



the
Gospel
TO EVERY HOME
ACTS 1:8

40 DAYS OF PRAYER

A WORD FROM ROB PATTERSON ...

Thank you for joining in these 40 Days of Prayer that God would help us get the gospel to every home in our local communities and across the commonwealth.

“When Billy Graham was asked about the most important steps in preparing for an evangelistic outreach, he always answered that there were three things that mattered most: Prayer, prayer and prayer.”¹ As Kentucky Baptists cooperate to get the gospel to the 1,728,681 homes in Kentucky by November 2021, we know that we must proceed with the work in prayer, sow the seed in prayer, and then pray that God will do what only He can – produce the harvest.

My prayer for you over these next 40 days is that God will:

- Renew the joy and awe of your salvation,
- Rekindle an evangelistic burden for our lost friends, family, and neighbors,
- Refocus our priorities to His focus on the harvest (John 4:35-38), and
- Revive our hearts and churches.

Knowing that more than 81% of Kentuckians were unchurched pre-COVID, there has never been greater urgency to get the gospel to every home!

Rob Patterson, Evangelism Team Leader
Kentucky Baptist Convention

¹ <https://billygrahamlibrary.org/5-quotes-on-prayer-from-billy-graham/>

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PRAYING FOR FRANGELISM

Identify lost or unchurched Friends, Relatives, Associates, and Neighbors for whom you will pray by name each of the next 40 days. Pray:

- That God would prepare their hearts to hear the gospel
- That God would open doors for you or someone to have gospel conversations with your FRANs in the next 40 days
- That God might draw them to saving faith

Friends

Relatives

Associates (Those with whom you associate in work or community life)

Neighbors

*Consider signing up as a “light” with blesseveryhome.com to receive daily emails with names of your neighbors and recommended prayers.

GET UP AND GO

Occasionally one will hear an old timer say, “My get up and go done got up and went.” Those of us who wish to be faithful in gospel conversations must have some “get up and go” about us. In Jonah 1:2, God had a mission for Jonah. Jonah was expected to deliver God’s message to the people of Nineveh.



Here are four thoughts for us to consider related to God’s call to Jonah and His call to us:

1. The Call of God is Personal: God called Jonah personally. God also calls us. The Great Commission, Matthew 28:18-20, should be taken personally by every follower of Jesus.
2. The Call of God is to People: Jonah was called to take the message to the people of Nineveh. The Lord will always send us to people because people are the objects of His love. The people to whom we are sent will likely include family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and people we meet as we live our lives.
3. The Call of God is to Proclamation: Jonah was called to go to Nineveh and “preach against it.” We too are called to deliver a message. Our message is the story of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
4. The Call of God is for a Purpose: Jonah’s ministry was given to him because the wickedness of Nineveh had come up before God. God wanted Nineveh to repent. The Lord also wants the people to whom we are sent to repent and believe the gospel.

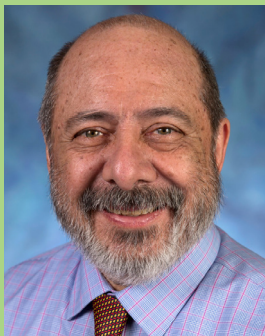
Dear Lord, help me to daily hear and respond to Your call to personally take the gospel to people who need to repent and believe. Grant me grace to obey Your calling today for Your purpose of reaching people with the good news. Help me remember also that it is only good news to them if it arrives in time. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Todd Gray, Executive Director-Treasurer
Kentucky Baptist Convention

“Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it because their evil has come up before me.”

Jonah 1:2

PERSISTING IN PRAYER



The Lord Jesus entered the garden of Gethsemane with 11 of His disciples, knowing that He would soon be delivered to His enemies. Jesus would not be the only one to face temptation in the hours to come. Knowing this, He invited three disciples to join Him in prayer as He drew away from the group.

During His time in the garden, the soul of our Savior was “grieved to the point of death,” because He knew what was coming. At that time, He wanted His three disciples to persist with Him in prayer. But they fell asleep because of their fatigue and sadness.

How about us? Are we persisting in prayer? It is important to get together to pray and to meditate especially on Jesus, as the Bible shows us. In those moments of prayer, are our prayers truly directed toward Him, who suffered so much for us? Where are our thoughts? Do we remain cold and insensitive to His suffering and the people around us? Are we too busy focusing on ourselves and our problems? Are we like the disciples who, in the days leading up to the cross, spent their time arguing about who would be the greatest among them? Do we deserve the same rebuke the disciples received in the garden: “Couldn’t you stay awake with me one hour?” (Matthew 26:40).

I hope this is not our behavior! The Lord loved us so much that He died for us. Our devotion and praise belong to Him. He is worthy of them! Let us not remain asleep while He wishes us to be vigilant. Don’t end your prayers without praying for people who are close to you who don’t know the Lord Jesus. It is our duty, equal to the apostles, to pray for them and ask the Lord that they soon will receive what we already have.

Lord, we pray for salvation, especially for those that You have placed near us. Help us carry out the job you have created us for, to bring them the good news of salvation. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Carlos De la Barra, Church Planting Strategist & Campus Ministry Director
Kentucky Baptist Convention

“He said to them, ‘I am deeply grieved to the point of death. Remain here and stay awake with me.’”

Matthew 26:38

LIVING SENT THROUGH WORD AND DEED

Have you ever prepared for a trip overseas? Some people take into consideration the language differences, weather conditions, cultural customs, monetary needs, and safety protocols with detailed attention. Others take a more laid-back approach to the journey. Although both approaches can send you on an adventure, if prepared with the right tools, the first person might have better understanding of how to respond when encountered with a challenging experience.



Ed Stetzer once said, “All of God’s people are sent on mission, the only questions are ‘where?’ and ‘among whom?’” He also stated that, “God has a kingdom mission, and He entrusts that mission to the church.” We don’t get to decide if we are on mission. We are commissioned and given a directive “to go” (Matthew 28:19). However, recognition of our “sentness” is the key. Jesus reminds the disciples that “as the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you” (John 20:21). Notice, this is not a question but a command. So, how should we engage in God’s mission?

- We must make and send out disciples through evangelism and missions.
- We must live “sent” and actively take the gospel across the street and around the world.
- We must be ready “in and out of season” (2 Timothy 4:2), making every opportunity to make disciples who are obedient (Matthew 28:20) to His call.

Living “sent” means that, as the church, we are approaching His mission equipped to engage in personal service and ready for the Lord’s prompting to share the gospel. We cannot go unprepared; we must be ready to engage in God’s mission.

Father, forgive me for dragging my feet to obey Your call. Teach me to recognize when my life is not aligning with Your missional call. Stir in me the urgency to take the gospel to those who have not yet heard. Help me know how to appropriately serve the hurting and proclaim Your truth in love. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Liz Encinia, Executive Director-Treasurer
Kentucky Woman’s Missionary Union

“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you.’”

