# REFOCUS

PRAYER GUIDE



## A LETTER FROM YOUR PASTOR DR. DANNY WOOD

You hold in your hands a powerful booklet! Ephesians 6:12 tells us, "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." One way we fight this battle is "praying in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests" (Ephesians 6:18). Our missionaries are on the front lines fighting this spiritual war and greatly need our prayers.

Our theme this year is "*Refocus*" and is taken from Acts 8:4, "Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word." When persecution came to the early church, they *refocused* and went beyond Jerusalem and began to truly carry out the Great Commission. With the pandemic in 2020 it has been easy to focus our attention on ourselves and our situation. But now it is time to *refocus* and get back to our calling to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the world. Time to have a sense of urgency in sharing the Gospel and going out on mission because eternity is at stake and you do not know what tomorrow holds!

During this month leading up to GIC, I encourage each of us to resolutely pray for our missionaries that God will clearly reveal to them what He has for them and their ministry. Pray that God's Spirit would move in them in a mighty way, strengthening and empowering them to refocus and do a work that can only be explained by, "God did it!"

Over the past few years we have been strengthening existing partnerships and establishing new ones. You will see familiar names and faces in this booklet due to our work with them in the past, and you will see some that are new to Shades. Whether these people are familiar or new, we have a wonderful opportunity to pray for each one.

What a privilege for us and our children to systematically and specifically pray for the needs of these with whom we will be building relationships during the Global Impact Celebration! By interceding for these missionaries, we are lifting up their personal needs and undergirding the work of the Gospel.

Thank you for taking the time on a consistent basis to pray for these missionaries. Your prayers will have an impact into eternity! My hope is that as we pray for them, we will become even more sensitive to our own responsibility to follow God's purpose and bring glory to His name.

Damy Wood



## DAY 1 JEFF BELCHER CHURCH OF THE HARBOR | BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

1. Pray that my wife, Kelly, and I find balance, energy and strength to manage responsibilities.

2. Pray that our church leaders will grow into a stronger spiritual maturity.

3. Pray that my wife and children find and develop healthy friendships and connections.

4. Pray for financial stability. Our church serves marginalized people, and will likely never be selfsustaining in the traditional sense. We are working on creative ways (including opening a Thrift Market) to put ourselves in the position to do longterm ministry in Baltimore.

5. Pray for general encouragement.

#### - Hebrews 10:23 -

"Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful."



## DAY 2

SILVANUS & ALENO BHANDARI GLOBAL MISSION CHURCH | QUEENS, NEW YORK

1. Pray for the salvation of Hindus and Tibetan/ Bhutanese Buddhists living in New York City.

2. Pray for our team as we plant a multi-ethnic, multi-generation, multi-cultural church in the next 2 years, and continue to grow in church multiplication. 3. Pray for the divine protection and grace to be with us so that we could boldly proclaim the Gospel among Hindus and Buddhists in Queens of NYC.

4. Pray for our congregants to be continued hands and feet of Jesus Christ, to become leaders, church planters and pastors for new churches throughout Queens and beyond.

#### - Psalms 118:8-9 -"It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in nobles."



## JACOB BOSS & JASON BISHOP IMB | ENGLAND

1. Pray for our families as we navigate the lockdowns and changed rhythms from the virus.

2. Pray for the emerging digital strategies for evangelism and discipleship in Europe to be effective. 3. Pray for the church in Europe as they navigate the future and any changes that need to happen from this past year.

#### - 2 Thessalonians 3:1 -

"In addition, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you."



## DAY 4

JERRY CAMPBELL LOVE IN ACTION | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

1. Pray for support of volunteers to help sort and distribute food at our pantry as needed.

2. Pray for continual financial resources to purchase food and pay for rent, insurance, and truck rentals.

3. Pray for adequate food supply as needs continue to increase in our city.

- Matthew 25:35-36 -"...for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink ...I was naked and you clothed Me; "



## STEVEN CASTELLO CITY ON A HILL CHURCH | BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

1. Pray for us as we start meeting outdoors in April. This will be the first time we've met in person weekly and be able to sing.

