

NORTONVILLE NEWS

“Meditating on the Prayer That Jesus Gave to Us”

By Pastor Joe O’Neill

I want to encourage you to pray and to meditate on the prayer that Jesus gave us. The "Lord's Prayer", also called the "Our Father", is designed to help us to pray. It was given by the Lord Jesus to His disciples when they requested that He teach them to pray.

It is the common practice of Christians who have memorized this prayer from Matthew 6:9-13 or Luke 11:2-4 to recite it quickly (almost like a child saying the ABC's), and without a lot of understanding. Instead of that approach, I have found that it is very helpful to slow down the speed of the quick prayer approach and instead meditate on this prayer in small "bite size" sections.

The word "meditate" can be confusing to us today, because the way meditation is practiced in our world is very different than Biblical meditation. Worldly meditation is just a human effort to reduce stress and find peace without the eternal God. Biblical meditation is the practice of deeply considering the truth of the Word of God. Biblical meditation is based on the revelation of God in the Bible and is dependent on God for peace.

Did you know that the Bible gives us great promises about meditating on God's Word? The great leader Joshua was told by the LORD that he should "meditate in it [God's Word] day and night" (Joshua 1:8). The blessed man of Psalm 1 is described as a person who, "In His law [God's Word] he meditates day and night" (Psalm 1:2). It is clear from these Scriptures that there is great value in meditating on God's Word!

(Continued on page two)

Stay Connected

Sunday

9:30 am **Sunday** School

10:45 am **Sunday** morning

6:00 pm **Sunday** night

6:00 pm **Sunday** Youth Group

Wednesday

Prayer Meeting at 6:30 pm

Olympians at 6:30 pm

Small Groups

Spring Lake Monday, 6:30 pm

Nortonville Tuesday, 10:30 am

Phone: 616-842-4285

Email: Office@nortonvillechapel.org

Check out our website,

www.nortonvillechapel.org

By considering this perfect prayer from our Lord Jesus in smaller sections and at a slower pace, our prayer and fellowship with God can be strengthened.

"Our Father in heaven,"

Think about God as your Father. As your Father, He is very good. God always gives what is best towards His own. Sister Lillian Johnson stated this week from her hospital bed: "God only does His children good, not harm."

Our Father dwells in heaven, while you dwell on earth. Considering our Father being in heaven helps us to recognize we are 100% dependent on His love and power.

"Hallowed be Your name."

God is holy by His very nature. He is three-times holy according to Isaiah 6:3. We are to desire that God's holy name be held in honor by ourselves and by all people.

"Your kingdom come."

God has promised that one day His Son will rule over all the earth at His second coming. We are to long for that day and pray, "Maranatha, O Lord come" (1 Corinthians 16:22).

"Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Our Father's will is always the best and is to be welcomed. He knows what He is doing! So humbly welcome His will. Our Lord Jesus Himself prayed for God's will to be done over His own will (Luke 22:42). Let's do the same. We are to pray for the Father's will to be done in ourselves, our family, our children, our church body, etc.

"Give us this day our daily bread."

Your Father is the One who feeds you. We are all dependent upon Him for our daily needs. We can rejoice that He cares for us more than a human father cares for his children.

"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

We ask for God's forgiveness for our many sins, and we are also to forgive anyone who has sinned against us. The issue of forgiving others through God's power is underscored by Jesus many times.

"And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

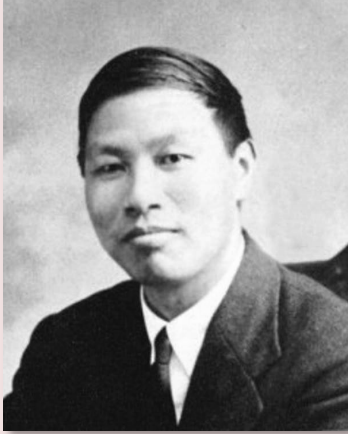
The battle against the evil one is so difficult it can only be won by the power of God. We ask our Father to protect us and deliver us from Satan, which He alone can do.

I remember hearing a radio preacher say: "I take the Word of God in the same way that I eat a good steak. While eating a tasty steak, I take my time and chew on it a while and enjoy all the juices in it before I swallow it." That is good practical advice for us as we pray and meditate on the pure prayer our Lord Jesus taught us. Will you please join me in purposefully and prayerfully meditating on this precious portion of God's Word?

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16).

"The prayer closet is the battlefield of the Church, its citadel, the scene of heroic and unearthly conflicts" (E.M. Bounds).

