22, October 11

Romans 12:2

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

One of my favorite cartoons from childhood is “The Transformers.” This show fascinated me because each of the robots could change into something else (a truck, car, airplane, tank, etc.). I loved watching Optimus Prime lead the Autobots against Megatron and the Decepticons. The Transformers toys sometimes had very complex instructions for how to change from one form to the other, but I would diligently read the directions so I could memorize them. It was amazing to see how one toy could have two totally different forms.

How much fun is it to watch someone's life be completely transformed by the saving blood of Christ? I love seeing the lives of people who have given themselves to Christ and watching them change into the person that God created them to be. Our purpose at Living Creek Christian Church is to produce mature disciples of Jesus Christ. Let's strive together to let God transform our thoughts and actions to line up with His plans for us.

PRAYER:

Father, transform us. Change us, from who we are now, into who You desire us to be. Rid us of all sin and bring us a new life. We love You! In Jesus' name, amen.



Day 23, October 12

Luke 14:27

“And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”

True Christianity is hard. A life given over to Jesus is a cross to bear. It requires effort and concentration, work and sacrifice.

In many parts of the world following Christ puts one's life in danger. There are places in which evangelism is a capital crime. And it seems that the Christians in those parts of the world nearly burst with faith. Their lives are filled to overflowing with the Spirit. The cross they bear, and the grace by which they bear it, is obvious to all.

In America, we live in a society in which it is pretty easy to be a Christian. No one is tossed into jail for reading a Bible. No one gets fired from their job for attending a church service. Oh, the media might snicker at us, and our politicians may patronize us, but we generally pay no real price for our faith. So, it is tempting to drift along with an “easy” faith, a faith that makes no demands, requires no sacrifices, causes us no distress.

Our Enemy is subtle. He knows that a faith that never faces difficulty never grows strong. He knows that a faith that never requires anything **from** us can never give anything **to** us.

So our cross is of a different kind, not as obvious, but no less heavy.

We must constantly resist the urge to stay comfortable, constantly be on guard against taking the easy road, constantly seek to reach a world that, though it may not persecute us, also doesn't take us seriously. That task is not as clear-cut as that faced by some, but it is no less a burden. And carrying it requires no less of God's grace.

PRAYER:

Lord, help us to realize that it must be our goal to radically change this world, not just live at peace with it. It must be our goal to lead lives that are inspirational, not merely comfortable. It must be our goal to inform this lost world that “good enough” isn't good enough—that there is something better. Amen.



Day 24, October 13

Romans 1:16

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes..."

At times we forget what God has called us to do for Him. Sometimes we don't understand how God wants to use us to fulfill His purpose in reaching the whole world for Christ. I love to look at the mosaic pictures in the school hallway. They use hundreds of tiny individual pictures to create one larger picture.

This is what the body of Christ is like. As each of us understands that it is our purpose to share Christ with others, the overall picture becomes clearer. Some of us might say, "I can't talk about my faith to others. I don't know what to say." If this is your fear, remember that someone once said "actions speak louder than words."

So look for opportunities to show your faith to others in unexpected ways. Don't look for what you can get out of sharing Christ. Look for what God can get out of your sharing. You are one picture in a huge masterpiece that God is painting. Go and fulfill the purpose God has given you.

PRAYER:

Father, give me the courage and the opportunity to speak for You today. Help me to proudly carry the message of Jesus that has been sent to everyone. Let the power of the gospel change me and may the change be obvious to those around me. In Jesus' name, amen.



Day 25, October 14

Colossians 3:23

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.”

Wow! There it is. WHATEVER? Yep! Whatever—that means as a friend, an employee, a spouse, an elder, or deacon, or usher, or greeter. That means that we should give and serve with all of our heart.

This includes everyday of our week! When we go to our job we should work at it as for the Lord. Do you have homework from school? Work at it as for the Lord. Do you need to do laundry or take out the trash at home? Do it to the best of your ability as a service to the Lord.