John 20:21

DAY 4:

PRAYING IN HIS STRENGTH

What is it that we are proclaiming at the grassroots of our ministries? Are we proclaiming moralism (act a certain way)? Are we proclaiming programming (be a part of this event/ministry)? Are we proclaiming a political agenda (vote this way)? OR ... are we proclaiming Christ? As Christians, we are about Christ and Christ alone. It is CHRIST we proclaim!

We proclaim Him to “everyone.” We proclaim Him from our platform to the masses, but that is not all. We proclaim Him to “every ONE,” the individuals who cross our paths.

We “warn” every ONE (that judgement is coming and Jesus is the Way to the Father). We “teach” every ONE with all wisdom (relying on Scripture as our sole authority), so that we may “present” every ONE mature in Christ (a disciple who makes disciples).

Fortunately, we don’t have to do this on our own. We labor, work, strive, struggle, and toil with HIS strength that works so powerfully in us!

Pray that we would be sensitive to everyone that God brings our way that we would warn them, teach them, and present them more mature in Christ. Pray that we would work in HIS strength and not our own. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Jonathan Clark, Regional Campus Minister – Murray Region
Kentucky Baptist Convention

“We proclaim Him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. I labor for this, striving with his strength that works powerfully in me.”

Colossians 1:28-29

SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

We cross paths with so many people daily. Every one of them has a story and every one of them has a need. Their story is unique to them and the life they have lived so far. One thing every person we meet shares with us, and the rest of humanity is that their story is tainted with brokenness. One thing that every broken person we meet shares with us, and the rest of humanity is that they need Jesus to heal their brokenness and reconcile them to God.



When Jesus went out of His way to meet a broken woman at the well in Samaria, He knew everything about her and yet He took the time to listen and hear her pain. Once He revealed Himself to her and she realized that He was the one she needed to heal her brokenness, she went back to town and told everyone! She could not hold it in because Jesus changed her life and her eternity, and she wanted others to have what she had.

For those of us who have met Jesus, there is no higher calling, no more pressing matter, no more urgent agenda item on our to do list, than to introduce the people that cross our path today to the Savior of the world! Then they will see for themselves His saving and healing power.

Heavenly Father, open my eyes to the brokenness of the people I will meet today. Give me favor and boldness to share the hope of the gospel and introduce those I meet today to Jesus, the Savior of the world. In Jesus' Name, amen.

Matthew Mofield, Regional Campus Minister – Morehead Region
Kentucky Baptist Convention

“Now many Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of what the woman said when she testified, ‘He told me everything I ever did.’ So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them, and He stayed there two days. Many more believed because of what He said. And they told the woman, ‘We no longer believe because of what you said, since we have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world.’”

John 4:39-42

FAITH OVER FEAR

Fear is an emotion that can be helpful or harmful. It is useful to have a healthy fear that warns of dangers. But we can be plagued by a fear that can shackle us and prevent us from living in obedience to God.

Fear can cause us to shrink back and refrain from sharing our faith with others. Four common fears that the enemy uses to

prevent our witness are:

1. What will people think of me if I share my faith?
2. What if I mess up as I share?
3. What if they ask me something that I cannot answer?
4. What if they reject my witness?

The good news is that you are not responsible for witnessing for God in your own strength or wisdom, nor are you responsible for the results. God has given you the gift of the Holy Spirit, and that gift is not a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and sound judgement. Resist the enemy and trust that God has given you the power to step out in courage to share your faith as He fills you with a love for others and makes your life an example that draws others to God.

Father, help us to overcome our fear and trust in your Spirit as You give us opportunities to be a witness for You. Remind me afresh that I witness by Your power as I am moved by Your love, and that the testimony of my life gives added strength to my words. Open an opportunity this day for me to share your good news with someone who crosses my path. In Jesus' name, amen.

Coy Webb, Disaster Relief - State Director
Kentucky Baptist Convention

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment. So don't be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, or of me His prisoner. Instead, share in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God."

2 Timothy 1:7-8

PRAYING FOR A GREAT AWAKENING

Jesus gave them a lot of ground to cover. They were to take the gospel to the entire world. There are sermons to preach, churches to plant, books to write. If I'm in their shoes, I'm gettin' busy!

But Jesus threw the brakes on. Check it out! "He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father's promise.

"Which," He said, "you have heard me speak about; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days" (Acts 1:4b - 5).

Did you catch that? They're to WAIT! And why? They didn't have the power necessary to take the gospel to the world and usher in true revival. And then, "When the day of Pentecost had arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like that of a violent rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were staying. They saw tongues like flames of fire that separated and rested on each one of them. Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them" (Acts 2:1- 4).

It was only after the Spirit enabled them that the greatest revival of all time took place.

Pray now that Kentucky Baptist churches will realize the power of the Holy Spirit that is in them and for the Holy Spirit to fall on His people as He did at Pentecost. Only then will a great awakening be experienced in the Bluegrass State. In Jesus' name, amen.

Rick Howerton, South Central Regional Consultant
Kentucky Baptist Convention



"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

DAY 8:

THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST

Our churches will never mobilize to get the Gospel to Every Home until we are moved by the same compassion that moved our Savior into action. We cannot help but see the brokenness in our communities, but do we see our lost neighbors in the same way that Christ sees them?

If you ever have the chance to travel among unreached people groups, pay attention. Look carefully in their eyes and you will see the true depth of lostness that Christ describes in this text. They are distressed by the brokenness of sin in their lives all around them. They are dejected because no matter how hard they try nothing seems to get better. They live day-to-day like sheep with no shepherd. The darkness in villages and communities with no church presence can be oppressive.

How tragic that the same spiritual oppression can happen in homes literally within the shadow of our steeples! We must cooperate to get the gospel to the ends of the earth, but may God also help us to get the gospel to the homes at the end of our street.

Father, help us to see our lost neighbors and communities as You see them. Move us with Your compassion to share good news with those close to our churches but still far from You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Rob Patterson, Evangelism Team Leader
Kentucky Baptist Convention

“When He saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd.”

Matthew 9:36

PRAYING FOR CIRCLES OF RELATIONSHIPS

Acts 1:8 is another variation of the Great Commission. It reminds us that we receive Holy Spirit power to be His witnesses. The verse is often used in connection to global missions. We see Jerusalem (our hometown), Judea (our state), Samaria (our nation), and the ends of the earth (the foreign mission field). Acts 1:8 encourages us to bring the gospel to a lost and dying world.



Acts 1:8 also encourages us to evangelize our personal networks. Let's think about "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth" in a different way. Let's consider Acts 1:8 in light of our relationships. What if "Jerusalem" reminds us of our lost family members? What if "Judea" reminds us of our lost friends? What if "Samaria" reminds us of our lost neighbors and coworkers? What if the "ends of the earth" reminds us of the lost people that we pass by on a daily basis?

