

---

# Cedar Springs Mission Devotionals & Prayer Guide

---

April 2018



<http://reclamationstories.org>

---

## EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1

*"I have seen the Lord."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

John 20:1-18

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" - and that he had said these things to her. - *John 20:1-18 ESV*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

#### Global Partner Focus: Africa

[\*Andy and Bev Warren\*](#) serve with an MTW team that is involved in HIV/AIDS work and church planting through the Ethiopia Aids Care and Treatment (ACT) Project. The project targets slum communities in Addis Ababa which contain the neediest people in the community - large percentages of women with small children. In recent years, the project has served more than 500 AIDS-affected families, reaching more than 1,200 people. Pray today for a new family sponsorship program, Family to Family. It is a way for a family in the U.S. to connect with one of their project families.

[\*Bridges International\*](#) serves the needs of international students adjusting to living and studying at the University of Tennessee. Pray today for the international students on campus that they may understand the love of Jesus during this semester.

*Notes.*

## MONDAY, APRIL 2

*"He shall see his seed; he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Isaiah 53:10

Plead for the speedy fulfilment of this promise, all ye who love the Lord. It is easy work to pray when we are grounded and bottomed, as to our desires, upon God's own promise. How can he that gave the word refuse to keep it? Immutable veracity cannot demean itself by a lie, and eternal faithfulness cannot degrade itself by neglect. God must bless his Son, his covenant binds him to it. That which the Spirit prompts us to ask for Jesus, is that which God decrees to give him. Whenever you are praying for the kingdom of Christ, let your eyes behold the dawning of the blessed day which draweth near, when the Crucified shall receive his coronation in the place where men rejected him. Courage, you that prayerfully work and toil for Christ with success of the very smallest kind, it shall not be so always; better times are before you. Your eyes cannot see the blissful future: borrow the telescope of faith; wipe the misty breath of your doubts from the glass; look through it and behold the coming glory. Reader, let us ask, *do you* make this your constant prayer? Remember that the same Christ who tells us to say, "Give us this day our daily bread," had first given us this petition, "Hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven." Let not your prayers be all concerning your own sins, your own wants, your own imperfections, your own trials, but let them climb the starry ladder, and get up to Christ himself, and then, as you draw nigh to the blood-sprinkled mercy-seat, offer this prayer continually, "Lord, extend the kingdom of thy dear Son." Such a petition, fervently presented, will elevate the spirit of all your devotions. Mind that you prove the sincerity of your prayer by laboring to promote the Lord's glory. - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

#### Global Partner Focus: Europe

[Phil](#) has been serving in Eurasia for over 10 years. His focus has been the Tatar people, a largely Muslim people group. Phil has worked with others in launching a local organization that provides language instruction with the goal of helping to equip believers to bring the light of the gospel to the least-reached in their own language. Pray today for a new project that offers a school year of language instruction with the aim of helping equip His servants for ministry amongst Tatars. They are trying to increase the number of students and now offer an online option.

[Bridge Refugee Services](#) facilitates the resettlement of refugees in East Tennessee. Bridge empowers refugees to become self-sufficient, and works closely with many volunteers, employers, and churches that sponsor refugee families. Pray today for all the refugee families that have recently settled in Knoxville and those that are waiting to come to the United States. Pray that God will remove the barriers that prevent them from entering our country.

Notes:

## TUESDAY, APRIL 3

*"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way;  
and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Isaiah 53:6

Here a confession of sin common to all the elect people of God. They have all fallen, and therefore, in common chorus, they all say, from the first who entered heaven to the last who shall enter there, "All we like sheep have gone astray." The confession, while thus unanimous, is also special and particular: "We have turned everyone to his own way." There is a peculiar sinfulness about every one of the individuals; all are sinful, but each one with some special aggravation not found in his fellow. It is the mark of genuine repentance that while it naturally associates itself with other penitents, it also takes up a position of loneliness. "We have turned everyone to his own way," is a confession that each man had sinned against light peculiar to himself, or sinned with an aggravation which he could not perceive in others. This confession is unreserved; there is not a word to detract from its force, nor a syllable by way of excuse. The confession is a giving up of all pleas of self-righteousness. It is the declaration of men who are consciously guilty - guilty with aggravations, guilty without excuse: they stand with their weapons of rebellion broken in pieces and cry, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way." Yet we hear no dolorous wailings attending this confession of sin; for the next sentence makes it almost a song. "The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." It is the most grievous sentence of the three, but it overflows with comfort. Strange is it that where misery was concentrated mercy reigned; where sorrow reached her climax, weary souls find rest. The Savior bruised is the healing of bruised hearts. See how the lowliest penitence gives place to assured confidence through simply gazing at Christ on the cross! - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

**Global Partner Focus:** Europe

[Paul and Karan Davis](#) have been working with TEAM in France since 1978 in church-planting ministries. In 2010, they moved to the city of Pontcharra, strategically located at the junction of the valleys, major highways, and railways that link the cities of Albertville, Chambéry, and Grenoble. Pray today for the development of a leadership training center for new workers in France.

[Campus Renewal Ministries](#) is a National Christian Ministry devoted to seeing transformation on college campuses for God's glory. They have been around for over 15 years and work with colleges across America. Pray today for their leaders to have a renewed vision for ministry on UT's campus as they serve students.

*Notes:*

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

*"Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Isaiah 2:3

It is exceedingly beneficial to our souls to mount above this present evil world to something nobler and better. The cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches are apt to choke everything good within us, and we grow fretful, desponding, perhaps proud and carnal. It is well for us to cut down these thorns and briars, for heavenly seed sown among them is not likely to yield a harvest; and where shall we find a better sickle with which to cut them down than communion with God and the things of the kingdom? In the valleys of Switzerland many of the inhabitants are deformed, and all wear a sickly appearance, for the atmosphere is charged with miasma, and is close and stagnant; but up yonder, on the mountain, you find a hardy race, who breathe the clear fresh air as it blows from the virgin snows of the Alpine summits. It would be well if the dwellers in the valley could frequently leave their abodes among the marshes and the fever mists, and inhale the bracing element upon the hills. It is to such an exploit of climbing that I invite you this evening. May the Spirit of God assist us to leave the mists of fear and the fevers of anxiety, and all the ills which gather in this valley of earth, and to ascend the mountains of anticipated joy and blessedness. May God the Holy Spirit cut the cords that keep us here below, and assist us to mount! We sit too often like chained eagles fastened to the rock, only that, unlike the eagle, we begin to love our chain, and would, perhaps, if it came really to the test, be loath to have it snapped. May God now grant us grace, if we cannot escape from the chain as to our flesh, yet to do so as to our spirits; and leaving the body, like a servant, at the foot of the hill, may our soul, like Abraham, attain the top of the mountain, there to indulge in communion with the Most High. - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

#### Global Partner Focus: Europe

[Bobby and Teresa LaDage](#) are working with Redeemer City to City (the church planting arm of Redeemer Church in NYC) envisioning, equipping, and mentoring church planters and their wives in order to see gospel-centered churches reach the major cities of Eastern and Central Europe. They are also now serving as European Regional Leaders for United World Mission. Pray today for an upcoming move for one year to another country in October to fulfill an agreement between Germany and the U.S. government. Pray for wisdom to know the right country to move to.

[Child Evangelism Fellowship](#) (CEF) is committed to the evangelism of boys and girls through Good News Clubs, the Tennessee Valley Fair and any other means to reach the children of the Knoxville community. Good News Club is a ministry in which trained teachers meet with groups of children in schools, homes, community centers, churches, apartment complexes and just about anywhere the children can easily and safely meet with their parent's permission. Pray today for the families of the children that attend the Good News Clubs each week that they may know and understand the love of Jesus.