PRAYER:

Father, Your word seems sparkling clear on how we should “do” things as if working for You. Some might ask “why?” Later, in the very next verse, we learn why, and it is for our benefit. Doesn’t that figure? You figured it for our benefit. Your word says *“since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.”*

That should be good enough for us, Lord, an inheritance from heaven for working as if working for the Lord. It is the Lord Jesus Christ that we are serving. Praise You, Father, for You deserve this honor in our lives, in our generosity, in our witness for You. We love You, Lord. In Jesus' name, amen!



Day 26, October 15

Luke 12:37

“It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.”

In the passage above, Jesus is talking about our basic approach to life. Are we anxious and lacking trust in God, constantly trying to gain control of things that often are beyond our control? Or do we trust God to provide and concentrate on honoring relationships by pursuing righteousness and serving others with our resources?

Two things tell us the answers to these questions: our heart and our pocketbook. Our heart can tell us if we are anxious, and our pocketbook can tell us if we are generous. Both tell us if we are trusting God. Be faithful stewards.

PRAYER:

Father, give us the ability to trust You in all things. Help us live the life of love and service that Jesus modeled here on earth. Open our eyes so that we can see people as You see them. Open our hearts so we might be compassionate and remove from us all of our self-centeredness so that our purpose and Yours become one and the same. In Jesus' name, amen.



Day 27, October 16

Romans 10:14

“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?”

It has been said that the church of Christ is only one generation away from extinction. If one generation should fail to pass on the good news, it could disappear. Now, God isn't going to let that happen. He will use us to prevent it. We are the agents of His plan. The world is perishing and we know how to stop it. We have the cure for all the ills of the earth - Jesus Christ!

If we had just read a terrific book, we'd tell all our friends about it. If we had just found a great restaurant, we'd tell all our friends about it. But, we've just found the source of eternal joy, and we keep that information to ourselves. How strange and how sad!

I don't want even one person missing out on his salvation because I was not willing to point him to Jesus.

PRAYER:

Lord, help us to so live our lives as to glorify You. Help us to show Your love through our actions, to speak Your truth through our words, to show Your path through our steps. Let our lives be a beacon to those around us, an example through which they might come to know You. May we be able to say, as Paul did, *“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”* Amen.



Day 28, October 17

Ephesians 2:8

“For it is by grace you have been saved through faith...not by works, so that no one can boast.”

James 2:24

“You see that a person is justified by what he does, and not by faith alone.”

Well? Which is it? Come on, apostles, get your stories straight!
What's the formula? We need to know!

It appears that James is:

Faith + Works = Salvation

(If you believe, and it shows in what you do, then you are saved.)

It appears that Paul is:

Faith + Grace = Salvation

(If you believe and accept God's grace, then you are saved.)

But perhaps the two writers are just focusing on different aspects of one equation:

Faith + Grace = Salvation + Works

(If you believe and accept God's grace, then you are saved and it shows in what you do.)

Perhaps works are a result of salvation, a natural consequence of the new life Christ gives us. In fact, if being followers of Jesus **doesn't** make a change in the way we live, we can be sure that we aren't following closely enough.

PRAYER:

Lord, Your Word says that we are to be about the work of Your Kingdom, doing the tasks which You have prepared beforehand for us to do. Grant us the perception to see our tasks, the courage to undertake them, and the grace to complete them. Amen.



Day 29, October 18

Ephesians 6:7-8

“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does...”

There are times when we wonder what purpose we serve in the body of Christ. We do know that God has asked us to serve one another. This can be a difficult task for us as we grow into the person Christ wants us to become.

In the church body, we seem to have a few different kinds of people. First, those who are putting in their time because that's what needs to be done, individuals who punch a kind of spiritual “time clock,” but who just don't have their heart in it. Then we have those whose goal seems to be to get credit and recognition for all they do. These people have good intentions, but they get in the way of God getting the glory. And finally, there are those who live and breathe the ministry in which they serve. These people look for opportunities to serve unconcerned with recognition. May we all be such wholehearted servants, working only for the glory of God! Let's keep our attitudes and actions in check as we grow in understanding the purpose God has for us.

PRAYER:

Father in Heaven, may everything we do this day - actions, words, and thoughts - please You. Let us put our best into every effort for the glory of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In His name, amen.



