



Mission Emphasis Week – October 4-11, 2020

Meditation and Prayer Guide

Annually we identify a week in which we think more intentionally about mission outreach, including our personal and congregational expressions and the several mission causes to which we commit financial and prayer support. This guide is designed to aid our focus.

Sunday, October 4 Christians gather on Sundays. Whether in-person or remotely we look for reassurance, forgiveness, relationship, and inspiration. Psalm 122 conveys the writer's excitement over going to God's house. Pray today for those who gather at Ann Arbor Campus Chapel, Light of Christ Community (David and Sarah Williamson), The House (Brian and Betsy Turnbull), Intervarsity (Derek DeKam).

Monday, October 5 We don't stay in church. Inspired by what we've heard and experienced, we go into our community to live out and share the good news through our words and actions. Luke 10 portrays Christ sending out 70 (or 72) to the places he would go. Pray especially today for Calvin Theological Seminary, Kuyper College, Langham Partnership (John Stott Ministries), and David Sytsma/Tokyo Christian University as they prepare learners for ministry.

Tuesday, October 6 Children occupy a very special place in Jesus' heart and our own. In Matthew 19 we hear Jesus demand that children be given a pathway to him. On this day it's especially good to pray for organizations that shape the lives of children: Genesis One Christian School/The Mendenhall Ministries; Schools for Sierra Leone; Zuni Christian Mission School; Mark and Anne Lucasse Wiersma, Hillcrest School, Nigeria.

Wednesday, October 7 Mid-week is challenging for some. The relaxation or inspiration of the weekend may be running thin, new challenges may have emerged. In Exodus 18:23 Moses' father-in-law offers advice on endurance. Today, pray for those who encourage and offer hope: Cary Christian Center; Forgotten Man Ministries; Guiding Light.

Thursday, October 8 For some, gathering for worship is risky. Knowing that others are worshipping comes as a profoundly reassuring message in places where access is limited or difficult. The story of Daniel, particularly in Daniel 6, portrays the risks and rewards of faithfulness to God in an unsafe place. Pray today for Rev. Sergei Sosedkin/Back to God Russian broadcast, Daryl and Carol VanDyken/TransWorld Radio, David Kromminga and Mary Buteyn, Berlin, Germany, Steve and Jan Michmerhuyzen, Romania.

Friday, October 9 For many, Friday is pay day. For some, the amount of pay, if any at all, will simply not be enough to meet even basic needs. Christians seek to meet people's most basic needs and advocate for just systems to distribute goods and services. Proverbs 14:31 offers a big picture on our treatment of the poor. Pray for those who seek to improve the lot of poor people: Rob and Tara Cahill/Community Cloud Forest Conservation; Renita Reed Thomson/Discipling Marketplace Leaders; Sarah and Anthony Sytsma/Resonate, Uganda.

Saturday, October 10 Key to understanding our world, our ideas and our lives is the language we speak. The stories, narratives and truths of the gospel make much more sense to people when they hear or read the words in their own language. Revelation 7 offers John's dreaming glimpse of the assembled peoples of the world worshipping in glory. Remember in prayer today those who work to translate and distribute the gospel in languages people speak and understand: Ann Kapteyn/Wycliffe, Cameroon; Wade and Joy Remer/Wycliffe, Mexico; Daniel and Rachael Stoner/Wycliffe, aircraft support.

Sunday, October 11 As our Mission Emphasis Week comes to an end and we realize that we will never complete the task of spreading the gospel message, we also celebrate our call to participate in mission outreach. This week and others may find us reaching the limits of time, energy and inspiration with so much yet to do. Today, remember that while we have work to do, the Spirit is always at work. Wherever we may go, whatever we may do, the Spirit has already been there and will remain long beyond our brief stay. In John 14 we're told that Jesus will never leave us, that the Father, on his request, will send the Spirit. Today, offer a prayer of thanks for your role in personally and corporately supporting the spread of the gospel, of being an instrument who will be used by the Holy Spirit. Ask God what you might be called to say or do as you carry His good name through the rest of the year.