When we begin to see Acts 1:8 in light of relationships, we immediately begin to form a list of real people that need the gospel.

As you pray today, continue praying daily for those real people. Pray that God will give you the power to be a witness to them. In Jesus' name, amen.

Kenny Rager, Church Evangelism Strategist
Kentucky Baptist Convention

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

DAY 10:

BE A LIGHT!



For years, our family has spent a lot of time and made incredible memories on Rough River Lake. As a child, it seemed that time stood still, and we would find ourselves visiting often. Recently, we were able to venture out and enjoy being in nature and being kissed by the sun. We had a great day on the water, fishing, boating, and swimming; enjoying the campfire; roasting hot dogs; and just being together.

Around 7 p.m., we all jumped back in the boat for some fishing. After a warm summer day, the temperature was beginning to fall, boaters were going in for the night, the sweet aroma of dinner cooking all along the river was wonderfully present, the waves were beginning to calm, and it was a perfect evening. While the fishing was not great that night, on the way back to the dock, something incredible happened. The sun had almost set and as we looked out into the distance, we saw little campfires being lit. First it was one, then two, then five, six, and then too many to count! Not only was the first campfire noticeable, but when many were lit, it was almost as if someone turned on a big light in the dark sky. It was incredible!

As we concluded our ride back to the dock in almost complete darkness, the campfires seemed to illuminate the night sky. Individually and cooperatively, together, it was almost as if it was bright as day. Reflecting on the greatness of our God, I could not help but think about the church, our mission, our vision. I could not help but think about Matthew 5:14-16. "You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden ... In the same way, let your light shine before others."

Rise up, church! Be a light. Be who God created us to be. There are so many people who have yet to hear the gospel or who have yet to call on Him as Savior and Lord. The time is now! We must not delay. We must be obedient and be proactive in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. God has equipped us. We just have to be obedient and go. And, as the church, together, we can do even greater things for the kingdom.

Father, please give Your church a burning desire to go and to share the good news of Jesus Christ. May it be that we not lay our heads down at night until we have shared the gospel with at least one person that day. Give us a passion and fervor to reach people with the gospel. In Jesus' name, amen.

DeAnna Terry, Evangelism Team Ministry Assistant
Kentucky Baptist Convention

"You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are 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 in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16

SECOND TIME AROUND

Perhaps you have felt the nudge of God to tell someone about Jesus and you have talked yourself out of it. Or maybe you have convinced yourself, based on someone's background and/or lifestyle, they would not hear the gospel. If you have ever felt this way, there is hope for you today!



Jonah was a hesitant mouthpiece for God. God had given him a word to proclaim to the city of Nineveh, but he refused. Now, Nineveh was the capital of Assyria and known for its cruelty. Assyria was also a recognized enemy of Judah and Israel. This Gentile nation was on Jonah's radar but not in a good way. Yet, God moved in Jonah's life to confirm that He is concerned about the lost.

Just because we missed the initial opportunity does not mean God is through with us. Jonah 3:2 says the Word came to Jonah a second time. Nineveh was always the audience that God had purposed to hear the message of God. God is so gracious that He often provides another opportunity to tell people about Christ.

Jonah's journey with God aided in his motivation. Our love for God and His desire for the lost compels us to tell a dying world about the living Savior!

It is amazing how God moves in the lives of people when His servants are obedient. Jonah proclaimed the message of God and the men of Nineveh believed in God. The words "believe in" implies more than just believing what has been said, it expresses the idea of trusting a person. The most unlikely people group and enemy of the people of God, believed in God! Perhaps an individual, people group, or neighborhood near you or your church needs to hear the gospel and believe in God!

Lord, grant us the boldness to share the gospel with all, leaving the results up to You. Please, open our eyes so we may be faithful to use this next opportunity to tell others about You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Brian Hinton, Regional Campus Minister – Louisville Region
Kentucky Baptist Convention

"The men of Nineveh believed in God."

Jonah 3:5

INTENTIONALLY SEEKING OUT THE LOST

When a house is on fire, firefighters risk their lives to rush in and seek out those who are lost in the flames. Each time a firefighter finds someone lost in the fire and brings them to safety they are saved from death.

Luke 19:10 tells us that Jesus, the Son of Man, has come to seek out those who are lost and to bring them salvation, much like a firefighter would. Jesus isn't saving us from a burning building, but He is saving us from eternal damnation.

As believers we have been sought after by the Son of Man and are now saved through His action alone. Our role is to bring this message to unbelievers so that they may hear, know, and believe that the Son of Man has come to seek and save the lost.

Father, we thank You for providing Your Son to come and seek us out as we flee from You. We ask for the continual strength daily to follow Your Son and seek out those who are lost so that they may know You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Jonah Pack, Campus Ministry Assistant
Kentucky Baptist Convention

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Luke 19:10

CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST

Many times, we know that God is asking us to simply be a witness and walk through the divine opportunity that He has given us. I know it can be scary and I know that we can have angst. I also know that according to Isaiah 41:10, we have two reminders, two remembrances and three promises when it comes to sharing the gospel.



Two things we are reminded of include NOT fearing and NOT being afraid. Why? Because God is with us and He is our God. It is natural for us to avoid some situations including sharing the gospel. But we know that God will be with us, so we need not fear, and He is our God, therefore we need not be afraid.

And finally, this passage guides us in sharing through the promises of God being our strength, God being our help, and God holding onto us with His very strong right hand. Knowing these things will help bolster your courage to do exactly what He has asked us to do.

So, the next time you sense that God is directing you to turn a conversation in an evangelistic direction, please remember that God will be with you through it all according to His Word.

Father, we ask that as we encounter those opportunities given by You to share our faith and the gospel story, please remind us that You are OVER us (I am your God), that You are BESIDE us (I am with you), that You are INSIDE us (I will strengthen you), that you are AROUND us (I will help you) and that you are UNDERNEATH us (I will uphold you). Thank you, Lord, for these opportunities. Help us to be faithful and obedient. In Jesus' name, amen.

Jason "Bubba" Stewart, Worship & Music Consultant
Kentucky Baptist Convention

"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10

A WORD AND SPIRIT-WROUGHT REVIVAL

Parched and bleached by the sun, the view of the brittle bones scattered across the valley brought discouraging and hopeless thoughts to Ezekiel's mind. The only thing more discouraging than the vision itself was the fact that God's own people were represented by these hopeless, abandoned bones. They had died, and if they were revived, it would require a God-sent miracle.

This vision challenged Ezekiel's faith. God asked him an unthinkable question, "Son of man, can these bones live?" He replied, "Lord God, only You know." Ezekiel's response revealed his thought, "If these dried bones live again, it will require a miracle from You, God."

In the vision, a miracle happened! To bring it about, God called Ezekiel to do two things. First, he preached to the bones. As he did, he heard the rattling of bones coming together. Then, the skeletons were wrapped by muscle and skin. Secondly, Ezekiel cried out for breath to reenter the lifeless bodies. The breath, representing God's Spirit, moved from the four winds, and the army was resuscitated!