Day 30, October 19

Timothy 2:2

“And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

Mentoring is defined as: when a personal, developmental relationship is formed between two or more individuals for the purpose of informal transmission of knowledge. Mentoring happens when people are in authentic relationships with each other, when they invest in one another, when people share real-life experiences that include not only stories of success, but brokenness and healing. God changes lives and the world through relationships. If followers of Christ are going to change the culture and change the world we need authentic, mentoring relationships.

We need to invest our lives in the lives of others. Can you think of any such relationships you read about in the Bible? There are many representations of mentoring in the Bible and perhaps the best example of a mentoring relationship is the one Jesus had with his disciples. He was the ultimate mentor. Before Jesus gave them the great commission He invested His life in theirs. Because of Jesus' mentoring, His disciples would go into the world changing it forever, shaping it with a new Christian world view. Who is God calling you to build a relationship with; to mentor?

PRAYER:

Father in heaven, I ask that You would help us be a church where relationships matter, where relationships are authentic. Help us to build genuine relationships where we mentor each other, help one another grow and where we make disciples who love Jesus. Father help us find our assignments, the people in our lives You want us to build relationships with, to mentor, that we may help You change the world one person at a time. Amen.



Day 31, October 20

Romans 13:8

“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continued debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow man has fulfilled the law.”

How wonderful it would be as a church, to have no more outstanding expenses. We would be able to focus more on expanding His Kingdom. We, as a body, have come a long way in the past two years, from owing 1.2 million dollars and now we are under \$180,000. We praise the Lord for this and everyone for their part in paying the debt down. We still have a way to go to reach our goal.

There is a debt we will always owe. The debt of love. We owe love to one another in the church. We owe love to those who have yet to receive the love of Christ, which we already possess. Please continue to pray for our Lord to help us reach our goal and remember our debt of love.

PRAYER:

Lord, we seek Your wisdom. Show us how we can be debt free. Make it known to us how to use the land in Monee, so that it serves Your purpose for Your people. Point us in the direction Lord; we only want what best serves You. We ask these things in Jesus' name, amen.



Day 32, October 21

Matthew 7:24-27

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

How are you doing at handling the storms of life? In the words of Jesus above, He does not say “if the rain came down,” or “if the streams rose and winds blew.” He stated it as a matter of fact. Be ready! There will be seasons when things beat against our house, representing our life, our health and our families.

The one way to prepare for the challenges of life is to have a firm foundation, built on the practice of the teachings of Jesus Christ. At Living Creek we want to faithfully disciple others through teaching basic beliefs and doctrine accurately.

“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”
(John 8:32).

PRAYER:

Father God, help us to wisely lay a foundation for our lives, and help others to do the same. Just knowing Your wise words alone will not help us in handling the storms of life, help us to also put them into practice. God, use us all to raise up strong families and a strong church built on the foundation of the teaching of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray, amen.



Day 33, October 22

1 Peter 4:10-11

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever & ever. Amen”

There is a great need for each one of us to use our spiritual gifts to serve others, in and out of the body of Living Creek. What a blessing it is to see people serve or try a new ministry, as a team or individually, and see their joy while serving. We may not recognize a particular gift in ourselves; however, if we seek God, we can ask Him to reveal those gifts to us—which may be an encouraging word from someone else.

Please pray that as we get to know Living Creek people and see a specific gift in them, we would be willing to share with them what we see. In this small way, we may encourage them; it may also plant a seed as to how they could use that gift for Jesus in one of our First Serve Ministry areas. *“..so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us”* (Romans 12:5-6).

PRAYER:

Dear heavenly Father, please guide me where You want me to serve and use the spiritual gifts that You have blessed me with. Please help me to encourage others when I see a specific gift in them, to lift them up in prayer, and for Your perfect timing. *“...so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen”* (1Peter 4:11).



Day 34, October 23

2 Corinthians 9:7 & 11

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Do you find it hard to receive a gift from someone else? The more prone you are to pride and independence the harder it becomes to receive gifts. You might have even heard some generous person say, "Don't rob me of my blessing to give."