Notes:

## THURSDAY, APRIL 5

*"Before honor is humility."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Proverbs 15:33

Humiliation of soul always *brings a positive blessing with it*. If we empty our hearts of self, God will fill them with his love. He who desires close communion with Christ should remember the word of the Lord, "To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." Stoop if you would climb to heaven. Do we not say of Jesus, "He descended that he might ascend?" so must you. You must grow downwards, that you may grow upwards; for the sweetest fellowship with heaven is to be had by humble souls, and by them alone. God will deny no blessing to a thoroughly humbled spirit. "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven," with all its riches and treasures. The whole exchequer of God shall be made over by deed of gift to the soul which is humble enough to be able to receive it without growing proud because of it. God blesses us all up to the full measure and extremity of what it is safe for him to do. If you do not get a blessing, it is because it is not safe for you to have one. If our heavenly Father were to let your unhumbled spirit win a victory in his holy war, you would pilfer the crown for yourself, and meeting with a fresh enemy you would fall a victim; so that you are kept low for your own safety. When a man is sincerely humble, and never ventures to touch so much as a grain of the praise, there is scarcely any limit to what God will do for him. Humility makes us ready to be blessed by the God of all grace and fits us to deal efficiently with our fellow men. True humility is a flower which will adorn any garden. This is a sauce with which you may season every dish of life, and you will find an improvement in every case. Whether it be prayer or praise, whether it be work or suffering, the genuine salt of humility cannot be used in excess. - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

**Global Partner Focus:** Europe

[John and Kathy Lesondak](#) are church planters who work across denominational lines in Slovakia to encourage and enable pastors in their work. The Lesondaks utilize various opportunities to engage with local residents, including classes in pottery and sewing. Pray today for John and Kathy as they adjust to their recent return to Slovakia from home assignment in the U.S.

[Choices Resource Center](#) is a Christian, life-affirming pregnancy resource center offering services to help people facing decisions regarding pregnancy, parenting, purity, and post abortion healing. Pray today for each young woman who will visit this center this week.

*Notes:*

## FRIDAY, APRIL 6

*"In the name of the Lord I will destroy them."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Psalm 118:12

Our Lord Jesus, by his death, did not purchase a right to a part of us only, but to the entire man. He contemplated in his passion the sanctification of us wholly, spirit, soul, and body; that in this triple kingdom he himself might reign supreme without a rival. It is the business of the newborn nature which God has given to the regenerate to assert the rights of the Lord Jesus Christ. My soul, so far as thou art a child of God, thou must conquer all the rest of thyself which yet remains unblest; thou must subdue all thy powers and passions to the silver scepter of Jesus' gracious reign, and thou must never be satisfied till he who is King by purchase becomes also King by gracious coronation, and reigns in thee supreme. Seeing, then, that sin has no right to any part of us, we go about a good and lawful warfare when we seek, in the name of God, to drive it out. O my body, thou art a member of Christ: shall I tolerate thy subjection to the prince of darkness? O my soul, Christ has suffered for thy sins, and redeemed thee with his most precious blood: shall I suffer thy memory to become a storehouse of evil, or thy passions to be firebrands of iniquity? Shall I surrender my judgment to be perverted by error, or my will to be led in fetters of iniquity? No, my soul, thou art Christ's, and sin hath no right to thee.

Be courageous concerning this, O Christian! be not dispirited, as though your spiritual enemies could never be destroyed. You are able to overcome them - not in your own strength - the weakest of them would be too much for you in that; but you can and shall overcome them through the blood of the Lamb. Do not ask, "How shall I dispossess them, for they are greater and mightier than I?" but go to the strong for strength, wait humbly upon God, and the mighty God of Jacob will surely come to the rescue, and you shall sing of victory through his grace. - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

#### Global Partner Focus: Europe

After years of leading Young Life Spain and Young Life Western Europe, [Jim and Barbara McNamee](#) are now developing new areas as part of the regional staff. They are working to start new ministries in the five countries of Western Europe, including Luxembourg, Andorra, and Italy. Their primary focus at this time is starting a new YL area in the Basque Country of Spain. Pray today for Barbara's family as they grieve the death of her mother in January.

[Christian Leadership Concepts](#) (CLC) is an organization that seeks to find and deploy the natural male disciple-makers in our city, asking them to pour into other men via a two-year disciple-making process. Pray today for the men currently in the two-year discipleship groups.

Notes.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 7

*"Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation;  
and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Psalm 51:14

In this solemn confession, it is pleasing to observe that David plainly names his sin. He does not call it manslaughter, nor speak of it as an imprudence by which an unfortunate accident occurred to a worthy man, but he calls it by its true name, bloodguiltiness. He did not actually kill the husband of Bathsheba; but still it was planned in David's heart that Uriah should be slain, and he was before the Lord his murderer. Learn in confession to be honest with God. Do not give fair names to foul sins; call them what you will, they will smell no sweeter. What God sees them to be, that do you labor to feel them to be; and with all openness of heart acknowledge their real character. Observe, that David was evidently oppressed with the heinousness of his sin. It is easy to use words, but it is difficult to feel their meaning. The fifty-first Psalm is the photograph of a contrite spirit. Let us seek after the like brokenness of heart; for however excellent our words may be, if our heart is not conscious of the hell-deservingness of sin, we cannot expect to find forgiveness.

Our text has in it an earnest prayer - it is addressed to the God of *salvation*. It is his prerogative to forgive; it is his very name and office to save those who seek his face. Better still, the text calls him the God of *my* salvation. Yes, blessed be his name, while I am yet going to him through Jesus' blood, I can rejoice in the God of *my* salvation.

The psalmist ends with a commendable vow: if God will deliver him he will *sing* - nay, more, he will "*sing aloud*." Who can sing in any other style of such a mercy as this! But note the subject of the song - "Thy righteousness." We must sing of the finished work of a precious Savior; and he who knows most of forgiving love will sing the loudest. - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

**Global Partner Focus:** Europe

[Pete and Ruth Mitchell](#) are church planters in France with Mission to the World (MTW) and in collaboration with the Eglise Réformée Évangélique de France (French Reformed Evangelical Church). Pete's role is that of team leader. The Mitchells are living in Toulouse planting a new church in Tournefeuille. Pray today for wisdom on whether to take advantage of an opportunity to expand the worship space for the church in west Toulouse.

Cedar Springs partners with [Redeemer City to City](#) to plant churches in urban areas around the world. Pray for all the church planters that are supported throughout the world, especially those in Europe who have opportunities to build relationships with refugees from the Middle East who have settled there.

Notes.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 8

*"I will fear no evil: for thou art with me."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Psalm 23:4

Behold, how independent of outward circumstances the Holy Ghost can make the Christian! What a bright light may shine within us when it is all dark without! How firm, how happy, how calm, how peaceful we may be, when the world shakes to and fro, and the pillars of the earth are removed! Even death itself, with all its terrible influences, has no power to suspend the music of a Christian's heart, but rather makes that music become more sweet, more clear, more heavenly, till the last kind act which death can do is to let the earthly strain melt into the heavenly chorus, the temporal joy into the eternal bliss! Let us have confidence, then, in the blessed Spirit's power to comfort us. Dear reader, are you looking forward to poverty? Fear not; the divine Spirit can give you, in your want, a greater plenty than the rich have in their abundance. You know not what joys may be stored up for you in the cottage around which grace will plant the roses of content. Are you conscious of a growing failure of your bodily powers? Do you expect to suffer long nights of languishing and days of pain? O be not sad! That bed may become a throne to you. You little know how every pang that shoots through your body may be a refining fire to consume your dross - a beam of glory to light up the secret parts of your soul. Are the eyes growing dim? Jesus will be your light. Do the ears fail you? Jesus' name will be your soul's best music, and his person your dear delight. Socrates used to say, "Philosophers can be happy without music;" and Christians can be happier than philosophers when all outward causes of rejoicing are withdrawn. In thee, my God, my heart shall triumph, come what may of ills without! By thy power, O blessed Spirit, my heart shall be exceeding glad, though all things should fail me here below. - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

**Global Partner Focus:** Europe

[Joe and Cindy Platillero](#) proclaim the transforming presence of Jesus Christ through Biblical teaching and practical training to all who come through their doors. Their main ministry is through the Torchbearer Center where they have camps, conferences, and a small Bible School during the winter. Pray today for the Platillero family as they grieve the recent death of Joe's mother in Knoxville.

The mission of [Collegiate Abbey](#) is to create environments of spiritual and personal growth, to shepherd with the heart of Jesus Christ, and to serve strategically to effectively meet the needs of the collegiate community. Britton Sharp is the Director of this ministry at the University of Tennessee that partners with the body of Christ to serve their neighbors and our Savior for the glory of God. Pray today for Britton and his family.