Spotlight: Watchman Nee and the Power of Prayer



Watchman Nee, born Ni Tousheng, was one of the most fervent church planters and evangelists in 20th century China. After being converted in 1919 during an evangelist meeting, Nee dedicated his life to service for the Lord. During his ministry, Nee would demonstrate the importance of prayer in the Christian life. One such occasion when the power of prayer made a real impact was summarized by writer Roger F. Campbell. This illustration encourages us in our prayer lives.

“In his book *Sit, Walk, Stand*, Watchman Nee describes a preaching mission to an island off the South China coast. There were seven in the ministering group, including a sixteen-year-old new convert whom he calls Brother Wu. The island was fairly large, containing about 6,000 homes. Nee had a contact there, an old schoolmate of his who was headmaster of the village school, but he refused to house the group when he discovered they had come to preach the Gospel. Finally, they found lodging with a Chinese herbalist, who became their first convert. Preaching seemed quite fruitless on the island, and Nee discovered it was because of the dedication of the people there to an idol they called Ta-wang. They were convinced of his power because on the day of his festival and parade each year the weather was always near perfect.

“When is the procession this year?” young Wu asked a group that had gathered to hear them preach. “It is fixed for January 11th at 8 in the morning,” was the reply. “Then,” said the new convert, “I promise you that it will certainly rain on the 11th.”

At that there was an outburst of cries from the crowd: “That is enough! We don’t want to hear any more preaching. If there is rain on the 11th, then your God is God!”

Watchman Nee had been elsewhere in the village when this confrontation had taken place. Upon being informed about it, he saw that the situation was serious and called the group to prayer. On the morning of the 11th, there was not a cloud in the sky, but during grace for breakfast, sprinkles began to fall and these were followed by heavy rain. Worshipers of the idol Ta-wang were so upset that they placed it in a sedan chair and carried it outdoors, hoping this would stop the rain. Then the rain increased. After only a short distance, the carriers of the idol stumbled and fell, dropping the idol and fracturing its jaw and left arm.

A number of young people turned to Christ as a result of the rain coming in answer to prayer, but the elders of the village made divination and said that the wrong day had been chosen. The proper day of the procession, they said, should have been the 14th. When Nee and his friends heard this, they again went to prayer, asking for rain on the 14th and for clear days for preaching until then. That afternoon the sky cleared and on the good days that followed there were thirty converts. Of the crucial test day, Nee says: The 14th broke, another perfect day, and we had good meetings. As the evening approached we met again at the appointed hour. We quietly brought the matter to the Lord’s remembrance. Not a minute late, His answer came with torrential rain and floods as before.

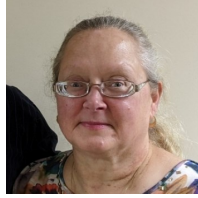
The power of the idol over the islanders was broken; the enemy was defeated. Believing prayer had brought a great victory. Conversions followed. And the impact upon the servants of God who had witnessed His power would continue to enrich their Christian service from that time on.”

Just as God answered Nee’s prayer in the time that they needed Him, God answers prayer for us today! Give your struggles over to God in prayer, and see how He answers them!

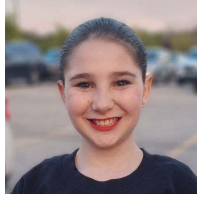
March Birthdays



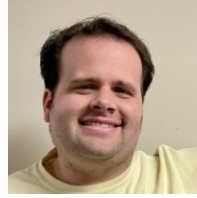
March 9
Robbie Snider



March 9
Nancy Coon-Hawkey



March 9
Lilly Kominek



March 12
Jared Bartow



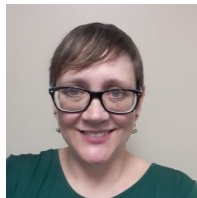
March 12
Art Converse



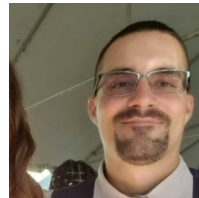
March 16
Jim Stellema



March 27
Jim Dufford



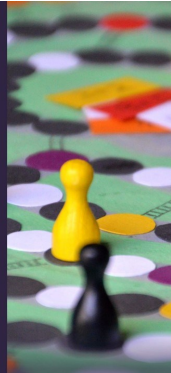
March 28
Melissa Dalman



March 29
Brandyn Campbell

Church Game Night

Friday, March 22
6:30 – 9:00 pm



Good Friday Service

MARCH 29,
7:00 PM



Day Camp!

June 17-21,
9:30 – 3:00 pm
1st – 7th grade.
Volunteer Sign-Up
sheet in the foyer.