2. Pray for our kids as we make school decisions for next year.

3. Pray for our relationship with the community as we attempt to build a reputation of love and service.

4. Pray for 10 confessions of faith in 2021.

#### - Matthew 5:14-16 -

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."



DAY 6

D. SECURE | NORTHERN AFRICA

1. Pray for intentional conversations with our neighbors and at the basketball club.

2. Pray for open doors and favor before sport leaders as we seek to develop projects and programs.

3. Pray for wisdom as we coach and equip front line sports workers.

4. Pray for our boys as we navigate the cultural differences in school and post-Christian worldview and for our daughter's continued development and early intervention care.



## DAY 7 LINDY CLEVELAND UNLESS U | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

1. Pray for continued health and protection over our students from Covid-19. Serving a highrisk population has and will continue to be very challenging and scary at times.

2. Pray for the families of our students as 2020 has been a traumatizing year as they feared for their student's safety due to Covid-19.

3. Pray for true rest and trust in the Lord and His goodness through it all.

4. Pray for our transition into our new building and all of the things that come with change.

5. Pray that we make it a priority to cherish and admire all that the Lord has done through the provision of this building.

6. Pray for our students, old and new, to hear and feel the love of Christ every day within the walls of our new school.

#### - John 15:4;12 -

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me... This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."



## DAY 8

MICHAEL COLEMAN & TERRY PRESTON JIMMIE HALE MISSION | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

1. Pray for our clients as we work with them in the transformation of their lives spiritually, physically, and mentally.

2. Pray for our staff as we seek the Lord's wisdom and as we take on the responsibility of our clients' care. 3. Pray for the mission's leadership team as we seek God's wisdom moving forward with new programs and services.

4. Pray for the families of the people we serve as they try to reestablish relationships that have been stressed and broken.

#### - Galatians 6:2 -"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."



M. & K. SECURE | SOUTH ASIA

1. Pray for borders to open so that we can get personnel back into the country.

2. Pray for a new batch of church planters we are training to see new churches started throughout the city.

3. Pray for the unreached Muslim population to be receptive to the good news of Christ.

4. Pray for Christians to persevere in discipleship and growth even during the challenges of lockdowns in the country.

- Isaiah 62:12 -" And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken. "



# **DAY 10**

## JIM ETHEREDGE BROTHER BRYAN | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

1. Pray for wisdom in the many decisions that are made that affect so many people's lives.

2. Pray for God's Spirit to work in redeeming, restoring, and reconciling the broken men who come looking for help at BBM.

3. Pray for God's provision for the expansion of the mission's ministry to over 100 beds (currently 76).

- Matthew 25:40 -"Truly I say to you to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me."



H. & A. SECURE | ISRAEL

1. Pray for devoted prayer warriors. Ask the Lord to deepen their desire to pray daily for the Jewish people throughout the world to be saved. (Romans 10:1)

2. Pray for the young Jewish believers in the Messianic Movement in Israel and throughout the Diaspora, that they would be filled with the knowledge of God through all spiritual wisdom and understanding, bearing fruit and giving thanks. (Colossians 1:9-12)

3. Pray that the Jewish believers in Jesus will not be ashamed of the Gospel but will share its saving power with everyone. (Romans 1:16)

#### - Romans 10:1 -

"Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved."



## **DAY 12**

JOSEPH GIBBONS FAVOR CITY CHURCH | LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

1. Pray that God gives us favor in the community with specific places of impact: schools, ministry centers and local businesses.

2. Pray that God grows our team with those called to church planting and those just getting to know who Jesus is. 3. Pray that God continues to provide the equipment and venue we need to gather for worship and launch Sunday.

4. Pray that our families that relocated continue to make friends and develop deep relationships.

- Acts 2:47 -"...praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. "



## JONATHAN EDWARDS & JOHN GIBSON SERVING YOU | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

1. Pray for the staff and volunteers to become increasingly Christ-like in showing grace, love, and compassion to those in need and to boldly share the Gospel.

2. Pray for those seeking support and financial assistance. That their physical and spiritual needs would be met, and that a sustainable plan would be put in place for the future.