From the Valley of Dry Bones, we see two necessary ingredients for revival—the preaching of the Word and the movement of the Spirit. Today, the requirements are the same for revival to descend on our communities and state. Pray for bold proclamation of God's Word, a movement of His Spirit, and a great revival to come!

Almighty God, as You did for Your people many years ago, send a revival to our communities and state. Bless our preachers to be bold proclaimers of Your Word and send a fresh wind of Your Holy Spirit to enliven us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Alan Dodson, South Regional Consultant
Kentucky Baptist Convention

"So I prophesied as He commanded me; the breath entered them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, a vast army."

Ezekiel 37:10

OVERCOMING EVANGELISTIC OBSTACLES

Paul Miller says, “Cynicism looks in the wrong direction. It looks for the cracks in Christianity (and people) instead of looking for the presence of Jesus. It is an orientation of the heart.” Our culture seems to become more cynical as the days progress. When Christians imbibe a cynical attitude, we become evangelistically anemic.



The apostle Paul provides us with some helpful hints on how to avoid cynicism while praying for evangelistic boldness. In Colossians 4:2-6, Paul challenges us to ask God to open doors for the gospel message while cultivating merciful hearts. Paul understands that those who receive mercy should be the greatest conduits of mercy on behalf of Christ. Paul is not embittered with persons who caused him harm. He is primarily concerned about their souls.

Let us pray fervently for tender hearts to present tough words with grace and truth. In Jesus' name, amen.

Curtis Woods, Associate Executive Director for Convention Relations
Kentucky Baptist Convention

“Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains, so that I may make it known as I should. Act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person.”

Colossians 4:2-6

SHARING JESUS IN EVERYTHING

Genesis is the universe's birth story. Everything is a first in the book of Genesis: man and woman, sun and moon, birds and mammals. And in this story of beginnings, we find a small yet powerful picture of our purpose on this earth: to take care of it and to glorify God while doing it. We are co-owners with God and called to administrate the earth.

Everything we do points back to the Creator, including our 8-to-5 jobs. Bringing the Gospel to Every Home is realizing we have ALL been given the opportunity to have gospel conversations in everything we do. Whether a construction worker, a waiter, or a teacher, God has provided endless opportunities to share Jesus intentionally.

Our jobs are not obstacles to share Jesus; our jobs are THE way to share about Him. We are modern-day versions of Adam and Eve, cultivating what is left of the garden and sharing Jesus in everything we do.

Father, we pray You will renew our understanding of Your call in our lives that we may see and courageously share in all the opportunities our jobs provide for us to have gospel conversations. In Jesus' name, amen.

Job Juarez, Church Planting Group Leader
Kentucky Baptist Convention

“The Lord God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.”

Genesis 2:15

PASSING ON THE LOVE OF MISSIONS

Timothy was encouraged to be strong in his ministry, on his mission field, by Paul who loved young Timothy like a son. Paul recognized the strong faith Timothy was taught by his mother and grandmother and was convinced their sincere faith lived in him.



As a mother of a son, I have tried to share God's love by example and lead him to follow the Lord's guidance for his life. As I did, my son was encouraged to share God's love with others through missions. His desire to share about Christ led him to Ecuador three summers as a teenager. He knew the people really needed to hear about the good news of God's saving grace. These were wonderful experiences for him to show his faith.

Father, thank You for examples of others that have guided us to go and share. Thank You for opportunities to share Your saving grace wherever our mission field may be. In Jesus' name, amen.

Dawn Cavanah, Church Planting Ministry Assistant
Kentucky Baptist Convention

“You, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

2 Timothy 2:1-2

THE GOODNESS OF GOD



Often, in the midst of arduous times, it can be tough for some Christians to hold tight to the truth of God's Word, that He is for us and not against, ultimately that He is good. We know that perplexing and difficult seasons in life can easily cause one to doubt the goodness of the Father, just like the Jewish Christians to whom James was writing. Circumstances and persecution had caused some to waiver in their faith and to blame God for tempting them to sin. However, it is impossible to faithfully walk with

a holy God while questioning His goodness and blaming Him for our sin. As Christians, we must actively guard ourselves against the seeds of deception that Satan tries to plant about God's goodness, just as he did with Eve so long ago. Here are three reminding encouragements that James gives his readers and us:

God is the source of goodness: Make no mistake about it. If you call anything "good," it comes from God. Good health? Family? Firm and unfailing friendship? Freedom? Nature? The warmth of a fire in the winter and the cool of the breeze in the summer? These all come from God. That is James's claim. There is no good that comes from any source other than God!

His goodness never changes: Stars vary in brilliance. The moon waxes and wanes. The sun rises and sets. It creates all kinds of shadows and sometimes is eclipsed. With God, there is never any waxing or waning or any kind of eclipse. He is always the same. And that means He is always good. I heard one preacher say, "God does not change like shifting shadows. God's goodness is always at high noon." God is good. He always has been, and He always will be. He cannot be anything other than good. And this means that God is being good to us even when our circumstances seem to be screaming that He isn't.

His goodness is the greatest gift: God's gift of spiritual life must be called His greatest gift because it rescues us from the greatest tragedy, eternal separation from God. It's an act of grace rooted in God's willing goodness.

His saving grace is poured into us by the word of truth (v. 18). It is the instrument that the Spirit of God uses in bringing us to spiritual life. And the outcome is "that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures" (v. 18). His finest and most excellent choice of humanity. Praise be to God.

Father, by Your Spirit, may we remain assured that You lead us toward what is good and never evil. That You are the ultimate and unfailing source of all things good. And that the greatest good that You've ever done for us is granting us salvation. In Jesus' name, amen.

Joseph Dicks, Campus Minister at Kentucky State University
Kentucky Baptist Convention

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. By His own choice, He gave us birth by the word of truth so that we would be a kind of first fruits of His creatures."

James 1:17-18

BOLD YET LOVING

As you go through your daily routine, be alert that you will encounter lost people along the way. In this scripture, Philip was told by an angel of the Lord to go south to the road from Jerusalem to Gaza. He heeded that call and encountered this court official who did not understand what he was reading from Isaiah. Philip told him about Jesus — the man was saved, and his life immediately gave evidence of the transforming power of Christ.



Every day we must pray for God to put lost persons in our path, give us the wisdom to realize those witnessing opportunities, and the courage to tell the lost we meet about Christ and His saving power. We live in a world filled with confusion and chaos, and we will encounter people who are looking for hope, yet many have looked for that hope in the wrong places. Begin each day praying that the lost we encounter will have tender hearts to receive the gospel witness. Guide us through the Holy Spirit to be bold yet loving in our witness.

Father, thank You for the salvation that is offered through Christ and His atoning death for our sins. Open the hearts of the lost we will meet today. May Your Holy Spirit prepare them to hear and understand the gospel so they may move from spiritual death to eternal life through the transforming power of Christ. In Jesus' name, amen.