It goes both ways doesn't it? When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord, we have received what is called an "indescribable gift" of grace. When we give back to God and to others, there is a great joy and satisfaction of being generous. God wired us this way. So we must freely receive and freely give in order to bless others.

Maybe this explains best what it means to be a "cheerful giver." We cheerfully receive gifts from others and we keep the blessing going as we cheerfully give to God and others. At Living Creek we pray that we can all continue to be a cheerful conduit through which the blessings of God will flow.

PRAYER:

Father of Heaven, the giver of all good gifts, thank You for Your provision to us. Thank You for our education, our jobs, our abilities and even our friends, all of which You use to bless us. Help us to not be selfish, but to continue passing on the blessing through our generosity for the needs of others and the church of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.



Day 35, October 24

1 Peter 3:15

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

When you speak to a stranger for more than a few minutes, you begin to pick up on the passions in their life. It could be their family, a sports team, a hobby or even their career. Some people will make their passions known from their clothes, jewelry or even tattoo.

Is your relationship with Jesus Christ one of your passions? Is it your greatest passion? Is it obvious to those around you and people to whom you speak for more than a few minutes?

Passions are easy to speak about. We are unashamed of them. We want everyone to know why this one thing is one of the most important things in our life .

At Living Creek we pray that we will always be ready to *“give the reason for the hope”* the we have in Jesus Christ. Eternal life should become our greatest passion and pursuit.

PRAYER:

God in Heaven, help us to be passionate about the hope of eternal life which we have through Jesus Christ. Help our faith to become obvious to those around us without being obnoxious to those who hear about it. Help our words to be inviting to others because of the respect we show them. Let us never be ashamed of the One who died to give us Your love. In the name of Jesus we pray, amen.



Day 36, October 25

Romans 12:3-8

“For by the grace of God given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. For just as each of us has one body with many members and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”

There is a saying “many hands make light work.” The Scripture talks about the importance of humility within the Body of Christ. As children of God, we all are the same in His eyes. As a member of this body, it is important to explore, if you haven't already, where God is leading you in your ministry to bring others to Christ. As part of any well run organization, it is our responsibility to find our place.

How do we find our ministry? Is there something God has made you passionate about? Listen to the words and wisdom of others. There are times when others may see a gift in you that you may never have even considered. Today's Scripture also talks about the importance of working together as a body and there is not a better feeling than when one feels wanted or invited to be a part of something. Who do you know at LCCC that hasn't found their means of service within the body? Have you found yours? Is God speaking to you to invite a lost soul to service?

When we have found where our talent lies, it is then that ministry within the church continues and is strengthened. Having a passion for a special ministry naturally creates communication with others about it. Excitement creates action and action creates needed ministries to be birthed within the church. There is more joy in giving than in receiving so make this the day to explore where God wants YOU in the Body of Christ!

PRAYER:

Lord, as we continue on this journey that You have blessed us with, we ask that You place upon the hearts of every member of LCCC the need to find their place of ministry within the body. Help us to stay strong as we know that as decisions are made to the glory of You, the enemy will place roadblocks. Let us stay strong and continue with the vision that has been placed before us. Thank You for Your love and Your grace.
Amen



Day 37, October 26

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”

It's been said that the saga of a nation is the saga of families written at large. The moral decline of our society and the disintegration of the family is largely due to the fact that our nation suffers greatly from a lack of leaders—specifically men. The enemy has declared war on families and on men. His strategy is simple, make men irrelevant. Unfortunately his strategy is working. In this post Christian culture, men are portrayed as unnecessary, relegated to the mere function of the propagation of DNA. Men have relinquished their posts as leaders and abandoned their responsibilities. We are moving to a state where God's design for family, and the father as the leader, is the exception rather than the norm. Our families, our churches and our communities are the casualties of this war.

It's time for men to take back the ground that they have lost. It is time for men to take their rightful God ordained place as leaders. We need men—strong, courageous, Godly men—who understand biblical manhood and we need a strong ministry, with leaders and support for each and every man, to help them live out their roles as God intended.