3. Pray for the ministry to be a light in Birmingham and for the surrounding community to see God's love and provision through them.

4. Pray for protection over the building, the staff and volunteers, the visitors, and the community.

#### - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 -

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."



**DAY 14** 

SETH GRAVES IMB | SEVILLE, SPAIN

1. Pray for salvations in the community of Tomares, for growth in the church, and for God to lift up new leaders within the congregation.

2. Pray for the youth to grow in their knowledge of the truth and in their love for the Lord, and please pray for me as I disciple other potential Spanish leaders. 3. Pray for opportunities to meet new people and to share the gospel, for new ministry opportunities, and for salvations in this new area!

4. Pray for me personally to have boldness in sharing the gospel. For Team Seville, please pray for unity in the task of making disciples.

#### - Revelation 7:9 -

"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb."



## MICHAEL GUYER TREASURING CHRIST CHURCH | ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

1. Pray that we would have students on campus and people in our community come to saving faith in Christ. 3. Pray for God to continue to raise up laborers to join us in Ann Arbor.

2. Pray for the provision of our own meeting location.

#### - 2 Corinthians 12:15 -

"I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If I love you more, am I to be loved less?"



## **DAY 16**

BEN HEILE HOPE CHURCH | SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

1. Pray for God to make the Gospel clear to our neighbors.

2. Pray for God to equip Hope Church to plant churches throughout our valley.

3. Pray for our Biblical Counseling ministry and our ability to bring hope to our valley.

- **Psalm 16:11** -"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."



## TRACY & MARY JO HIPPS CHRISTIAN SERVICE MISSION | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

1. Pray for us as we seek first to do Kingdom work here in Birmingham. We pledge to continue becoming a place where God's Spirit resides in us and is active through us to the end of our days.

2. Pray for our staff and volunteers as we are seeking the face of God and praying for wisdom and direction for 2021.

3. Pray God's kingdom will be on display here on Earth for the whole world to see and for revival in the church this year. 4. Praise God for opening unforeseen doors in 2020, which allowed us to influence and speak on cultural change, state change, and community change throughout the church and greater Birmingham.

5. Pray for healing in our nation and city.

- Psalm 37:4 -"Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."



# **DAY 18**

LISA HOGAN SAV-A-LIFE | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

1. Pray women/families considering abortion will find us first and be receptive to learning their options and to the gospel.

3. Pray for continued favor from our ministry investors for financial resources.

2. Pray for protection for the staff and volunteers from spiritual warfare and Covid-19.

- Proverbs 31:8-9 -

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice."



BRIAN HOOK & JAMIE DORROH ASPIRE CHURCH | TUCSON, ARIZONA

1. Pray that we find a part-time children's minister and worship leader. They can be called from another city to Tucson or in Tucson.

2. Pray for our search for a Christian school for our daughter, Faith, and the finances to provide. She

needs to be immersed in a solid Christian school with Christian friends.

3. Pray for Aspire as we head into a fresh start season in August coming out of the pandemic.

#### - Romans 15:20 -

"I have aspired to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation."



## **DAY 20**

#### J. SECURE | INDONESIA

1. Pray that God would open the eyes and hearts of the Buffalo people to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and that they would respond in repentance and faith.

2. Pray for God to allow us to see some of the first believers in the next year.

3. Pray that God would send more workers to live among the Buffalo people to share the Gospel and make disciples. 4. Pray that God would grant us wisdom and success in using the business identity He has entrusted us with.

5. Pray that we are a means to share the Gospel and make disciples and plant churches among the Buffalo people.

6. Pray that God would grant us grace to stay close to Him and raise our children to know, love and serve Him.



## TRAYLOR & MELODY LOVVORN UNDONE REDONE | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

1. Pray for grants and monthly ministry partners that will allow us to continue to meet the increased demand of individuals and families in crisis due to pornography, infidelity, and betrayal.

2. Pray for wisdom and guidance as we launch True Blue Tribe, a ministry helping to awaken and unleash the hearts of men...equipping them to be better husbands, fathers, and leaders. 3. Pray for the launch of our book in 2021 and wisdom and direction for its distribution.