*Notes.*

## MONDAY, APRIL 9

*"Thy gentleness hath made me great."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Psalm 18:35

The words are capable of being translated, "thy goodness hath made me great." David gratefully ascribed all his greatness not to his own goodness, but the goodness of God. "Thy providence," is another reading; and providence is nothing more than goodness in action. Goodness is the bud of which providence is the flower, or goodness is the seed of which providence is the harvest. Some render it, "thy help," which is but another word for providence; providence being the firm ally of the saints, aiding them in the service of their Lord. Or again, "thy humility hath made me great." "Thy condescension" may, perhaps, serve as a comprehensive reading, combining the ideas mentioned, including that of humility. It is God's making himself little which is the cause of our being made great. We are so little, that if God should manifest his greatness without condescension, we should be trampled under his feet; but God, who must stoop to view the skies, and bow to see what angels do, turns his eye yet lower, and looks to the lowly and contrite, and makes them great. There are yet other readings, as for instance, the Septuagint, which reads, "thy discipline" - thy fatherly correction - "hath made me great;" while the Chaldee paraphrase reads, "thy word hath increased me." Still the idea is the same. David ascribes all his own greatness to the condescending goodness of his Father in heaven. May this sentiment be echoed in our hearts this evening while we cast our crowns at Jesus' feet, and cry, "thy gentleness hath made me great." How marvelous has been our experience of God's gentleness! How gentle have been his corrections! How gentle his forbearance! How gentle his teachings! How gentle his drawings! Meditate upon this theme, O believer. Let gratitude be awakened; let humility be deepened; let love be quickened ere thou faltest asleep tonight. - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

**Global Partner Focus:** Europe

[Chris and Donna Roberts](#) are living in Müllheim, Germany working with Young Life's German-speaking ministries. Chris is an Area Developer for Young Life's new service learning initiative in which he helps to develop and implement a curriculum for service learning that uses Young Life methodology to reach German-speaking teenagers. Pray today for safe travels for Chris as he travels to Bulgaria this month for an international school service project.

The mission of [Compassion Coalition](#) is to inform, prepare, and unite churches to transform lives and communities through the love of Christ. They strive to walk alongside Knoxville-area churches who earnestly desire to slow down and respond to the cry of the suffering, the broken, and the abandoned within their congregations and out in the community. Pray today for the work of this ministry in Knoxville and for the staff that works with Executive Director Grant Standefer.

Notes:

## TUESDAY, APRIL 10

*"For there stood by me this night the angel of God."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Act 27:23

Tempest and long darkness, coupled with imminent risk of shipwreck, had brought the crew of the vessel into a sad case; one man alone among them remained perfectly calm, and by his word the rest were reassured. Paul was the only man who had heart enough to say, "Sirs, be of good cheer." There were veteran Roman legionaries on board, and brave old mariners, and yet their poor Jewish prisoner had more spirit than they all. He had a secret Friend who kept his courage up. The Lord Jesus dispatched a heavenly messenger to whisper words of consolation in the ear of his faithful servant, therefore he wore a shining countenance and spake like a man at ease.

If we fear the Lord, we may look for timely interpositions when our case is at its worst. Angels are not kept from us by storms, or hindered by darkness. Seraphs think it no humiliation to visit the poorest of the heavenly family. If angel's visits are few and far between at ordinary times, they shall be frequent in our nights of tempest and tossing. Friends may drop from us when we are under pressure, but our intercourse with the inhabitants of the angelic world shall be more abundant; and in the strength of love-words, brought to us from the throne by the way of Jacob's ladder, we shall be strong to do exploits. Dear reader, is this an hour of distress with you? then ask for peculiar help. Jesus is the angel of the covenant, and if his presence be now earnestly sought, it will not be denied. What that presence brings in heart-cheer those remember who, like Paul, have had the angel of God standing by them in a night of storm, when anchors would no longer hold, and rocks were nigh.

"O angel of my God, be near,  
Amid the darkness hush my fear;  
Loud roars the wild tempestuous sea,  
Thy presence, Lord, shall comfort me."

- Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

#### Global Partner Focus: Europe

[Mostafa and Mona Sharkawy](#) serve among Arab Muslims in the U.K. Their goals are to see Arabic churches arise from Muslim background believers, to see new generations of leaders from Muslim believers, and to teach and prepare them for future ministry. Pray today for the growing ministry inside the Immigration Removal Centre as they anticipate more refugees arriving to the United Kingdom. Pray also for the follow-up ministry that Mona is doing with the Syrian refugee women in England.

[Core Leadership](#) is a ministry of spiritual formation and leadership development. Its mission is to help strengthen and encourage the life of leaders, in the Knoxville area and beyond, by the means of spiritual nurture and leadership development. Jim Branch is the director of Core Leadership and is actively involved in the lives of people all over the city of Knoxville and beyond, as well as being active in the Powell community, where he lives. Pray today for Jim and his family.

Notes.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

*"Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Psalm 25:18

It is well for us when prayers about our sorrows are linked with pleas concerning our sins - when, being under God's hand, we are not wholly taken up with our pain, but remember our offences against God. It is well, also, to take both sorrow and sin to the same place. It was to God that David carried his sorrow: it was to God that David confessed his sin. Observe, then, *we must take our sorrows to God*. Even your little sorrows you may roll upon God, for he counteth the hairs of your head; and your great sorrows you may commit to him, for he holdeth the ocean in the hollow of his hand. Go to him, whatever your present trouble may be, and you shall find him able and willing to relieve you. *But we must take our sins to God too*. We must carry them to the cross, that the blood may fall upon them, to purge away their guilt, and to destroy their defiling power.

The special lesson of the text is this: - that *we are to go to the Lord with sorrows and with sins in the right spirit*. Note that all David asks concerning his sorrow is, "*Look upon mine affliction and my pain;*" but the next petition is vastly more express, definite, decided, plain - "*Forgive all my sins.*" Many sufferers would have put it, "Remove my affliction and my pain, and look at my sins." But David does not say so; he cries, "Lord, as for my affliction and my pain, I will not dictate to thy wisdom. Lord, look at them, I will leave them to thee, I should be glad to have my pain removed, but do as thou wilt; but as for my sins, Lord, I know what I want with them; I must have them forgiven; I cannot endure to lie under their curse for a moment." A Christian counts sorrow lighter in the scale than sin; he can bear that his troubles should continue, but he cannot support the burden of his transgressions. - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

**Global Partner Focus:** Europe

[Vitaly and Oksana Voinov](#) live in Moscow, Russia. Vitaly is working with the Institute for Bible Translation (IBT) in Russia/CIS as IBT's director. IBT has been serving the non-Slavic peoples of the former Soviet Union for four decades by translating the Holy Scriptures - Bibles, New Testaments, individual Bible books, and illustrated Children's Bibles. Pray today that the Turkmen government would allow the official importing of the full Turkmen Bible. A miracle is needed for this to occur.

[Cru](#), formerly known as Campus Crusade for Christ, is a campus organization that seeks to share the gospel with students through relationships, small group studies and larger events like retreats and mission trips. John Strange leads cru at the University of Kentucky. Pray today for the staff of cru and the students involved in their ministry this semester.

Notes:

## THURSDAY, APRIL 12

*"The king's garden."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Nehemiah 3:15

Mention of the king's garden by Nehemiah brings to mind the *paradise* which the King of kings prepared for Adam. Sin has utterly ruined that fair abode of all delights and driven forth the children of men to till the ground, which yields thorns and briars unto them. My soul, remember the fall, for it was *thy* fall. Weep much because the Lord of love was so shamefully ill-treated by the head of the human race, of which thou art a member, as undeserving as any. Behold how dragons and demons dwell on this fair earth, which once was a garden of delights.

See yonder another King's garden, which the King waters with his bloody sweat - *Gethsemane*, whose bitter herbs are sweeter far to renewed souls than even Eden's luscious fruits. There the mischief of the serpent in the first garden was undone: there the curse was lifted from earth and borne by the woman's promised seed. My soul, bethink thee much of the agony and the passion; resort to the garden of the olive-press, and view thy great Redeemer rescuing thee from thy lost estate. This is the garden of gardens indeed, wherein the soul may see the guilt of sin and the power of love, two sights which surpass all others.

