

# Dear God January 2021

Name: «Name» My Time: «Time»

This year we want to start off the year calling out to God in one united voice. For 24 hours, starting at Midnight on December 31<sup>st</sup> and going till 11:59 pm January 1<sup>st</sup>, we'll hold a prayer marathon. Volunteers who want to participate will pray at certain times and in the comfort of their own homes. Each person will take time to pray and seek God on behalf of the congregation. We encourage couples and families taking time to do this together. There are five simple steps that we'll all follow.

The first step is to get with God, and just God:

*Matthew 6:6 "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."*

Get alone and be alone for the entire time, even if it takes a note on your door and unplugging the phone(s) [obviously this isn't going to be as much of a problem for those who take the hours between 1 AM and 6 AM]. After you are away from those not praying with you, get rid of all the other things. All you need is your Bible, this paper, and whatever you need to read them. No TVs, cell phones, computers, radios, parades, football, etc.

Step two: seek God. Don't jump into this. You have to bring the right attitude into it. God has to be number one and you have to be humble.

*Matthew 6:33 "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

Now saying to do this is one thing, achieving it is another matter entirely. However, to devote this time to God is a good start. Perhaps use some hymns or other songs of praise to begin.

Step three: It's time to pray. There are a couple of recited prayers in the Bible, like the Lord's Prayer. During this time we want to pray with one voice so first pray this prayer, and then lay open your heart to God and continue to pray:

*Dear Lord, it's us. We have set aside this day and time to commit to calling out to You. We confess our failure without You. We need You. In Your church, we need You. In our families, we need You. At our work and school, we need You. In our personal lives, we need You. Our cry is more of You. Fill us with Your presence. Light us, allow us to be a beacon to the lost. Prepare us, allow us to be healers to the hurt. Fill us, make us overflow so that we never lack Your presence in our lives. Suppress our pride, let Your work be for Your glory. Guide our hands, so that they never work against You. Temper our hearts, so they reflect You. May Your will be done.*

When you are finished with this prayer continue praying for as long as you feel led, just keep step five in mind. Pray for any needs you know, for the ministry of AUMC, for Archbold, for our area and nation. Pray for family, friends, coworkers, classmates, and for yourself.

Step four: If you have finished praying, and it's not yet time for step five, read your Bible. There is no suggestion on any particular passage. If you have a daily Bible reading habit, continue that, and extend it if you need to fulfill your time. **I read:** \_\_\_\_\_

Step five: Each person is followed by someone else except the last person [ending at Midnight on January 1]. So the last step that you need to do is pray for the next person [if you're the last person, pray that we continue on in the same spirit of prayer in the coming year].

Check the sign-up page and write their name down: \_\_\_\_\_

And with that, your time is completed, but don't stop just because the time is up. Continue in what God has led you and advance your walk as He guides it.