



## Prayer Preparation Guide

By C. Thomas Wright, PhD, [www.mobilebaptists.org](http://www.mobilebaptists.org)

Dr. Thomas Wright writes with experience on the transformative power of prayer. Prior to assuming the role of Executive Director of Missions of Mobile Baptist Association (MBA), he spent many fruitful years with the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board, where he wrote and taught on prayer. The Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions utilized his material and witnessed its profound impact on churches. Drawing from this rich reservoir of experience, Dr. Wright has put together an exceptional prayer guide for us.

We are excited to partner with the MBA and Dr. Wright to present this superb prayer resource. Our fervent hope is that you will embrace and utilize it wholeheartedly. By joining us in this journey of prayer, we aspire to witness a magnificent awakening in Mobile, as the Holy Spirit permeates every corner of this area, turning it upside down for the glory of Christ. Together, let us embark on this prayerful endeavor with the expectant hope that Mobile and surrounding areas will come to know the one true Savior.

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### Introduction

*Making a Difference Mobile* outreach events will be powerless if we try to do them in our power, in our planning and in our might.

Mobile County needs an awakening from the Holy Spirit. The lost need Jesus. Believers need to reclaim a commitment to pray, serve, give and go. We need to be making an eternal difference in Mobile each day the Lord gives us life.

This prayer guide highlights biblical prayer as we beseech the Creator God to Make a Difference in Mobile throughout the events of March 2024. Praying scripture in private devotionals and in church services is the surest way to agree with God. The best way to get a yes answer to prayer is to agree with God.

The guide also includes information for Prayer Journey field teams and support teams to enjoy effective, specific prayer that results in divine encounters and transformed lives.

## **I. Biblical Prayer Will Make a Difference**

Fervent, effective prayer will make a difference in Mobile outreach events. We need to saturate each event in prayer. Each believer needs to reclaim fervent, biblical prayer (James 5:16). Consider this outline:

### **A. Turning from Our Way to God's Way Gives Birth to Prayer (John 15:4-9)**

We access the Holy Place through the blood of Jesus (Hebrews 10:19). Our prayer, our effective ministry, comes through the work of the Holy Spirit as we turn from sin to obedience.

### **B. Bible Study Increases a Passion for Prayer (Luke 24:32)**

Biblical truth defines right and wrong. It is sharper than a two-edged sword. It convicts of sin and draws us to hunger and thirst for righteousness. It replaces ritual prayer with sweet communion. Biblical truth is the only reliable lamp to our feet and light to our path.

### **C. Thanksgiving and Praise Create a Desire to Pray (Ps. 100:4)**

We are so incredibly blessed. But the Enemy continues to rob our joy and make us dissatisfied with EVERYTHING. It is an important discipline to take time to be thankful and give praise to the Creator God through His Son Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **D. Balancing Relationship and Service Revitalizes Prayer (1 Sam. 15:22)**

Samuel reminds us to obey is better than sacrifice, because sacrifice often is easier than obedience. Biblical truth is clear our primary relationship is to God, through Jesus in the power of the Spirit (Matt. 6:33). Our next responsibility is the priority relationship to our family (Mark 10:6-9). Next is our responsibility to work to provide for our family (Eph. 4:28). The next priority is our service of God. If we aren't careful, we invert this list. Then our service of God becomes more important than our family. An overemphasis on service even can supplant our relationship with God. The result can be bitterness and anger. The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) needs to characterize everything we say and do.

## **II. Biblical Prayer Makes a Difference**

Satan hates prayer. If he cannot completely stop our praying he will settle for shallow, unbiblical prayer. John 17 shows Jesus prayed for personal needs (vs. 5), for believers (vss 6-9), and for unbelievers (vss 20, 26). Jesus did not pray for non-living objects. Consider the "Specific Prayer" verses listed below and other verses the Spirit brings to mind to prompt specific prayer.

### **A. Praying for personal spiritual need**

- Pray in repentance and belief in Christ (see Mark 1:15).
- Pray in confession of sin (see 1 John 1:9).
- Pray for our daily bread (see Luke 11:3).
- Pray that we can forgive everyone (see Luke 11:4a).
- Pray that we will not be led into temptation (see Luke 11:4b).
- Pray for God's will and not our will to be done in our lives (see Luke 22:42).
- Pray for the fruit of the Spirit to characterize all that we say and do. (See Gal. 5:22-23).

## **B. Praying for believers**

- Pray for Christ to send believers into His harvest fields (see Matt. 9:38).
- Pray for Christ to keep Christians in His name and character (see John 17:11).
- Pray for Christians to have Christ's joy made full in themselves (see John 17:13).
- Pray for Christ to guard and protect believers from the evil one (see John 17:15).
- Pray for Christ to sanctify (set apart) believers in the truth of God (see John 17:17).
- Pray for receptive and repentant hearts (see Luke 8:5-12).

## **C. Praying for unbelievers**

- Pray for receptive and repentant hearts (see Luke 8:5-12).
- Pray for their spiritual eyes and ears to be opened to the truth of Christ (see Matt. 13:15; 2 Cor. 4:3-4).
- Pray for them to have God's attitude toward sin (see John 16:8).
- Pray for the person to be released to believe (see 2 Cor. 10:3-4; 2 Tim. 2:25-26).
- Pray for a transforming life (see Rom. 12:1-2).

## **D. Praying specific prayer**

- Praying for God to make a way for us to share the Gospel (see Col. 4:3).
- Praying for others, for the power of the Spirit, and for God's people (see Eph. 6:18).
- Praying for fearlessness and bravery to witness no matter where you are (see Eph. 6:19).
- Praying for everyone with thankfulness (see I Tim. 2:1).
- Praying for kings and those in power to be saved (see I Tim. 2:2-4).
- Praying in confession of sin (see I John 1:9).
- Praying for spiritual awakening (see 2 Chron. 7:14).