Calendar

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|--|
| 3/10 | Daylight Savings Time. | 3/19 | Nortonville Small Group, 10:30 am. |
| 3/11 | 24/7 Day of Prayer.
Spring Lake Small Group, 6:30 pm. | 3/20 | Olympians and Prayer Meeting, 6:30 pm. |
| 3/12 | Nortonville Small Group, 10:30 am.
Board Meeting, 5:30 pm. | 3/21 | Ladies Bible Study, 7:30 pm. |
| 3/13 | Ladies Mission Circle, 9:30 am.
Robbinswood Church Service, 1:30 pm.
Olympians and Prayer Meeting, 6:30 pm. | 3/22 | Church Game Night, 6:30—9:00 pm. |
| 3/14 | Ladies Bible Study, 7:30 pm. | 3/25 | Spring Lake Small Group, 6:30 pm. |
| 3/17 | Crockpot Luncheon, 12:00 pm. | 3/26 | Nortonville Small Group, 10:30 am. |
| 3/18 | Spring Lake Small Group, 6:30 pm. | 3/27 | Robbinswood Church Service, 1:30 pm.
Olympians and Prayer Meeting, 6:30 pm. |
| | | 3/28 | Ladies Bible Study, 7:30 pm. |
| | | 3/29 | Good Friday Service, 7:00 pm. |
| | | 3/31 | Resurrection Sunday Service, 10:45 am. |

Prayer And Praises March 6, 2024

Praises to the Lord:

Baby Ava, (grand-daughter of Cheri Young) is taking nutrition better now. Also, her mother Olivia is doing better.

Praise the Lord we welcome baby Grace Ambrose to our congregation!

The Church Ministries Conference was a great encouragement to the seven from Nortonville who attended.

Also, missionaries Anna Sytsma and Todd and Carla Witters were able to generate interest in their work.

Prayer Requests:

President Biden, President Putin, President Zelensky, Governor Whitmer, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Supreme Court Justices: (Roberts, Alito, Thomas, Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, Coney-Barret, Jackson, Sotomayor, Kagan)

Student of the Week: Ben Heinrich

Board member of the week: Elder-Ken Brondyke

Shut in of the Week: Lettie Brandt

Volunteer of the Week: Karen Huggins

Missionary of the Week: ***Camp Ao-Wa-Kiya** (Shelby, MI) See page 2 for updates!

Those not attending church (add names): _____

Lillian Johnson is at Holland Hospital with heart issues but is staying strong in the Lord.

Joe Sherman is currently at NOCH as he has been lethargic for several weeks.

Donna Moe is not feeling well. Also, Maynard Garner has been sick. Many people where they live have been struggling with respiratory issues and pneumonia.

Charlene Easey was scheduled for back surgery last week. However, it has been put on hold, they are doing tests to see if she has kidney cancer. Pray that her heart will rest in the Lord during this trial.

Day Camp at the chapel, June 17-21. That the Lord would provide the young people and the workers.

Mark (Ann Smith's son) and his two daughters, Brynn and Brooke need the Lord.

Spiritual strength for Carol, (Susan Dew's sister), and Lettie Brandt.

We are seeking the Lord in regard to a Sunday school and children's church teacher, and worship leader.

Jayce, (relative of Brondyke's) has extreme anxiety.

Ronda and Glen Masterson, (friends of Maureen Sherman) need prayer for health reasons.

Caroline Cassler is still waiting for a place to stay.

Pray for Tessa, Travin and Tori. (Relatives of Jim & Dee Dufford).

Angel & Sophie's Family – Many problems, continue to pray. Pray for their Dad, who recently had a transplant.

Tina Hitsman, Joe Shermans stepdaughter is going blind and needs prayer for salvation and healing.

Pray for our next generation that Pastor Josh and our young people will be dedicated to Christ, and for spiritual growth: Ben, Aven, Mason, Madison, Robert, Mackenzie, Olivia, Clayton, Collin, Russell, Layla, Adelina, Charley, Anna, Margaret, Josh, Colton, Nathan, Gabriel, Caue, David, Luke, Stella, Allie, Lilly.

Pray for victory over alcohol, drugs, and other addiction: Larry, Tim, Brad, Darren, John, Carol, Brianna, Jeff, Craig

Those needing help & healing with health issues: Tricia Barnes, Peter Newland, Norma Fancer, Ann Smith, Les Young, Cathy H., (relatives of Cheri Young), Zulariam Bennink, Marilee Stroebe, Vicky Snyder, Shirley Hall, Melissa Dalman, Paul Snyder, Bridget Gazlay, Chuck Johnson, Pat Dawes, Linda Dood, Kurt French, (Pam Walker's son who has Dystonia), Joan Thompson, Mary Ann Willoughby, Sue Brooks, Lillian Johnson, Morgan (depression), Kaye Bytwerk (ALS), Anita Bryant (Eugenia's mom).