Is there no other King's garden? Yes, *my heart*, thou art, or shouldst be such. How do the flowers flourish? Do any choice fruits appear? Does the King walk within, and rest in the bowers of my spirit? Let me see that the plants are trimmed and watered, and the mischievous foxes hunted out. Come, Lord, and let the heavenly wind blow at thy coming, that the spices of thy garden may flow abroad. Nor must I forget the King's garden of *the church*. O Lord, send prosperity unto it. Rebuild her walls, nourish her plants, ripen her fruits, and from the huge wilderness, reclaim the barren waste, and make thereof "a King's garden." - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

#### Global Partner Focus: Europe

[Eric and Beth Yodis](#) are facilitating church planting in eastern Ukraine. Eric and Beth returned to the Ukraine last year to help with church planting in Kiev. Pray today for the officials in Lugansk to repent and follow Christ. There is a new law that requires that all churches register under the auspices of the illegally formed LNR government.

We provide support for [cru](#) (Campus Crusade for Christ International) in France and Albania. Agape Europe, an umbrella organization of 18 national ministries, is the Western European ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ International, a non-profit organization that brings spiritual hope and help to millions of people around the globe. Pray today for the leaders of [cru](#) in France and Albania.

Notes:

## FRIDAY, APRIL 13

*"And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt-offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Leviticus 1:4

Our Lord's being made "sin for us" is set forth here by the very significant transfer of sin to the bullock, which was made by the elders of the people. The laying of the hand was not a mere touch of contact, for in some other places of Scripture the original word has the meaning of leaning heavily, as in the expression, "thy wrath lieth hard upon me" (Psalm 88:7). Surely this is the very essence and nature of faith, which doth not only bring us into contact with the great Substitute, but teaches us to lean upon him with all the burden of our guilt. Jehovah made to meet upon the head of the Substitute all the offences of his covenant people, but each one of the chosen is brought personally to ratify this solemn covenant act, when by grace he is enabled by faith to lay his hand upon the head of the "Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world." Believer, do you remember that rapturous day when you first realized pardon through Jesus the sin-bearer? Can you not make glad confession, and join with the writer in saying, "My soul recalls her day of deliverance with delight. Laden with guilt and full of fears, I saw my Savior as my Substitute, and I laid my hand upon him; oh! how timidly at first, but courage grew and confidence was confirmed until I leaned my soul entirely upon him; and now it is my unceasing joy to know that my sins are no longer imputed to me, but laid on him, and like the debts of the wounded traveler, Jesus, like the good Samaritan, has said of all my future sinfulness, 'Set that to my account.'" Blessed discovery! Eternal solace of a grateful heart!

"My numerous sins transferr'd to him,  
Shall never more be found,  
Lost in his blood's atoning stream,  
Where every crime is drown'd!"

- Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

**Global Partner Focus: Asia**

*[Jeff and Ellen](#) work among unreached people groups in two restricted access countries of Southeast Asia catalyzing Church Planting Movements. Pray today for the 23 people, including several Thais and people from Laos, who recently took the Church Planting Training.*

*The [Cedar Springs Adoption Ministry](#) is a group of individuals and families who have a heart for adoption and foster care and for providing support for other individuals and families starting or going through the adoption/foster care process. Pray today for couples who seeking to adopt as they wait and prepare their hearts to receive a child into their family.*

*Notes:*

## SATURDAY, APRIL 14

*"Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Isaiah 3:10

*It is well with the righteous* always. If it had said, "Say ye to the righteous, that it is well with him in his prosperity," we must have been thankful for so great a boon, for prosperity is an hour of peril, and it is a gift from heaven to be secured from its snares: or if it had been written, "It is well with him when under persecution," we must have been thankful for so sustaining an assurance, for persecution is hard to bear; but when no time is mentioned, all time is included. God's "shalls" must be understood always in their largest sense. From the beginning of the year to the end of the year, from the first gathering of evening shadows until the day-star shines, in all conditions and under all circumstances, it shall be well with the righteous. It is so well with him that we could not imagine it to be better, for he is *well fed*, he feeds upon the flesh and blood of Jesus; he is *well clothed*, he wears the imputed righteousness of Christ; he is *well housed*, he dwells in God; he is *well married*, his soul is knit in bonds of marriage union to Christ; he is *well provided for*, for the Lord is his Shepherd; he is *well endowed*, for heaven is his inheritance. It is well with the righteous - *well upon divine authority*; the mouth of God speaks the comforting assurance. O beloved, if God declares that all is well, ten thousand devils may declare it to be ill, but we laugh them all to scorn. Blessed be God for a faith which enables us to believe God when the creatures contradict him. It is, says the Word, at all times well with thee, thou righteous one; then, beloved, if thou canst not see it, let God's word stand thee instead of sight; yea, believe it on divine authority more confidently than if thine eyes and thy feelings told it to thee. Whom God blesses is blest indeed, and what his lip declares is truth most sure and steadfast. - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

#### Global Partner Focus: Asia

[Ron and Amy Barber](#) are equipping the next generation of church planters. Their ministry at International Graduate School of Leadership (IGSL) in the Philippines prepares students for ministry in cross-cultural contexts around the world. Pray today for students that Ron is teaching who are from countries where Christians are in the minority and face persecution.

The [CSPC Refugee Ministry](#), under the leadership of Almaz Gemechu, assists with resettling international refugees who arrive in Knoxville. There are many opportunities for volunteers to help with this mission. Pray today for Almaz and all the volunteers with the Refugee Ministry. To see an ongoing list of opportunities to serve, go to <http://cspc.net/current-refugee-min>.

*Notes.*

## SUNDAY, APRIL 15

*"Lift them up forever."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Psalm 28:9

*God's people need lifting up.* They are very heavy by nature. They have no wings, or, if they have, they are like the dove of old which lay among the pots; and they need divine grace to make them mount on wings covered with silver, and with feathers of yellow gold. By nature sparks fly upward, but the sinful souls of men fall downward. O Lord, "lift them up forever!" David himself said, "Unto thee, O God, do I lift up my soul," and he here feels the necessity that other men's souls should be lifted up as well as his own. When you ask this blessing for yourself, forget not to seek it for others also. There are three ways in which God's people require to be lifted up. *They require to be elevated in character.* Lift them up, O Lord; do not suffer thy people to be like the world's people! The world lieth in the wicked one; lift them out of it! The world's people are looking after silver and gold, seeking their own pleasures, and the gratification of their lusts; but, Lord, lift thy people up above all this; keep them from being "muck-rakers," as John Bunyan calls the man who was always scraping after gold! Set thou their hearts upon their risen Lord and the heavenly heritage! Moreover, *believers need to be prospered in conflict.* In the battle, if they seem to fall, O Lord, be pleased to give them the victory. If the foot of the foe be upon their necks for a moment, help them to grasp the sword of the Spirit, and eventually to win the battle. Lord, lift up thy children's spirits in the day of conflict; let them not sit in the dust, mourning for ever. Suffer not the adversary to vex them sore, and make them fret; but if they have been, like Hannah, persecuted, let them sing of the mercy of a delivering God.

We may also ask our Lord to *lift them up at the last!* Lift them up by taking them home, lift their bodies from the tomb, and raise their souls to thine eternal kingdom in glory. - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

**Global Partner Focus:** Asia

[L and E](#) serve in a Creative Access country. L is working to make evangelical literature available to the nations so that people can come to Christ. Pray today for their plans on April to move to a new country in Asia to begin working with high school students who have defected from a closed country.

[Echo Resources](#) is a ministry to ministers. ER's vision is for ministers to live in deeper intimacy with Christ, family and community, and to thus have greater effect for God's Kingdom. Pray today for Buddy Odom as he leads this ministry.

*Notes:*

## MONDAY, APRIL 16

*"And his hands were steady until the going down of the sun."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Exodus 17:12

So mighty was the prayer of Moses, that all depended upon it. The petitions of Moses discomfited the enemy more than the fighting of Joshua. Yet both were needed. No, in the soul's conflict, force and fervor, decision and devotion, valor and vehemence, must join their forces, and all will be well. You must wrestle with your sin, but the major part of the wrestling must be done alone in private with God. Prayer, like Moses', holds up the token of the covenant before the Lord. The rod was the emblem of God's working with Moses, the symbol of God's government in Israel. Learn, O pleading saint, to hold up the promise and the oath of God before him. The Lord cannot deny his own declarations. Hold up the rod of promise and have what you will.