Chip Hutcheson, Interim Managing Editor
Western Recorder

“The Spirit told Philip, ‘Go and join that chariot.’ When Philip ran up to it, he heard him (Ethiopian eunuch) reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, ‘Do you understand what you’re reading?’ ‘How can I,’ he said, ‘unless someone guides me?’”

Acts 8:29-31

WHO IS READY FOR AN INVITE?

Did you know that people are waiting for you to invite them? Like Philip, you have met and followed Jesus. Part of your personal growth as Jesus' disciple is inviting others to discover Jesus.

How? Philip found Nathanael and shared his story about meeting Jesus. People want to hear your story. Philip also shared that scripture points to Jesus. Sharing key verses (John 3:16, Romans 6:23, etc.) with your story allows the listener to hear God's Word affirm Jesus.

People around you need Jesus. Pray for them. Meet them where they are. Tell your story. Point them to Jesus and share key verses about Him. Listen and answer questions as best you can. Watch as He changes lives—including your own as you invite others to discover Jesus.

Father, give me courage to share Jesus with someone today. Allow me the opportunity for conversation with someone who needs Him. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Darryl Wilson, Sunday School & Discipleship Consultant
Kentucky Baptist Convention

“The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. He found Philip and told him, ‘Follow me.’ Philip found Nathanael and told him, ‘We have found the one Moses wrote about in the law (and so did the prophets): Jesus the son of Joseph, from Nazareth.’”

John 1:43,45

WELCOMING JESUS JOYFULLY

In Luke 19 we read that Jesus was passing through Jericho when He encountered Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector and hated by his fellow Jews. Being short, Zacchaeus climbed a tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus passing by. What motivated Zacchaeus to climb that tree? We cannot say for sure, but maybe it was because he had heard that this rabbi actually loved people like him. Jesus “came to the place” and He invited Himself to Zacchaeus’ home.



Zacchaeus came down and welcomed Jesus joyfully! Later in the passage Jesus declared that “salvation has come to this house.” Jesus met Zacchaeus where he was and as result Zacchaeus would never be the same. Today, many of our neighbors are waiting for the people of God to come to their homes and share the life transforming message of the gospel. Will you go?

Lord, You came to seek and save the lost. Thank You for allowing us to join You in this work. Give us courage to go to our neighbors and let them know they can be forgiven and free in Christ. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Andy McDonald, North Central Regional Consultant
Kentucky Baptist Convention

“When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, hurry and come down because today it is necessary for me to stay at your house.’ So he quickly came down and welcomed Him joyfully.”

Luke 19:5-6

THE GREAT COMMISSION IS STILL OUR MISSION

The Great Commission is still in effect. Although He had been teaching and modeling the Great Commission principles for the last 3 1/2 years to the disciples, it was so paramount to Jesus that He gave them a final, post-resurrection reminder!

Three post-resurrection Great Commission reminders:

1. He reminded them about His **POWER**. Jesus had already taught and demonstrated His power to the disciples. They were there when He gave sight to the blind. They watched the infected skin of the lepers become perfect and unblemished. They heard Him yell, "Lazarus, come forth!" They were looking at Him at that moment, after He had just come back from the dead, yet He **STILL** reminded them about His power. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (v. 19). **WHY?** Jesus knew there would be times in the future when the disciples would need every possible reminder of His power!
2. He reminded them about his **PRIORITY**. In this reminder, we find the keys to unlock church growth and revitalization. He told them to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (vs. 19-20). In other words, Jesus reminded them that His priority was for them to focus on evangelism and discipleship!
3. He reminded them about His **PRESENCE**. He said, "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (v. 20). They spent the last 3 1/2 years with Jesus, but now, He was going away. Jesus knew that they needed to be reminded about His continuing presence through the Holy Spirit. What a glorious reminder with which to close this Gospel account: **GOD IS WITH US!**

Father, help us to continually focus on evangelism and discipleship with the knowledge that You are all-powerful in helping Your church fulfill Your priority! And Father, help us be assured of Your presence during the process! To You, and You alone, be praised! In Jesus' name, amen.

Steve Rice, Church Consulting & Revitalization Team Leader
Kentucky Baptist Convention

"The eleven disciples traveled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. When they saw Him, they worshiped, but some doubted. Jesus came near and said to them, 'All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

Matthew 28:16-20

PRAYING FOR BOLDNESS

Believers often pray in different ways regarding evangelism. They pray for opportunities, natural lead-ins, and for souls to be saved. In his letter to the Ephesian church, Paul asks for prayers for boldness to “proclaim the mystery of the gospel.”

The church is the best equipped it has ever been. Its members have access to more people than ever. More money and resources are available for evangelism and missions than in times past. What is often lacking? Believers praying for one another that “words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel.”

Father, I thank You for the example of Paul as he asked the church to pray that he would have boldness in sharing the gospel. I pray that You will give me boldness today as I share with my friends and neighbors the glorious mystery of the gospel. In Jesus' name, amen.

Toby DeHay, Church Planting and Development Associate
Kentucky Baptist Convention



“Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints. Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel.”

Ephesians 6:18-19

YOUR LIFE SHOULD BE A WITNESS

If you were looking for someone to give the keys to your house and take care of your beloved pets while you went on vacation, would you pick a person who was careless, dishonest, or who didn't like dogs?

In his letter to Titus, Paul offers advice to the newly commissioned ministry leader about picking helpers who could expand the work of churches, rather than be a hindrance. In a word, Titus was instructed to select laborers who were upright. People who were living intentional, sober-minded lives worthy of being called servants of God. People who could be held up as Christian models for the countless new disciples they would encounter on the island of Crete.

Like the helpers of these early churches, we should show our reverence to God in the way we live out our lives, both in private and in front of others. God instructs us to have lives that are markedly different than the lost, so when we have the opportunity to share our hope in Christ, our witness is unhindered by our behavior.

Father, Creator of all heaven and earth, I confess the areas of my life that do not bring You glory and ask for Your forgiveness. Please pour Your Spirit over me and give me the self-control I need to behave in a way that is worthy of Your love and grace. Help me to be reverent in my thoughts and actions as I point people to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Robin Cornetet, Marketing & Media Relations Associate
Kentucky Baptist Convention

“Older men are to be self-controlled, worthy of respect, sensible, and sound in faith, love, and endurance. In the same way, older women are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not slaves to excessive drinking. They are to teach what is good.”

Titus 2:2-3

BECAUSE THEY ARE DEAR TO US

Sharing the gospel is really awkward if you don't care about the person. Sometimes I wonder if that is the problem with much of our evangelism and preaching today. When we share the gospel, do we also share a piece of ourselves?

