

To inspire Arkansas Baptists as we

Intercede, Network, Submit ideas, Praise, Inform, share Resources, and Encourage each other through prayer.

The Power of Corporate Prayer

Dennis Wilkins

The success of the early church was due, in large part, to corporate prayer. In describing the early church, scripture gives repeated examples of corporate prayer. Prayer seems to be the central part of worship. Sermons are recorded but those early sermons were borne out of the prayers of the church.

Prayer does not hold as high a priority in our churches today as it did in the first century church. As an Associational Missionary, almost every Sunday I visit a different church, and I have observed that in our highest attended services, Sunday morning worship, the average time spent in corporate prayer is less than 4 minutes. More time is spent on announcements than in prayer.

If we want to see a radical change in the spiritual climate of our churches, our communities, our culture, and our country, we need to get on our knees, corporately, and pray for revival and spiritual awakening.

I want to offer two suggestions to help our churches become more focused on prayer. At the core of each of these suggestions is one word, intentionality. We must be deliberate in creating and maintaining a stronger prayer culture in our church.

The first suggestion is to emphasize the importance of prayer from the pulpit through teaching, sermons, lay testimonies, and Sunday morning worship services dedicated to prayer.

The second is through affinity groups. Several years ago Dr. Don Moore spoke to senior adults in churches throughout the state asking them to pray for revival and spiritual awakening, and well over 1,000 seniors responded.

I recently discovered a women's prayer group at one of our churches. They meet on a weekly basis to pray. I was told: "*It is not a time of frivolous fellowship, it is a time of serious prayer.*"

Within each church there exists one or more affinity groups. It may be a small group Bible study, a youth group, a women's group, a men's group, seniors or some other group. I encourage you to challenge all of them, develop them, and encourage them to spend time in *serious prayer* for revival and spiritual awakening.

Then we will see a radical change in the spiritual climate of our churches, our communities, our culture, and our country.

Dennis Wilkins is the Associational Missionary for the North Pulaski Baptist Association and serves on the ABSC prayer for revival and spiritual awakening task force. He can be reached at the North Pulaski Baptist Association office 501-812-6999; his email is dennis@northpulaskibaptist.org

The Force of the Senior Adult Prayer Force

The crises in our country, our churches, our culture, our moral and political life were some of the things that caused you and I to answer God's prompting to commit to pray daily for Revival and Spiritual Awakening. God assured me that He would be faithful to remind us to pray daily. I think He has done that. I am grateful to Him and to you. I have to believe revival and awakening are on the way, though outwardly circumstances seem to indicate that is not true. God is faithful to His Word and His promises. He has not turned a deaf ear to our cries.

I want to encourage you to make much of prayer for your pastor. You will be blessing him and his family, as well as blessing the church by faithfully praying for him. SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IS CRUCIAL IN THESE DAYS of moral, political, and domestic crises. When you are in the company of those who criticize, why not stop and have a time of prayer for the pastor with the critic right then? Pray for his physical, moral and spiritual strength. His job is not for "sissies." Pray for his family, including his wife and children, and his extended family that may take his attention away from his pastoral duties. Pray for God to bless him with the discipline necessary for study and prayer. Pray that God would raise up "a band of men whose hearts God has touched." This was a key to Israel's first king. Your pastor needs such men standing with him as well.

PRESS ON in obeying the call to pray. ENGAGE OTHERS in praying with you. But be careful. In praying for your pastor and fellow church members to get a burden to join in this mission, you may come across as judgmental and a little "holier than thou." That is not the spirit of a humble, broken, repentant person who cries out to God for mercy and grace. "A meek and quiet spirit..." that Peter described is a powerful force. Don't try to make things happen that God is not making happen.

(A couple of books that God might use to bless your pastor would be a nice way of encouraging him and showing your respect and appreciation. *One Cry, A Nationwide Call for Spiritual Awakening*, Byron Paulus and Bill Elliff or *The Presence Centered Church*, by Bill Elliff.)

Prayerfully, Don Moore



[Click here](#) then scroll down the page to watch videos and find articles designed to inspire Arkansas Baptists to pray, to give and to go.

is a strategy for sharing the stories of how your Cooperative Program is at work in Arkansas and around the world.



Pray! For Such a Time as This is the theme for this year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting to be held in Phoenix, June 13-14. Whether or not you attend, please pray for this year's annual meeting and for the people of Phoenix.

ONECRY *A Nationwide Call for Spiritual Awakening*

I Timothy 2:1-2 urges *"that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."*

OneCry has produced a 31 day prayer guide to assist as we pray for our president. Click on the graphic to download your copy or to order copies to share with others in your church.

**PRAYING FOR
THE PRESIDENT**

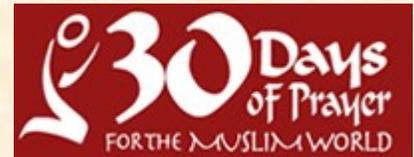
*A Monthly Prayer Guide
for President Donald J. Trump*

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

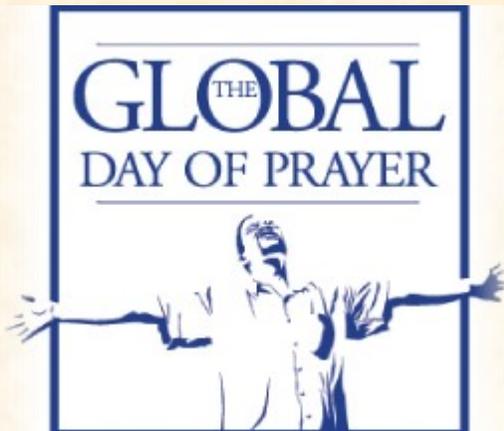
I Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World

May 27–June 25, 2017



Click on the graphic above to download a guide to pray daily for your Muslim neighbors during Ramadan.



June 4, 2017

Christians from all over the world, from different cultures and denominations will devote portions of their Sunday morning service to united prayer. Click on the graphic to the left for more information.

[Praying for First Responders](#)

[Police officers, firefighters, and all emergency medical personnel appreciate the prayers of those they serve. Click here to be directed to a guide that was published in *PrayerConnect* magazine and is available to share through social media.](#)

You are encouraged to forward INSPIRE to anyone in your church who is interested in prayer. This is a ministry of the Cooperative Program and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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