Moses grew weary, and then his friends assisted him. When at any time your prayer flags, let faith support one hand, and let holy hope uplift the other, and prayer seating itself upon the stone of Israel, the rock of our salvation, will persevere and prevail. Beware of faintness in devotion; if Moses felt it, who can escape? It is far easier to fight with sin in public, than to pray against it in private. It is remarked that Joshua never grew weary in the fighting, but Moses did grow weary in the praying; the more spiritual an exercise, the more difficult it is for flesh and blood to maintain it. Let us cry, then, for special strength, and may the Spirit of God, who helpeth our infirmities, as he allowed help to Moses, enable us like him to continue with our hands steady "*until the going down of the sun;*" till the evening of life is over; till we shall come to the rising of a better sun in the land where prayer is swallowed up in praise. - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

**Global Partner Focus:** Asia

*[I & F](#) live and work in one of the poorest and most heavily populated states in a country in Asia. They are seeking to make a difference in this state in both physical and spiritual realms. They have been operating a micro-finance business that is creating self-sustaining means of support for churches and church plants as well as continuing to provide funds for the installation of hand pumps to provide clean water to needy areas of the state. Pray today for direction and funding for launching new "business" initiatives.*

*The vision of the [Fellowship of Christian Athletes](#) (FCA) is to see the world impacted for Jesus Christ through the influence of athletes and coaches. Their mission is to present to athletes and coaches, and all whom they influence, the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church. Pray today for all the FCA leaders and student athletes in Knoxville and Kentucky. Andy and Erin Owens work with Young Life in Kentucky and were our guests at this month's Global Mission Conference.*

*Notes:*

## TUESDAY, APRIL 17

*"We would see Jesus."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

John 12:21

Evermore the worldling's cry is, "Who will show us any good?" He seeks satisfaction in earthly comforts, enjoyments, and riches. But the quickened sinner knows of only one good. "O that I knew where I might find Him!" When he is truly awakened to feel his guilt, if you could pour the gold of India at his feet, he would say, "Take it away: I want to find Him." It is a blessed thing for a man, when he has brought his desires into a focus, so that they all center in one object. When he has fifty different desires, his heart resembles a mere of stagnant water, spread out into a marsh, breeding miasma and pestilence; but when all his desires are brought into one channel, his heart becomes like a river of pure water, running swiftly to fertilize the fields. Happy is he who hath one desire, if that one desire be set on Christ, though it may not yet have been realized. If Jesus be a soul's desire, it is a blessed sign of divine work within. Such a man will never be content with mere ordinances. He will say, "I want Christ; I *must* have him - mere ordinances are of no use to me; I want *himself*; do not offer me these; you offer me the empty pitcher, while I am dying of thirst; give me water, or I die. Jesus is my soul's desire. I would see Jesus!"

Is this thy condition, my reader, at this moment? Hast thou but one desire, and is that after Christ? Then thou art not far from the kingdom of heaven. Hast thou but one wish in thy heart, and that one wish that thou mayst be washed from all thy sins in Jesus' blood? Canst thou really say, "I would give all I have to be a Christian; I would give up everything I have and hope for, if I might but feel that I have an interest in Christ?" Then, despite all thy fears, be of good cheer, the Lord loveth thee, and thou shalt come out into daylight soon, and rejoice in the liberty wherewith Christ makes men free- Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

**Global Partner Focus:** Asia

[Michael and Kim Essenburg](#) are serving at Okinawa Christian School (OCS), a school for missionary children and children of business and professional people in Okinawa, Japan. Pray today that Michael and Kim would provide effective leadership for organizational improvement, including curriculum development.

[FISH](#) is a food distribution ministry which is sponsored by many churches and food banks in the Knoxville city area. CSPEC stocks the food pantry once a year, takes calls for food, and also distributes the food once per month. Pray today for each family that receives food from FISH.

*Notes:*

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

*"And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Genesis 32:12

When Jacob was on the other side of the brook Jabbok, and Esau was coming with armed men, he earnestly sought God's protection, and as a master reason he pleaded, "And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good." Oh, the force of that plea! He was holding God to his word - "Thou saidst." The attribute of God's faithfulness is a splendid horn of the altar to lay hold upon; but the promise, which has in it the attribute and something more, is a yet mightier holdfast - "Thou saidst, I will surely do thee good." And has *he* said, and shall he not do it? "Let God be true, and every man a liar." Shall not *he* be true? Shall *he* not keep his word? Shall not every word that cometh out of his lips stand fast and be fulfilled? Solomon, at the opening of the temple, used this same mighty plea. He pleaded with God to remember the word which he had spoken to his father David, and to bless that place. When a man gives a promissory note, his honor is engaged; he signs his hand, and he must discharge it when the due time comes, or else he loses credit. It shall never be said that God dishonors his bills. The credit of the Most High never was impeached, and never shall be. He is punctual to the moment: he never is before his time, but he never is behind it. Search God's word through, and compare it with the experience of God's people, and you shall find the two tally from the first to the last. Many a hoary patriarch has said with Joshua, "Not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass." If you have a divine promise, you need not plead it with an "if," you may urge it with certainty. The Lord meant to fulfil the promise, or he would not have given it. God does not give his words merely to quiet us, and to keep us hopeful for awhile with the intention of putting us off at last; but when he speaks, it is because he means to do as he has said. - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

**Global Partner Focus:** Asia

*[Bruce and Laura Harris](#) have been running SEND International's camp and conference ministry in the mountains of western Tokyo for many years. The HARRISES are returning to church planting and have just returned to Japan from a home assignment. Pray today for the HARRISES to easily find housing in an area that allows access to the mission office and to Tachikawa Eki Mae Church.*

*[FOCUS](#) (Following Our Choices Unto Success) works in the Knox County Jail and Detention Facility, Taft Youth Center, and the four men's prisons of East Tennessee. The FOCUS work "Behind the Walls" includes evangelistic events, weekly support groups, discipleship classes, life-skills classes and one-on-one counseling. Pray today for each person in these facilities that they may be open to the gospel when it is presented by FOCUS.*

*Notes.*

## THURSDAY, APRIL 19

*"The Amen."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Revelation 3:14

The word Amen solemnly confirms that which went before; and Jesus is the great Confirmer; immutable, forever is "the Amen" in all *his promises*. *Sinner*, I would comfort thee with this reflection. Jesus Christ said, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." If you come to him, he will say "Amen" in your soul; his promise shall be true *to you*. He said in the days of his flesh, "The bruised reed I will not break." O thou poor, broken, bruised heart, if thou comest to him, he will say "Amen" to thee, and that shall be true in *thy* soul as in hundreds of cases in bygone years. *Christian*, is not this very comforting to thee also, that there is not a word which has gone out of the Savior's lips which he has ever retracted? The words of Jesus shall stand when heaven and earth shall pass away. If thou gettest a hold of but half a promise, thou shalt find it true. Beware of him who is called "Clip-promise," who will destroy much of the comfort of God's word.

Jesus is Yea and Amen in all *his offices*. He was a Priest to pardon and cleanse once, he is Amen as Priest still. He was a King to rule and reign for his people, and to defend them with his mighty arm, he is an Amen King, the same still. He was a Prophet of old, to foretell good things to come, his lips are most sweet, and drop with honey still - he is an Amen Prophet. He is Amen as to the merit of his blood; he is Amen as to his righteousness. That sacred robe shall remain most fair and glorious when nature shall decay. He is Amen in every single title which he bears; your Husband, never seeking a divorce; your Friend, sticking closer than a brother; your Shepherd, with you in death's dark vale; your Help and your Deliverer; your Castle and your High Tower; the Horn of your strength, your confidence, your joy, your all in all, and your Yea and Amen in all. - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

#### Global Partner Focus: Asia

[Darlene Johnson](#) has been a member of MTW's church-planting team in Nagoya, Japan, since 2000. She teaches conversational English and evangelistic Bible studies and is involved in choral and instrumental music ministry. Pray today for a new church plant in Nagoya. Pray that God will lead them to choose the right location for the church.

[Free Medical Clinic of America](#) was founded by CSPC member, Dr. Tom Kim, to provide medical care for the working uninsured. The clinic is built upon the words from Christ about serving the least, the lonely, and the lost. Pray for Dr. Kim and the other medical volunteers that help to meet the medical needs of our community. Dr. Kim was our guest at this month's Global Mission Conference.