# **III. Prayer Journey Field Teams and Support Teams**

Prayer Journeys expand the idea of prayer walking so that everyone in the church can be praying for everyone in the community. Prayer Journey field teams and support teams enjoy effective, specific prayer that results in divine encounters. We can pray with insight when we are onsite. Every believer in the church can be part of a field team or a support team.

## **A. Field teams**

Mobile County has about 13,000 streets. We want to pray for and share Jesus with every person on those streets. Each MBA church is needed to mobilize effective field teams to travel into our communities for direct contact prayer with the areas we are seeking God to touch.

Field teams may walk, drive, bicycle, skate, fly, or ride public transportation.

A field team that is walking may have two or three people in it.

Field teams walk with heads up and eyes open. Team members listen for the Spirit to speak to them based on what they see, hear, and smell. It is not just a devotional walk or drive, but an intentional time of intercession for others.

Walking and public transportation have the advantage of meeting more divine encounters.

The teams usually do not stop in front of a home or business.

As the teams walk or ride they pray silently or softly voice aloud a prayer based on what they see and experience.

Take precautions for the safety of team as needed.

A sample prayer might be “Lord, we pray for the people in this home and for Your Spirit to draw them into seeking the truth. I see a boat there and pray that while this family is on the boat Your Spirit will prompt them to seek You. I see the children’s bicycles and pray that the children will grow in the wisdom and stature of the Lord. We pray for the congregation to be able to follow through with these people and that they will be responsive.”

## **B. Support teams**

Support teams remain at the church to provide prayer support for the field teams.

Those who cannot physically journey with the field teams will pray through church and home-based prayer support teams.

Use maps of local and global areas to pray for God to raise up harvesters in those areas and for the unbelievers to be responsive.

Pray for the people in each house, apartment, and business on the streets where the field teams are journeying.

Intercede on behalf of church prospects and lost people.

Pray for the members and visitors who use the church facilities.

Go separately to every classroom and pray for the teachers and students.

Pray for the maturity and witness of the believers in the class and for unbelievers to come to church and to accept Christ.

Pray for the staff, program leaders, and worship leaders.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower the services and outreach and for the members to reach the lost and introduce persons to Jesus as their Savior.

Walk through the parking lot and pray for the light of the Gospel to reach into the community.

Pray for every visitor’s spot to be filled with visitors.

## **IV. Divine Encounters**

The field teams need to be prepared to respond to divine encounters. The ministry of Jesus is characterized by many divine encounters as he journeyed across the countryside. Matthew 8:2-28 lists four divine encounters. Other well known divine encounters include the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17) and the woman at the well (John 4:7). Each of them were opportunities for ministry and witness.

Listen for the Spirit to instruct you to greet someone you encounter during the Prayer Journey. If the person responds say, “We are from (name of) church and are out praying for our community. Is there anything we can pray for you about?” Most people will respond positively.

Take a moment to write the request on the follow-up card. If the Spirit leads, ask, “May we have your name so we can pray for you specifically?” Many people will say yes. Write down the name on the follow-up card. Then ask if the person

would mind if someone came from the church to pray for him or her or study the Bible with them.

If the person is receptive, you may be able to say, “I see you believe in prayer. Are you a follower of Jesus or are you still in the process?” By this point, many field teams are able to share a Gospel booklet or testimony. Also give the person an information brochure about your church.

#### **A. Field team witnessing materials**

Download the evangelism outline for “The Best News” and view the training video at [www.alsbom.org/makingadifference](http://www.alsbom.org/makingadifference).

Introducing people to Jesus is the priority but inviting them to church is important too. Take materials providing your church name, address and worship times. Include a clear invitation to visit.

Access the materials available by choosing a zip code at [www.thegospeltoeveryone.org](http://www.thegospeltoeveryone.org).

Use a marked New Testament or a witnessing booklet you like to use. Install “The Bridge” app on your phone to help lead a person to Jesus. It can toggle to English and Spanish.

#### **B. Follow-up cards**

Take follow-up cards to record encounters. Be sure to get enough information for follow-up with those who share prayer requests, accept Christ, or receive information.

#### **C. Important benefits**

Plan a brief reporting session as prayer teams return to the church. Reporting sessions are often dynamic in their observations, testimonies and sharing. Often there are specific suggestions and requests for ways to reach into the community and respond to things they have seen. The responses have included *Jesus* CD distribution, English as a Second Language classes, homeless ministries, job training, day care programs for senior adults, after school programs, and mother’s morning out programs.

### **V. Follow-through**

The follow-through with contacts and converts made on Prayer Journeys concludes with the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus. Do not stop with one or two Prayer Journeys! Every focus area for a Prayer Journey will result in conversions, rededications, and new congregations.

Each church needs to be sure that every contact and every conversion is nurtured into a relationship with a Sunday School class/Bible study and worship through a local church.

## VI. Praying Scripture

These verses may be helpful in personal devotions and corporate worship as you pray for the people that live in your community. Add to this list as the Lord brings scripture to mind. (All scripture below is NKJV.)

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful.” (Psalm 1:1)

“I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all your marvelous works.

I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O most High.”  
(Psalm 9:1-2)

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4)

“Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.” (Psalm 55:22)

“Give ear, O my people, to my law; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.”  
(Psalm 78:1)

“The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; The world and all its fullness, You have founded them.” (Psalm 89:11)

“Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.” (Psalm 100:3)

“Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, And revive me in Your way.” (Psalm 119:36-37)

“Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it: Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.” (Psalm 127:1)

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