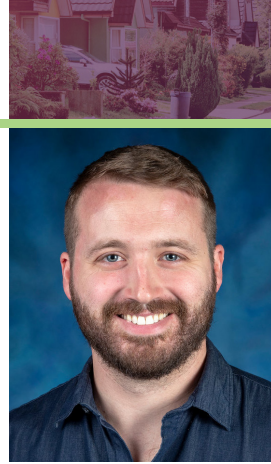
1 Thessalonians 2:8 shows us that when we share the gospel, we also must generously share ourselves. When the apostle Paul preached and evangelized, he was bold to share the gospel. But he also shared himself with others – his time, his resources, his vulnerabilities ... his life.

What made Paul pleased to share so much of himself as he fulfilled his life's calling of sharing the gospel? It was his God-given affection for people. "We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us."

May God give us this same affection for people so that we are compelled to share the gospel and share ourselves with them.

Father, I recognize that Your plan for evangelistic preaching is that it be done from a place of affection and compassion for people. I ask that You give me this same affection and compassion when I preach and when I share the gospel with others. May I be generous with my life, pleased to share myself as I share the gospel. In Jesus' name, amen.

Danny Currie, Regional Campus Minister – University of Kentucky
Kentucky Baptist Convention



"We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us."

1 Thessalonians 2:8

HIS MASTER PLAN INVOLVES YOU

I love how the Lord works in all ways and that includes how He places unbelievers in our paths every day. You shouldn't be stunned when that happens, but sometimes it seems like it catches us unaware.

Are we ready to share the gospel? Do we know what to say and how to say it? Be prepared to share your story and what Christ

has done for you. Don't miss this maybe one and only opportunity that God has put in front of you with this lost soul.

That friend, that loved one, that lost soul is there for the taking. God has already primed the pump for you. Now it's up to you. Despite all the incredible programs we have in evangelism, did you know that a recent LifeWay study revealed that 61% of evangelical Christians had not told a soul about Christ in the previous six months?

If God has already been stirring someone's heart – and He does it every day – you don't have to be Billy Graham or the apostle Paul to lead them to Jesus. You need to be prepared to tell your story, how God transformed your life, and how every day is better because of it. The Master has a master plan and it involves YOU!

No matter what your occupation is, you will encounter someone who is a nonbeliever every day. It could be you who God is calling to share the gospel story. The God who made the world and sustains all things made you in His image. You have the right stuff. It's time. Now is the time. We are dealing with a lost world and opportunities happen every day. We just don't take full advantage. Share Jesus. God has prepared their hearts and our hearts. Don't wait until tomorrow. Do it today.

Dear Lord, I pray for those who You put in our path who are seeking a better way, a better life, a better tomorrow. We desire to be used by You. Make us strong, bind Satan and help us make it clear to them of their need for a Savior. In His wonderful name we pray, amen.

Mark Maynard, Managing Editor
Kentucky Today

“The kingdom of God is like this,” he said. ‘A man scatters seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day; the seed sprouts and grows, although he doesn’t know how. The soil produces a crop by itself—first the blade, then the head, and then the full grain on the head. As soon as the crop is ready, he sends for the sickle, because the harvest has come.’”

Mark 4:26-29

GOD GIVES US COURAGE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

When considering the need to share the gospel with friends, family and neighbors, the accompanying emotion encountered is often one of fear. On one hand, we sense the Holy Spirit encouraging us toward faithfulness in fulfilling our responsibility as gospel witnesses. On the other hand, our sinful flesh responds with the emotion of fear (fear of rejection, fear of not knowing what to say, etc.).



Fear of witnessing does not originate with God. It originates with our sinful flesh believing the lies of our enemy, Satan, who would like for us to remain silent. Satan will present a lie for our consideration that is meant to convince us why we cannot be an effective witness. Paul stated in today's text, "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment."

Lord, expose the lies of the enemy that fuel fear in my life. Help me live in the truth that I am empowered by Your Spirit. Give me courage to be a faithful witness and not "be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord" (v. 8). Give me courage to initiate gospel conversations today with people. In Jesus' name, amen.

Alan Witham, Regional Church Consultant Group Leader
Kentucky Baptist Convention

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment. So don't be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, or of me his prisoner. Instead, share in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God."

2 Timothy 1:7-8

GRIEVING, STIFLING THE HOLY SPIRIT

Someone may ask, “What is the difference between grieving the Holy Spirit and stifling the Holy Spirit?” The answer is, you grieve the Holy Spirit by the way you choose to live your Christian life, and you stifle the Holy Spirit by failing to allow Him to work in and through your Christian life.

An example of grieving the Holy Spirit might be you pray for revival and unity, but revival and unity does not come. You are concerned about your unanswered prayer, but at the same time the Spirit has been speaking to you about an area in your Christian life that displeases Him. You know you need to deal with the issue in your life, but you continue to procrastinate. In those moments, you have placed yourself into a position of being a barrier to seeing revival and unity come to your community and state.

An example of stifling the Holy Spirit might be that God has been speaking to you over and over about witnessing to a friend, relative, associate, or neighbor. However, you put off obeying the Spirit’s directive. If this lack of obedience continues to characterize your life, you have successfully stifled the Holy Spirit of God. If you stifle God’s Spirit, you become a barrier to seeing true revival and unity come to your community and state. There is a three-word key to revival: THE HOLY SPIRIT! The Bible says clearly, “Don’t grieve God’s Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 4:30) and, “Don’t stifle the Spirit” (1 Thessalonians 5:19).

Lord, please reveal areas in my life where I might be grieving the Holy Spirit. Help me confess and repent from these areas of compromise that I might fully follow You. Do not allow me to stifle what You want to do in or through me for Your glory. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Paul Badgett, East Regional Consultant
Kentucky Baptist Convention

“And don’t grieve God’s Holy Spirit.”

Ephesians 4:30

“Don’t stifle the Spirit.”

1 Thessalonians 5:19

AN URGENT PASSION

The apostle Paul had something essential for effective evangelism: a passion to reach those who did not know Christ. In this case, it was a passion to reach his own people, the Jews. He cared deeply about them.

I remember several years ago losing my daughter in a large department store. She was walking with me as I shopped for clothes and in a split second she was gone. Lost! I was frantic and couldn't find her anywhere. There was an urgency because I knew what might happen if I didn't find her. My heart was hurting, and I would have done anything to find my lost daughter. The store clerk issued a "Code Adam," and everyone worked together to finally locate her. She had been quietly playing in the middle of a large rack of clothing.

Paul makes an amazing statement in Romans 9 when he says something like, "If it were possible, I'd give up my salvation in a minute to see them come to faith in Christ." That's a pretty dramatic statement!

We too must demonstrate that same urgency, passion, and willingness to go to great lengths to share the gospel with the lost.

Lord, remind me daily how urgent it is that I go looking for the lost. Give me a passion to do everything possible to share You with others. They may not be coming to me, so Lord, stir me to go to them. In Jesus' name, amen.