Those with cancer: Jeremy Cranes father, Tarah, Belinda Klein (Linda Vink's friend), Norm Kaufman, Marge (Dianne Lunt's sister), Kelly Vipond, Bob & Diane Brondyke, (Ken Brondyke and Cheri Young's cousins), and Bob Lunt (Greg's brother, needs Christ), Roger (Cheri Young's cousin).

In need of the Lord: Patrick Clouden, Joshua, Collette, Kevin O'Neill, Gary (Sue Brooks' nephew), Rod and Jaqueline (Dorothy Walker), Justin White, John and Carol Marrano, David and Catherine, Nina, David, Joe Moran, Ben, Brian and Leanna McMahan, Al Gazlay, Renan, First, Jim, Mike and Amy, Sawyer (Robbie Snider), Mark & Kris Dean (Maureen Sherman), Rob Marshall Jr., Ann (Georgia Kamphorst's sister-in-law), Maria, Abigail, Erin, Kevin, Mary, Jody, (Karen Huggins sister), Becky, John (Charlene Easeys family), Ashley, Justin, Dale (Bev Jackson's son), Jamisha, Zachary, others: _____

Prayer And Praises March 6, 2024

Caleb & Emily Arnold (Ethnos 360): The Arnolds say: “We can’t express the depth of gratitude towards all of you who have joined together with us to reach the Tephuan nation with Good News! Thank you for your prayers.”

Rev. Dave & Delores Bauer (BRM-Illinois): Rev. Dave says: “Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your father’s will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore, you are of more value than many sparrows.” Matthew 10:29-31

***Camp Ao-Wa-Kiya** (Shelby MI): Please consider volunteering this summer, sprinkling some love and sunshine. Some of us met the new program manager Chris Damsgaard at the Church Ministries Conference.

Nicole Condra (SWMI-Georgia): Nicole says: “I finished going through the Romanian Sign Language course of 800 signs! Please pray for me as I continue building my vocabulary of Romanian Signs. And, also for wisdom.”

Reed & Donna Condra (SWMI-Georgia): Director David Bennett says: “The next Deaflympics has been announced, the event will take place in Tokyo, Japan, Nov., 2025. Focus is evangelism, SWMI will be there!”

***Indigenous Ministries** (IM-Colorado): Dee says: “Thank you for being a very real blessing and encouragement to the children and families of IM. With your continued prayers, love and financial support you bring hope not only day by day, but for eternity.”

***Daniel & Karen DeVerna** (BMW-Japan): The DeVernas say: “John & Becky Knox, who served with us for 36 years have retired. We have many responsibilities now and see God preparing us for this time. Please pray for our upcoming Easter service, that unsaved people would attend and that the Lord would work in hearts.”

***Love in Action** (Tri-Cities): This year LIA provided over 13,210 people-more than any year in history!

Joe & Ursula Morell (BMW-Sweden): Joe says: “Thank you for your Christmas gift and your kind support over the year. Your prayers are making a difference! What an encouragement you have been, helping us to persevere and rely on God. We are making wedding plans, our daughter is getting married this year.”

***Mario Audai Shaba** (IM Supported Child: Iraq): Mario has sent a Easter note, it says: “I thank you and ask God to Protect you and take care of you for your support that you provide for us children. Bless you this Happy Easter.”

Andy & Michelle Shinabery (East-West Ministries International): Pray for new church leaders and trainers in Southeast Asia who are growing God’s kingdom among eight unreached people groups. Pray that East-West field workers will have boldness to share the gospel and opportunities to share it often in 2024. Recently Andy had traveled to Columbia, he had preached the Gospel there, and saw several people get saved and baptized.

Tim & Karol Svoboda (YWAM-San Francisco) Tim says: “Please pray that God would pour out His Spirit in greater measure on San Francisco through our prayer and beyond. Also, that hearts would be touched with a deeper love and burden for our city.”

***Anna Sytsma** (CEF-Kent & Ottawa Counties): Anna says: “Praise for the great time at Calvary Adventures Fair! We spoke to many people about CEF and the CYIA teens who came out, they were fantastic!”

Norman & Karen Tober (GEM-Germany): Norman says: “We want to take this opportunity to thank you for this past year and for praying for us so faithfully. We are so blessed that you are praying for us and supporting us.”

Todd & Carla Witters (CBM-Children’s Bible Ministries): Pray that more kids would hear about CBM.