4. Pray for continued protection of our own marriage as we dive daily into hard places with other couples and families.

#### - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 -

" Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."



# **DAY 22**

## JIM MCFARLAND URBAN PURPOSE | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

1. Pray for our Jobs Program, that it will continue to lead those who are rebuilding their lives into meaningful employment.

2. Pray that we can bring people together, meet physical and emotional needs, build relationships,

and facilitate healthy life choices to the homeless in our city right in the heart of downtown Birmingham.

3. Pray that the people of Birmingham will show mercy and kindness to those in need.

#### - Proverbs 31:8-9 -

"Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."



S. & W. SECURE | INDIA

1. Pray for our family as we look to return to the field in Summer 2021.

2. Pray for us to receive all the proper paperwork and documents in a timely fashion.

3. Pray for our family to adjust quickly back to living on the field after being stateside for over a year.

4. Pray especially for our children to transition smoothly.

5. Pray for our national partners as they continue to serve the Lord despite our absence from the field.

6. Pray for a deep abiding relationship, encouragement, and commitment to reaching those around them.

#### - Luke 10:2 -

"And he said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."



## **DAY 24**

J. & A. SECURE | MIDDLE EAST

1. Our children attend a local school. Through this we have built many relationships with other families and have had opportunities to share truth with them. Please ask that the Holy Spirit draw these families to salvation, and that we would build more relationships and be faithful to share with them.

2. The sports business has done well and provided many opportunities for us. However, COVID has significantly decreased opportunities for sports. Please pray that these open back up, and that we have wisdom as we manage this business. Pray that relationships built through sports program lead to sharing opportunities and new believers.

3. Please pray that we guide our children and point them to the truth well. Living overseas means that our children are surrounded by the lost more than those who know Christ. Pray that the Father guards their hearts, and that they follow hard after Him.

#### - Romans 10:13-14 -

"For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? "



## KEVIN & ALLISON NAYLOR ANTIOCH COMMUNITY CHURCH | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

1. Pray for God to develop in us a culture of prayer throughout our entire church.

3. Pray for the ability to find a stable meeting location for our Sunday Gatherings.

2. Pray for us to grow in reaching and blessing both the campus and the city.

- Psalm 27:8 -"You have said, 'Seek my face.' My heart says to you, 'Your face, LORD, do I seek.'"



## **DAY 26**

## ART & DEB NILSEN THE AZOREAN COMMUNITY FOR EVANGELISM | AZORES

1. Pray for us to begin to meet together again at our camp.

3. Pray for development funding if God would allow us to expand (and build a swimming pool).

- 2. Pray for children who will come to camp.
- 4. Pray for Portuguese-speaking coworkers.

#### - Proverbs 30:7-9 -

"Two things I ask of you, Lord; do not refuse me before I die: keep falsehood and lies from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God."



## CHRIS PHILLIPS JOURNEY POINT | DENVER, COLORADO

1. Pray for our new location and "re-establishing" momentum in our community.

3. Pray as we retool our leadership journey for people in these new, COVID/post-COVID times.

2. Pray as we search for a location for our summer camps.

#### - Ephesians 3:20-21 -

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."



**DAY 28** 

CAROLYN POTTER THE WELLHOUSE | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

1. Pray for God to send to The WellHouse those who desire and need our services.

3. Pray for our new children's program.

2. Pray for strength and grace for our staff.

- Psalm 82:3 -"Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy."



## JEREMY PROEMSEY REFUGE COMMUNITY CHURCH | SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

1. Pray that my family would flourish in this continued season of quarantine and "distance learning."

2. Pray for vision and clarity as we navigate church planting under strict quarantine.

3. Pray that our favor with the community would continue to grow and bear fruit in this season.

4. Pray for new leaders to be raised up in our church prior to our anticipated fall relaunch.

- Psalm 34:8 -

"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him."



## **DAY 30**

GARRETT RABURN MISSION CITY CHURCH | BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

1. Pray for our church planting team to remain resilient, faithful, and steady in our mission. In a crisis situation, many people naturally look inward to care for themselves—but we want to look outward to care for the city. 2. Pray for favor with new relationships as we continue to reach out and offer the gospel to people.