Notes.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 20

*"Fight the Lord's battles."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

1 Samuel 18:17

The sacramental host of God's elect is warring still on earth, Jesus Christ being the Captain of their salvation. He has said, "Lo! I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Hark to the shouts of war! Now let the people of God stand fast in their ranks, and let no man's heart fail him. It is true that just now in England the battle is turned against us, and unless the Lord Jesus shall lift his sword, we know not what may become of the church of God in this land; but let us be of good courage, and play the man. There never was a day when Protestantism seemed to tremble more in the scales than now that a fierce effort is making to restore the Romish antichrist to his ancient seat. We greatly want a bold voice and a strong hand to preach and publish the old gospel for which martyrs bled and confessors died. The Savior is, by his Spirit, still on earth; let this cheer us. He is ever in the midst of the fight, and therefore the battle is not doubtful. And as the conflict rages, what a sweet satisfaction it is to know that the Lord Jesus, in his office as our great Intercessor, is prevalently pleading for his people! O anxious gazer, look not so much at the battle below, for there thou shalt be enshrouded in smoke, and amazed with garments rolled in blood; but lift thine eyes yonder where the Savior lives and pleads, for while he intercedes, the cause of God is safe. Let us fight as if it all depended upon us, but let us look up and know that all depends upon him.

Now, by the lilies of Christian purity, and by the roses of the Savior's atonement, by the roes and by the hinds of the field, we charge you who are lovers of Jesus, to do valiantly in the Holy War, for truth and righteousness, for the kingdom and crown jewels of your Master. Onward! "for the battle is not yours but God's." - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

**Global Partner Focus:** Asia

*[J and C](#) are working in a Creative Access country for World Outreach. J. is developing an entry platform using sustainable technologies that will provide income and economic development for the people there. Pray today for safety for team members as there is now a lot of ocean travel.*

*The Garbage City Alliance is a ministry to the Garbage City in Cairo, Egypt. Rebecca Atollah, the wife of Ramez Atollah, the leader of the Bible Society of Egypt, is a key worker at the St. Simon Coptic Orthodox Church in the Mokattam garbage village. Over the last 25+ years she has helped with church planting and providing Christian education among the lowest of the low, Egypt's untouchables. Pray today for Rebecca and her work with the Garbage City Alliance.*

*Notes.*

## SATURDAY, APRIL 21

*"Who is even at the right hand of God?"*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Romans 8:34

He who was once despised and rejected of men, now occupies the honorable position of a beloved and honored Son. The right hand of God is *the place of majesty and favor*. Our Lord Jesus is his people's representative. When he died for them they had rest; he rose again for them, they had liberty; when he sat down at his Father's right hand, they had favor, and honor, and dignity. The raising and elevation of Christ is the elevation, the acceptance, and enshrinement, the glorifying of all his people, for he is their head and representative. This sitting at the right hand of God, then, is to be viewed as the acceptance of the person of the Surety, the reception of the Representative, and therefore, the acceptance of *our* souls. O saint, see in this thy sure freedom from condemnation. "Who is he that condemneth?" Who shall condemn the men who are in Jesus at the right hand of God?

The right hand is *the place of power*. Christ at the right hand of God hath all power in heaven and in earth. Who shall fight against the people who have such power vested in their Captain? O my soul, what can destroy thee if Omnipotence be thy helper? If the aegis of the Almighty cover thee, what sword can smite thee? Rest thou secure. If Jesus is thine all-prevailing King, and hath trodden thine enemies beneath his feet; if sin, death, and hell are all vanquished by him, and thou art represented in him, by no possibility canst thou be destroyed.

"Jesus' tremendous name  
Puts all our foes to flight:  
Jesus, the meek, the angry Lamb,  
A Lion is in fight.  
By all hell's host withstood;  
We all hell's host o'erthrow;  
And conquering them, through Jesus' blood  
We still to conquer go."

- Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

**Global Partner Focus:** Asia

*H and L serve in Asia and are taking on new roles in 2018. H has been asked to be a coordinator for their agency's efforts to facilitate the development of local mission movements within one country in Asia, particularly for reaching the peoples of East Asia. L will be working to connect Asian citizens who have become Christians while studying abroad with local churches in their own countries upon their return. Pray for both of them as they begin these new ministries.*

*Gateways2Life seeks to meet the physical, psychological and spiritual needs of the refugees and outcasts through training, education, supply of material needs, relationship development, trauma counseling and community integration. Their current projects are in Lesbos and Athens, Greece; Hamburg, Germany; and Northeast Italy. Pray today for the staff of this ministry as they share assistance and the gospel with refugees in Europe.*

Notes.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 22

*"Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Psalm 91:5

What is this terror? It may be the cry of fire, or the noise of thieves, or fancied appearances, or the shriek of sudden sickness or death. We live in the world of death and sorrow, we may therefore look for ills as well in the night-watches as beneath the glare of the broiling sun. Nor should this alarm us, for be the terror what it may, the promise is that the believer shall not be afraid. Why should he? Let us put it more closely, why should *we*? God our Father is here and will be here all through the lonely hours; he is an almighty Watcher, a sleepless Guardian, a faithful Friend. Nothing can happen without his direction, for even hell itself is under his control. Darkness is not dark to him. He has promised to be a wall of fire around his people - and who can break through such a barrier? Worldlings may well be afraid, for they have an angry God above them, a guilty conscience within them, and a yawning hell beneath them; but we who rest in Jesus are saved from all these through rich mercy. If we give way to foolish fear we shall dishonor our profession, and lead others to doubt the reality of godliness. We ought to be afraid of being afraid, lest we should vex the Holy Spirit by foolish distrust. Down, then, ye dismal forebodings and groundless apprehensions, God has not forgotten to be gracious, nor shut up his tender mercies; it may be night in the soul, but there need be no terror, for the God of love changes not. Children of light may walk in darkness, but they are not therefore cast away, nay, they are now enabled to prove their adoption by trusting in their heavenly Father as hypocrites cannot do.

“Though the night be dark and dreary,  
Darkness cannot hide from thee;  
Thou art he, who, never weary,  
Watchest where thy people be.”

- Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

#### Global Partner Focus: Asia

*M* is living in Asia working with an unreached people group. She is trusting that God will open doors for the gospel and empower local brothers and sisters to make disciples among them. Pray today for the local people they are reaching that "that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored." (2 Thessalonians 3:1).

The focus of [Global Golf](#) is to serve women at all levels of competitive golf - professional tour players, college athletes, coaches and club pros - and introduce them to Jesus Christ through long-term relationships built around golf. Evangelism, discipleship and pastoral care are Global Golf's primary purposes. Pray today for Cris for good health and stamina as she travels during the tour season.

Notes.

## MONDAY, APRIL 23

*"Lo, in the midst of the throne... stood a Lamb as it had been slain."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Revelation 5:6

Why should our exalted Lord appear in his wounds in glory? The wounds of Jesus are his glories, his jewels, his sacred ornaments. To the eye of the believer, Jesus is passing fair because he is "white and ruddy;" white with innocence, and ruddy with his own blood. We see him as the lily of matchless purity, and as the rose crimsoned with his own gore. Christ is lovely upon Olivet and Tabor, and by the sea, but oh! there never was such a matchless Christ as he that did hang upon the cross. There we beheld all his beauties in perfection, all his attributes developed, all his love drawn out, all his character expressed. Beloved, the wounds of Jesus are far more fair in our eyes than all the splendor and pomp of kings. The thorny crown is more than an imperial diadem. It is true that he bears not now the scepter of reed, but there was a glory in it that never flashed from scepter of gold. Jesus wears the appearance of a slain Lamb as his court dress in which he wooed our souls and redeemed them by his complete atonement. Nor are these only the ornaments of Christ: they are the *trophies* of his love and of his victory. He has divided the spoil with the strong. He has redeemed for himself a great multitude whom no man can number, and these scars are the memorials of the fight. Ah! if Christ thus loves to retain the thought of his sufferings for his people, *how precious should his wounds be to us!*

"Behold how every wound of his  
A precious balm distils,  
Which heals the scars that sin had made,  
And cures all mortal ills.  
"Those wounds are mouths that preach his grace;  
The ensigns of his love;  
The seals of our expected bliss  
In paradise above."

- Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

#### Global Partner Focus: Asia

*E is part of a team that has translated the New Testament for a large South Asian language group. Beyond this goal of translating the New Testament is the larger goal of seeing the scriptures systematically read and studied by individuals and groups. Pray today for E and for discernment, strength and boldness for local brothers and sisters in both of the countries where E works who are facing a movement to stop Christian activity.*

*[Global Media Outreach](#) is an Internet ministry that seeks to stay on the cutting edge of emerging technologies with the intent to give everyone on earth multiple opportunities to know and follow Jesus Christ. Pray today for each person that will encounter this ministry via GMO's website that they will choose to follow Christ.*

*Notes:*

## TUESDAY, APRIL 24

*"The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come,  
and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Song of Solomon 2:12

Sweet is the season of spring: the long and dreary winter helps us to appreciate its genial warmth, and its promise of summer enhances its present delights. After periods of depression of spirit, it is delightful to behold again the light of the Sun of Righteousness; then our slumbering graces rise from their lethargy, like the crocus and the daffodil from their beds of earth; then is our heart made merry with delicious notes of gratitude, far more melodious than the warbling of birds - and the comforting assurance of peace, infinitely more delightful than the turtle's note, is heard within the soul. Now is the time for the soul to seek communion with her Beloved; now must she rise from her native sordidness and come away from her old associations. If we do not hoist the sail when the breeze is favorable, we shall be blameworthy: times of refreshing ought not to pass over us unimproved. When Jesus himself visits us in tenderness, and entreats us to arise, can we be so base as to refuse his request? He has himself risen that he may draw us after him: he now by his Holy Spirit has revived us, that we may, in newness of life, ascend into the heavenlies, and hold communion with himself. Let our wintry state suffice us for coldness and indifference; when the Lord creates a spring within, let our sap flow with vigor, and our branch blossom with high resolve. O Lord, if it be not spring time in my chilly heart, I pray thee make it so, for I am heartily weary of living at a distance from thee. Oh! the long and dreary winter, when wilt thou bring it to an end? Come, Holy Spirit, and renew my soul! quicken thou me! restore me and have mercy on me! This very night I would earnestly implore the Lord to take pity upon his servant and send me a happy revival of spiritual life! - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

**Global Partner Focus:** North Africa Middle East

[\*Isik Abba\*](#) hosts a satellite TV program called "Light for the Heart" on the Kanal Hayat Turkish-language channel. She also hosts a live call-in program that is simulcast on the Turkish and Farsi channels throughout the Middle East and Europe. These TV programs deliver the message of love, healing, and freedom through Christ Jesus, reflecting on Isik's own life experience. Pray today for her social media efforts that they may reach into the Muslim world and create new connections.

[\*Gospel Wave Media\*](#) is a satellite and Internet ministry that produces, records and broadcasts Christian television programs to Central Asia. Pray today for safe travels, for God's protection and guidance for the staff of this ministry.

*Notes:*

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

*"If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Revelation 3:20

What is your desire this evening? Is it set upon heavenly things? Do you long to enjoy the high doctrine of eternal love? Do you desire liberty in very close communion with God? Do you aspire to know the heights, and depths, and lengths, and breadths? Then you must draw near to Jesus; you must get a clear sight of him in his preciousness and completeness: you must view him in his work, in his offices, in his person. He who understands Christ, receives an anointing from the Holy One, by which he knows all things. Christ is the great master-key of all the chambers of God: there is no treasure-house of God which will not open and yield up all its wealth to the soul that lives near to Jesus. Are you saying, "O that he would dwell in my bosom?" "Would that he would make my heart his dwelling-place forever?" Open the door, beloved, and he will come into your souls. He has long been knocking, and all with this object, that he may sup with you, and you with him. *He sups with you* because you find the house or the heart, and *you with him* because he brings the provision. He could not sup with you if it were not in your heart, you finding the house; nor could you sup with him, for you have a bare cupboard, if he did not bring provision with him. Fling wide, then, the portals of your soul. He will come with that love which you long to feel; he will come with that joy into which you cannot work your poor depressed spirit; he will bring the peace which now you have not; he will come with his flagons of wine and sweet apples of love, and cheer you till you have no other sickness but that of "love o'erpowering, love divine." Only open the door to him, drive out his enemies, give him the keys of your heart, and he will dwell there forever. Oh, wondrous love, that brings such a guest to dwell in such a heart! - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

**Global Partner Focus:** North Africa & Middle East

*We support a family that is serving at a sanatorium for chest diseases, focusing on bringing holistic healing for body and soul to the semi-nomadic people of the area by providing high quality healthcare for them. Our [supported worker](#) serves in a mobile dental that was donated to further the outreach and care to Bedouin in remote areas. The clinic is a great resource to meet the felt needs of the poor in places where it is hard or impossible to receive any kind of dental care. Pray today for more in-patients to come to the clinic in the coming months for healing of all sorts.*

*[Habitat for Humanity](#) builds and sells single-family homes to qualified low and very-low income families by developing partnerships with businesses, organizations, churches, foundations and individuals who help build the homes. Pray today for plans for the 2018 CSPC Habitat Build.*

*Notes:*

## THURSDAY, APRIL 26

*"Blessed is he that watcheth."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Revelation 16:15

"We die daily," said the apostle. This was the life of the early Christians; they went everywhere with their lives in their hands. We are not in this day called to pass through the same fearful persecutions: if we were, the Lord would give us grace to bear the test; but the tests of Christian life, at the present moment, though outwardly not so terrible, are yet more likely to overcome us than even those of the fiery age. We have to bear the sneer of the world - that is little; its blandishments, its soft words, its oily speeches, its fawning, its hypocrisy, are far worse. Our danger is lest we grow rich and become proud, lest we give ourselves up to the fashions of this present evil world and lose our faith. Or if wealth be not the trial, worldly care is quite as mischievous. If we cannot be torn in pieces by the roaring lion, if we may be hugged to death by the bear, the devil little cares which it is, so long as he destroys our love to Christ, and our confidence in him. I fear me that the Christian church is far more likely to lose her integrity in these soft and silken days than in those rougher times. We must be awake now, for we traverse the enchanted ground, and are most likely to fall asleep to our own undoing, unless our faith in Jesus be a reality, and our love to Jesus a vehement flame. Many in these days of easy profession are likely to prove tares, and not wheat; hypocrites with fair masks on their faces, but not the true-born children of the living God. Christian, do not think that these are times in which you can dispense with watchfulness or with holy ardor; you need these things more than ever, and may God the eternal Spirit display his omnipotence in you, that you may be able to say, in all these softer things, as well as in the rougher, "We are more than conquerors through him that loved us." - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

**Global Partner Focus:** North Africa & Middle East

*T works with the SEED Company (an affiliate organization of Wycliffe Bible Translators) in their mission to promote and accelerate Bible translation by indigenous churches and organizations in their home countries. T watches over 12 translation projects that represent 35 languages, many of which are just receiving the first Scripture in their own language. Pray today that time with colleagues would help them see what the Lord is doing and where they should join Him.*

*Heart for Lebanon is a faith-based holistic ministry that uses relief in many cases, but not exclusively, as the first step in the process of transforming an individual and their community. They seek to unconditionally serve those who have been marginalized and rejected in Lebanon, including refugees from Syria. Pray today for women who struggle to survive in difficult camp conditions, most have no husband living with them (the majority are at war or have died) and desperately need care. Pray that the hope in their hearts remains open and receptive despite so much suffering.*

*Notes.*

## FRIDAY, APRIL 27

*"The Lord is King forever and ever."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Psalm 10:16

Jesus Christ is no despotic claimant of *divine right*, but he is really and truly the Lord's anointed! "It hath pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell." God hath given to him all power and all authority. As the Son of man, he is now head over all things to his church, and he reigns over heaven, and earth, and hell, with the keys of life and death at his girdle. Certain princes have delighted to call themselves kings by the *popular will*, and certainly our Lord Jesus Christ is such in his church. If it could be put to the vote whether he should be King in the church, every believing heart would crown him. O that we could crown him more gloriously than we do! We would count no expense to be wasted that could glorify Christ. Suffering would be pleasure, and loss would be gain, if thereby we could surround his brow with brighter crowns and make him more glorious in the eyes of men and angels. Yes, he shall reign. Long live the King! All hail to thee, King Jesus! Go forth, ye virgin souls who love your Lord, bow at his feet, strew his way with the lilies of your love, and the roses of your gratitude: "Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all." Moreover, our Lord Jesus is King in Zion by *right of conquest*: he has taken and carried by storm the hearts of his people and has slain their enemies who held them in cruel bondage. In the Red Sea of his own blood, our Redeemer has drowned the Pharaoh of our sins: shall he not be King in Jeshurun? He has delivered us from the iron yoke and heavy curse of the law: shall not the Liberator be crowned? We are his portion, whom he has taken out of the hand of the Amorite with his sword and with his bow: who shall snatch his conquest from his hand? All hail, King Jesus! we gladly own thy gentle sway! Rule in our hearts forever, thou lovely Prince of Peace. - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

**Global Focus:** North Africa & Middle East

[\*Hugo and Jackie\*](#) are from South Africa and have two children, Marlena and John. Hugo is one of the leaders of a media ministry and has also been providing oversight to the PALM ministry (Preparing Arab World Leaders for Ministry) for the last few years. Pray today for a PALM missionary partner in the Arabian Peninsula who recently lost her brother to suicide.