PRAYER:

Father we know the enemy has been hard at work redefining the roles of men in marriage, in fatherhood and in our society in general. We ask that You help us in developing a strong Men's Ministry at Living Creek; a team that will help our church bring men back to their rightful position. We ask that You will help bring forth men who will lead them there so that we can take back the lost ground and make them better husbands, fathers and leaders in our church and in our community. We pray this in Jesus' name, amen.



Day 38, October 27

Acts 5:42

“Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.”

“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” (Acts 17:24).

The early Christians did not have a church building in any town for over 100 years. You may wonder, how in the world did the local churches meet and accomplish the mission?

We are thankful for God's provision of our current locations for meetings: Rich South Auditorium on Sundays, and the Ministry Center and offices on the other days of the week. We have been blessed.

The strategic planning team at Living Creek has been considering the next steps for our church. We continue to be faithful in giving to pay down the debt on the land. It seems obvious that the construction of a new building on the property in Monee will still be several years into the future. Could God's will be more greatly fulfilled at Living Creek with a transition space, from where we are, prior to building on the property?

If we stayed in our current locations there are some challenges. Our Children's Ministry staff does a great job with the limited space that is not ideal. The ministry of The Well for our teens is already at capacity. There are ministries and events we would like to host but don't have a large multi-purpose area to do so.

We ask you to join us in asking God if it would be wise, and in His will, to consider leasing a transition space in the near future, between our current locations and our future home. Would there be a location where we could host Sunday services and have multi-purpose space for the congregation?

PRAYER:

God in heaven, You have always been a provider for Your children. We ask You to direct us in wisdom according to Your will for the place where Living Creek can bring You the most glory. If You have a transition space that could support and serve as a home for this ministry in the near future, please make the opportunity obvious to us at Living Creek through Your Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus, we pray, amen.



Day 39, October 28

Ephesians 4:11-13

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

One of God's gifts to Living Creek are our many great leaders. Some of them serve as members of ministry teams, others serve as ministry leaders, deacons, elders and staff. Our leaders, according to the text above, are all gifts from Jesus Christ. Are you an active part of the ministry of the church? You are not here by accident. Everyone has something to contribute.

When each person is fully living out Christ's purpose for them, the body of Christ, the church, is built up, mature and as strong as possible. Consider your place and purpose in helping to build up the ministry of Living Creek.

There are people yet to join us and who we are yet to meet. Will you join us in asking God to continue to provide the gifts and the leadership we need for the maturing and growth of the congregation?

Some of the people God already is preparing to serve at Living Creek may be someone you will meet today. They may end up leading a ministry or even serving you or your children in the future. We ask God to give us every person we need to be a complete ministry.

PRAYER:

God, we ask You to raise up the future servant leaders to make Living Creek mature and complete. Identify our leaders who will fill positions to serve as staff, interns, leaders of our church and ministries. Help all of us to do our part to take up our cross to serve others the way Jesus modeled for us. In His name we pray, amen.



Day 40, October 29

Romans 12:12

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I am about to spit you out of my mouth” (Revelation 3:15-16).

Okay, so you prayed for 40 days, now what? Here are your options:

1. You can turn up the heat by praying with greater intensity for our church community, for our nation, missionaries, and the persecuted Christians in the world. Keep a prayer journal and list ways in which you have seen God answer prayers for those around you in powerful ways over time.
2. You can let your prayers grow cold by stopping any regular and systemic way of praying. Only pray when you need God in an emergency!
3. Keep praying, but let the pace and intensity cool off a bit and gradually become lukewarm.

So you get the idea. Hot, cold or something lukewarm in the middle are our options. May God look upon Living Creek as a people who are continually *“faithful in prayer.”*

PRAYER:

Father in heaven, find us faithful. Don't let our love and passion for You grow cold. Our world, our communities, our church, our very families and lives desperately need You. Help us to be faithful in prayer. You are our only hope. Let us see You move as a result of the prayers we have prayed in the last 40 days, and the prayers we will yet pray in the future. In the mighty name of Jesus we pray, amen.