3. Pray for the city to rebound and become the place of flourishing it was before the pandemic began.

#### - Romans 5:3-5 -

"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."



### M. SECURE | MIDDLE EAST

1. Please pray for national pastors and church leaders. Ask for strength and endurance as they run the race in these unprecedented times—that the Lord would remind them that He is working deep in the hearts of those to whom they are ministering.

2. Please pray that the current world situation would encourage national believers to share with

urgency the hope and truth of Christ with family, friends and contacts, either face to face or via social media.

3. Please pray that the discipleship and teaching programs on satellite TV and social media channels would help believers to grow in their knowledge and understanding of their faith in Christ and would encourage a deeper walk with Him.

- Romans 15:13 -"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."



## **DAY 32**

SHAUN & AMAL SHORROSH IMB | AMMAN, JORDAN

1. Pray for open doors for us to share the Good News.

2. Pray that new believers will be obedient disciples in their daily lives.

3. Pray for our son, Christopher, as he starts college this fall in the States.

4. Pray for us as we leave our son, Christopher, in college and head back to the field in the fall.

- Joshua 24:15 -"And Joshua said unto all the people... choose you this day whom ye will serve; ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"



TERRY SLAWSON SEEKER SPRINGS | EROS, LOUISIANA

1. Pray for the Lord's clear direction as we try to figure out how to do ministry effectively in a COVID world and for wisdom as we seek to disciple campers after their camp experience. Pray that we would trust God to do what only He can do in their lives.

2. Pray for more mission teams to help share the love of Jesus through mission camps and to help in completing The Lodge. 3. Pray for our staff. We have had 2 staff members lose loved ones this past year.

4. Pray for discernment and direction in hiring staff to accomplish the work the Lord has given us and that we are steadfast in seeking and following His lead.

- Isaiah 55:1,6 -

"Come all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near."



# **DAY 34**

## BRANDY SUNS THE FOUNDRY | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

1. Pray for restoration of families for the men and women in our Recovery Programs.

2. Pray for our men and women to find their purpose, free from addiction.

3. Pray for our staff. More than 130 men and women come from all walks of life to serve at The Foundry.

- Jeremiah 29:11 -"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."



## ANDY & JAN THROWER ateam | Birmingham, Alabama

1. Pray for the children diagnosed with pediatric cancer and their families. (aTeam Ministries currently has 65 children on our PRAYER JOURNAL who are experiencing the pediatric cancer journey).

2. Pray for our ministry and staff to show the love of Christ in our actions and efforts as we minister to families going through pediatric cancer. 3. Pray for God to continue to bless the work that is being done through our ministry.

4. Pray for God to open opportunities for new patient family programs (College Scholarship Program and opportunities to develop a program to serve more adolescent/teen cancer patients and survivors through their treatment and beyond).

#### - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 -

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which ourselves are comforted by God."



# **DAY 36**

ED TRAVERSE LIFE POINT CHURCH | WESTERVILLE, OHIO

mission trips this year.

3. Pray that we are able to send out teams for

1. Pray that the Lord will fill our church with people who need the Gospel.

2. Pray that leaders will emerge that will create a culture of deep discipleship.

- 2 Corinthians 5:20 -"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."



YALE & AUTUMN WALL LIVING FAITH CHURCH | INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

1. Pray for God to raise up leaders within our church who can take on a greater capacity of ministry and for the training groups we have in place for this purpose.

2. Pray for God to send us some established believers who can support what is happening here (we have so many young and new believers and desperately need more seasoned believers to walk alongside them). 3. Pray for our college ministry to have a growth turnaround this coming year (COVID was a huge hit for us in our ministry on campus this past year).

4. Pray for God's continued provision and direction for our second location on the near east side of Indy as we begin preview services on Easter Sunday 2021.

- Timothy 2:2 -"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."

## - ACTS 8:4 -"NOW THOSE WHO WERE SCATTERED WENT ABOUT PREACHING THE WORD."