Eric Allen, Missions Mobilization Team Leader
Kentucky Baptist Convention



"I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience testifies to me through the Holy Spirit—that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the benefit of my brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood."

Romans 9:1-3

DAY 30:

IN NEED OF A SAVIOR



This verse reveals a profound truth to us that Christ came into the world to die for our sins and to save sinners. It also reminds us of the extent of our own sin and how much we desperately need what Jesus did for us at the cross. Let us pray together so that those who do not yet know Jesus can receive Him as their personal Savior. Pray that they come to understand that they are sinners who need to repent of their sins and put their trust in

what Jesus did for them at the cross.

This verse has the good news that the Word of God is faithful. We must trust that He came to save sinners. We pray so that this reality is present in Kentucky and throughout the world!

Lord Jesus, I ask You to give me a heart so that I can share Your word with those who are lost and who do not know You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Eddie Torres, Multi Language Church Planting & Development Associate
Kentucky Baptist Convention

“This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance: ‘Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners’—and I am the worst of them.”

1 Timothy 1:15

LIVING WATERS



We all have a past – a life before we tasted Living Water. Yet it's so easy to live with blinders on, oblivious to the lost people around us. John 4 reminds us of the bold way Jesus encountered lost people, even when it was inconvenient or culturally inappropriate.

Most Jews avoided Samaria as they traveled because they were an “unclean,” pagan people. Notice that Jesus not only passed through the town, He also stopped and engaged someone there. Even more scandalous was the fact that this “someone” was a woman. Yet Jesus didn’t hesitate to bring up her past and life details she surely wished were left unsaid. Her thirst for acceptance, healing, and hope opened the door for Jesus to offer her Living Water – forgiveness and hope through Him alone.

How many times have we passed by a “Samaritan woman”? What has distracted us from stopping to share about the Living Water we have found in Jesus? Yes, it may be inconvenient or even uncomfortable, but Jesus set the example for how we are to engage lost people today and everyday – with frequency, intentionality, care, and grace.

We all have a past. But we also have hope and a future because of the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He is our Living Water. Let's share that message with the lost today.

Father, thank You for the Living Water You offer us through Your Son Jesus. You are faithful, merciful and loving. Help us to have boldness to share Your message of hope and salvation with the lost people we encounter today. Make us aware of those around us who are lost and living without a Savior. Give us insight and wisdom as we share the gospel. In Jesus' name, amen.

Marina Shelton, Social Media & Web Associate
Kentucky Baptist Convention

“And he had to pass through Samaria. So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar ... A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink.’”

“Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water” ... “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again.”

John 4:4-5, 7, 10, 13-14

FRUIT THAT WILL LAST

In this glorious promise, Jesus teaches us that He is our life source and there is no other. There are many “vines” in this world that promise life but only Christ, the true Vine, brings forth eternal life and fruit. The word abide means to “dwell with.” Jesus calls us to dwell with Him as we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we look not to our power to produce fruit but to His power to produce fruit that will last an eternity.

Think about every sphere of influence God has given you to make His name known. Are you depending on yourself for fruit or are you depending on Christ? Are you trusting in your own ability to glorify Christ or are you trusting in the Spirit’s work through you to make much of Jesus?

Lord, Your Word is true. I admit I can do nothing apart from Jesus. It is only in Christ that I can do anything. Change my heart to fully depend on Your Spirit’s power to bring forth eternal fruit. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Jake Hancock, Regional Campus Minister – Richmond Region
Kentucky Baptist Convention

“I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.”

John 15:5

ACROSS THE STREET AND ACROSS THE SEA

Lost people are in our neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, families, and communities. Finding lost people is not that difficult. Sharing Jesus with them often is. In Acts 3 and 4, Peter and John go where the people gather to share Jesus with them. They live with gospel intentionality. Luke details their encounter as they heal a lame man, share Jesus with those who gather as a result, are jailed by religious leaders, and then threatened to never speak of Jesus again.



Upon their release, they gather with the church and pray (Acts 4:23-31). Notice their prayer is not for protection or to ease their challenges. They pray for lion-hearted boldness to share Jesus as they encounter more people who are far from Him. They don't allow their circumstances to become excuses for not sharing Jesus ("consider their threats") rather, they use their circumstances as opportunities to share Jesus and to specifically ask for boldness in doing so ("grant that your servants may speak your word with all boldness").

Gospel impact occurs across the street and across the sea as Spirit-filled Jesus followers ask the Lord for boldness to share Him with those we meet today.

Father, would You grant me boldness, lion-hearted boldness, to share Jesus with people that I encounter today. Give me Your boldness to speak "about the things I have seen and heard" regarding Jesus. May the lost people I meet today see and hear of Jesus from me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Doug Williams, Missions Strategist
Kentucky Baptist Convention

"And now, Lord, consider their threats, and grant that your servants may speak your word with all boldness"

Acts 4:29

REKINDLING AN EVANGELISTIC FLAME

Paul reminds Timothy to “rekindle the gift” in him. The term “rekindle” refers to a fire. A fire is something that must be tended, or it will go out. Paul is challenging Timothy and all believers to keep the fires of the gospel blazing. Living the gospel and sharing the gospel are how you keep this fire blazing. Fear or a timid nature could stop any of us from sharing the gospel. How can you get past a timid nature?

Pray for opportunity and courage to share the gospel, and then just do it. We were saved because the Son of God displayed courage and left heaven to die upon the cross for lost humanity. Timothy’s mother and grandmother courageously lived and shared the gospel with Timothy. Timothy was challenged to rekindle this fire in himself by courageously living and sharing the gospel.

Father, give me the courage and opportunity to share the gospel with someone today. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Larry Purcell, West Regional Church Consultant
Kentucky Baptist Convention

“Therefore, I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.”

2 Timothy 1:6

TRUTH WITH KINDNESS AND COMPASSION

We are permitted to say and do what we want, but it is not always good. Our words and actions reflect Christ and we must temper ourselves. Jesus spoke boldly and at times in anger but always with words of wisdom and truth.

The Lord asks us to be sympathetic, to love one another, and to be compassionate and humble. Instead, some have become combative and hateful toward one another. We say what we please striving to gather as many into our camps as we can. We slander without facts. Many of us do not ponder how our action reflects Jesus before we push the send button on Facebook, Twitter, etc. We as Christians must do better.

The Lord commands us to keep our tongue from evil and from speaking deceit. Truth can be spoken, but with kindness and compassion. May we be more like Him.

Lord, we come to You asking forgiveness for our judgmental and hateful attitudes. Please bring revival to our hearts and to our churches, communities, and our state. We ask You to flood our hearts with compassion and kindness that only You can give. May our lives be a witness of Your compassion and love so others will want to join us in following You. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

Peggy Berry, Women & Transition Associate
Kentucky Baptist Convention



“Everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible, but not everything builds up. No one is to seek his own good, but the good of the other person.”