[\*Homes of Love\*](#) creates families for orphaned, abandoned, and at-risk children in Southeast Asia and Africa by identifying, training and supporting in-country Christian parents who will raise these children as their own. With access to education, healthcare, and a loving family, Homes of Love children escape the dangers of poverty, abuse, neglect, and sexual exploitation and are freed to pursue healthy, vibrant futures. Pray today for the HOL children to know who they are in Christ. Pray that God will help them know their true identity and that they will be God's instruments, ready to speak out for Him.

Notes.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 28

*"All the house of Israel are impudent and hardhearted."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Ezekiel 3:7

Are there no exceptions? No, not one. Even the favored race are thus described. Are the best so bad? - then what must the worst be? Come, my heart, consider how far thou hast a share in this universal accusation, and while considering, be ready to take shame unto thyself wherein thou mayst have been guilty. The first charge is *impudence*, or hardness of forehead, a want of holy shame, an unhallowed boldness in evil. Before my conversion, I could sin and feel no compunction, hear of my guilt and yet remain unhumbled, and even confess my iniquity and manifest no inward humiliation on account of it. For a sinner to go to God's house and pretend to pray to him and praise him argues a brazen-facedness of the worst kind! Alas! since the day of my new birth I have doubted my Lord to his face, murmured unblushingly in his presence, worshipped before him in a slovenly manner, and sinned without bewailing myself concerning it. If my forehead were not as an adamant, harder than flint, I should have far more holy fear, and a far deeper contrition of spirit. Woe is me, I am one of the impudent house of Israel. The second charge is *hardheartedness*, and I must not venture to plead innocent here. Once I had nothing but a heart of stone, and although through grace I now have a new and fleshy heart, much of my former obduracy remains. I am not affected by the death of Jesus as I ought to be; neither am I moved by the ruin of my fellow men, the wickedness of the times, the chastisement of my heavenly Father, and my own failures, as I should be. O that my heart would melt at the recital of my Savior's sufferings and death. Would to God I were rid of this nether millstone within me, this hateful body of death. Blessed be the name of the Lord, the disease is not incurable, the Savior's precious blood is the universal solvent, and me, even me, it will effectually soften, till my heart melts as wax before the fire. - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

**Global Partner Focus:** North Africa & Middle East

[Mike and Stephanie](#) are working with a project called LEARN (Leadership Education and Resource Network) based in Beirut, Lebanon. The project's aim is to provide high quality, interactive Biblical training via Internet to Arabic-speakers wherever they are found. Pray today for Mike who is teaching two classes this Spring on the interaction of Muslims and Christians in this region. Please pray for the Spirit's anointing on these teaching opportunities.

The [Hope Center](#) provides caring support and assistance to all individuals and families living with HIV. Pray today for all of those reached by this ministry that they may truly know that they are loved.

Notes.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 29

*"The Lord taketh pleasure in his people."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Psalm 149:4

How comprehensive is the love of Jesus! There is no part of his people's interests which he does not consider, and there is nothing which concerns their welfare which is not important to him. Not merely does he think of you, believer, as an immortal being, but as a mortal being too. Do not deny it or doubt it: "The very hairs of your head are all numbered." "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way." It were a sad thing for us if this mantle of love did not cover all our concerns, for what mischief might be wrought to us in that part of our business which did not come under our gracious Lord's inspection! Believer, rest assured that the heart of Jesus cares about your meaner affairs. The breadth of his tender love is such that you may resort to him in all matters; for in all your afflictions he is afflicted, and like as a father pitieth his children, so doth he pity you. The meanest interests of all his saints are all borne upon the broad bosom of the Son of God. Oh, what a heart is his, that doth not merely comprehend the persons of his people but comprehends also the diverse and innumerable concerns of all those persons! Dost thou think, O Christian, that thou canst measure the love of Christ? Think of what his love has brought thee—justification, adoption, sanctification, eternal life! The riches of his goodness are unsearchable; thou shalt never be able to tell them out or even conceive them. Oh, the breadth of the love of Christ! Shall such a love as this have half our hearts? Shall it have a cold love in return? Shall Jesus' mmarvelouslovingkindness and tender care meet with but faint response and tardy acknowledgment? O my soul, tune thy harp to a glad song of thanksgiving! Go to thy rest rejoicing, for thou art no desolate wanderer, but a beloved child, watched over, cared for, supplied, and defended by thy Lord. - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

**Global Partner Focus:** North Africa & Middle East

[Josh and Jenny M.](#) are working with the RAK Church Plant in the United Arab Emirates. The RAK Evangelical Church has now been formally constituted as a church with about 40 members. The Manleys have recently celebrated living in UAE for 5 years. Pray today for the many people attending the English for Non-Native Speakers classes on Friday mornings.

[Hope House Knoxville](#) is a ministry that provides housing and guidance for young adults who have reached an age where they no longer qualify to live in foster care. Pray today for Kathy Smith who lives in Hope House and serves as the resident manager as she provides loving support for residents.

*Notes:*

## MONDAY, APRIL 30

*"How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God."*

### Today's Devotional Reading

Psalm 139:17

Divine omniscience affords no comfort to the ungodly mind, but to the child of God it overflows with consolation. God is always thinking upon us, never turns aside his mind from us, has us always before his eyes; and this is precisely as we would have it, for it would be dreadful to exist for a moment beyond the observation of our heavenly Father. His thoughts are always tender, loving, wise, prudent, far-reaching, and they bring to us countless benefits: hence it is a choice delight to remember them. The Lord always did think upon his people: hence their election and the covenant of grace by which their salvation is secured; he always will think upon them: hence their final perseverance by which they shall be brought safely to their final rest. In all our wanderings the watchful glance of the Eternal Watcher is evermore fixed upon us - we never roam beyond the Shepherd's eye. In our sorrows he observes us incessantly, and not a pang escapes him; in our toils he marks all our weariness and writes in his book all the struggles of his faithful ones. These thoughts of the Lord encompass us in all our paths and penetrate the innermost region of our being. Not a nerve or tissue, valve or vessel, of our bodily organization is uncared for; all the littles of our little world are thought upon by the great God.

Dear reader, is this precious to you? then hold to it. Never be led astray by those philosophic fools who preach up an impersonal God, and talk of self-existent, self-governing matter. The Lord liveth and thinketh upon us, this is a truth far too precious for us to be lightly robbed of it. The notice of a nobleman is valued so highly that he who has it counts his fortune made; but what is it to be thought of by the King of kings! If the Lord thinketh upon us, all is well, and we may rejoice evermore. - Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening - Daily Readings*

### Prayer for the church, for others, for myself

**Global Partner Focus:** North Africa & Middle East

*F & S are working alongside Arab believers toward the goal of seeing churches planted for those who do not have a church. Their focus is to mobilize, resource and train nationals for this purpose. Pray today for their intern "A" who recently suffered an injury that is taking a while to heal.*

*[Hope Resource Center](#) is a multi-faceted Christian ministry addressing such matters as sexual purity and health, unplanned pregnancy, post-abortion stress and abstinence education. Pray today for all the young women who will come to this ministry this month.*

*Notes:*

© 2018 Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church Global Mission Group, all rights reserved