1 Corinthians 10:23

PURSUE A CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

Can you remember a time when you regretted what you said one second after you spoke the word? Maybe you can think of a time when you sent a text that you immediately wanted back the moment you hit send.

We can all think of instances like these. We've all said and done things that haven't been a help to our witness for Christ; they've been a hindrance. The apostle Peter can relate. He was a bold, brash fisherman who wasn't afraid to say and do things that offended others. How could a man like that write a text like this?

The answer is the gospel changed his life. In doing so, God changed Peter. Jesus transformed him into an amazing witness for the gospel. If God could change his life, Peter knew he could change the lives of others.

As Peter writes to Christians living in difficult times, he encourages them to guard their character so they may be a witness for Christ. In fact, he wants their love and good deeds to be so well known that non-believers won't believe an allegation of misconduct against them. This doesn't mean Christians don't fail, but it's a call to live a consistent life of Christlike character so that the light of Christ will shine through us.

Lord Jesus, help me live a life that pleases You. Help others see You at work in me. Please forgive me when I have been a hindrance to the gospel. Give me self-control so I will be a witness for the gospel and others will ask me about the work You're doing in me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Brandon Porter, Communications Director
Kentucky Baptist Convention

“Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good works and will glorify God on the day he visits.”

1 Peter 2:11-12

INTENTIONAL GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS

In working with students, sometimes I hear comments about waiting for just the right moment to share the gospel with someone. We often desire to share the gospel with a friend or family member who desperately needs salvation but hesitate when it comes to initiating the conversation. Seeking the lost is active and intentional. Gospel conversations need to be prayed for and intentionally pursued. Jesus modeled this kind of intentionality.



In John 9, Jesus healed a man born blind. After the Pharisees interrogated this man, they kicked him out of the synagogue. Jesus then found the man. He looked for him and found him. Jesus intentionally pursued a conversation with this man that would lead to eternal life. Jesus asked, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”, inviting the man to a response of faith. The man had questions, and Jesus revealed Himself as the promised Son of Man. As a result of this conversation, the man responded in faith, confessing Jesus as Lord and worshiping Him.

If you desire to grow in having intentional gospel conversations, pray for God to give you opportunities. Invite someone who is on your heart to meet you for lunch or coffee. Give them a heads up that you would like to hear their thoughts on faith. Listen to their story, share your story, and share the hope of the gospel with them. Intentionally pursuing gospel conversations reflects the heart of our Savior who intentionally pursued us with His life, death, and resurrection!

Father, thank You for pursuing our salvation through the gift of Your Son. Help me boldly and intentionally pursue gospel conversations with those who need to receive Your gift of salvation. In Jesus' name, amen.

Tommy Johnson, Campus Ministry Group Leader
and Regional Campus Minister – WKU & Bowling Green Region
Kentucky Baptist Convention

“Jesus heard that they had thrown the man out, and when he found him, he asked, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ ‘Who is he, Sir, that I may believe in him?’ he asked. Jesus answered, ‘You have seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.’ ‘I believe, Lord!’ he said, and he worshiped him.”

John 9:35-38

HEAR THE CALL



Since the beginning of time, God has been calling men and women to serve Him. Scripture contains stories of many who heard God speak and recognized a special calling He had on their lives. God called Samuel when he was but a lad. When he first heard God speak his name, Samuel ran to Eli the priest thinking Eli had called. Eli, recognizing it was the Lord, instructed Samuel on how to respond.

The angel Gabriel came to Mary to share that she was chosen to be the mother of Jesus. Mary didn't understand everything that was about to happen, but she responded with, "See, I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said."

When Jesus went back to the Father He left us with a specific command, to "be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth," (Acts 1:8) and is still calling men and women to fulfill that mission today.

Is He calling your name? Would you respond like Mary? Or, do you perhaps recognize that He is calling someone in your church? How can you, like Eli, help them to recognize the voice of God and respond to His calling?

Father, may our ears be listening for You to call our name. Help us to respond like Mary with, "May it happen to me as you have said." Help us as a church to be sensitive to Your call on the lives of others and, like Eli, lead them to recognize Your voice. There is a big world out there that needs Jesus and You are calling us to the great task of reaching them with the gospel. In Jesus' name, amen.

Teresa Parrett, Missions Mobilization Coordinator
Kentucky Baptist Convention

"He told Samuel, 'Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord came, stood there, and called as before, 'Samuel, Samuel!' Samuel responded, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'"

1 Samuel 3:9-10

THE FIRST IMPORTANCE

In his book *Preaching*, Tim Keller reminds pastors of the importance of preaching that which is most important. “Every time you expound a Bible text, you are not finished unless you demonstrate how it shows us that we cannot save ourselves and that only Jesus can. That means we must preach Christ from every text, which is the same as saying we must preach the gospel every time and not just settle for general inspiration or moralizing.”



There are many important issues our churches need pastors to address. However, no matter what text, no matter what topic, pastors should be certain that the gospel is the core of what they preach. Jesus' death informs how we live our lives and is the only way those dead in sin are made alive.

Holy Spirit, when Your shepherds sit down to prepare their sermons, burden their hearts to preach Jesus and His gospel every time so that the saints may be encouraged and the lost may hear and believe. In Jesus' name, amen.

Josh Skipper, Regional Campus Minister – Northern Kentucky University
Kentucky Baptist Convention

*“For I passed on to you as most important what I also received:
that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.”*

1 Corinthians 15:3

A LIFE ON MISSION: DIVINE APPOINTMENTS



Philip was a man of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and wisdom of God (Acts 6:3). Philip knew that God would never leave him or forsake him, and that the world around him was lost and needed to know Christ! So, when an angel of the Lord told Philip, “Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza,” Philip arose and went (Acts 8:26-27). Philip did not know why God wanted him to go to the desert road, but he trusted the Lord! God sent Philip to share Jesus

with an Ethiopian man seeking to know Him. Philip understood that God orchestrates divine appointments for His glory, so he did not put his plans above God’s plan.

Phillip responded to God with openness and obedience. God said, “Go,” and Philip went. Philip relied on the Spirit of God with a faith that led to boldness. The Spirit said, “Go,” and Philip ran. Philip knew God’s Word, and he was ready and willing to proclaim Christ at all cost.

The Great Commission is not an option clause; it is a command from the living Lord Jesus Christ! If God led Philip directly to a man riding a chariot in the middle of desert, where are the runaway chariots in your life? To whose home is God calling you to take the gospel today?

Lord, give me a willingness to go when and where You send me! Lord, give me a burden for the lost in my neighborhood and among the nations. Lord, for Your glory, may the Spirit give me the boldness to share the gospel today, and may He guide me to someone who is ready to receive it! In Jesus’ name, amen.

John Barnett, Missions Strategist
Kentucky Baptist Convention

“And the eunuch said to Philip, ‘Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or someone else?’ Then Philip opened his mouth and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.”

Acts 8:34-35



