

SEPTEMBER 2020 PRAYER GUIDE

**“Prayers outlive the lives of those who uttered them;
outlive a generation, outlive an age, outlive a world.”**
E.M Bounds

1 GRACE COMMUNION SEMINARY

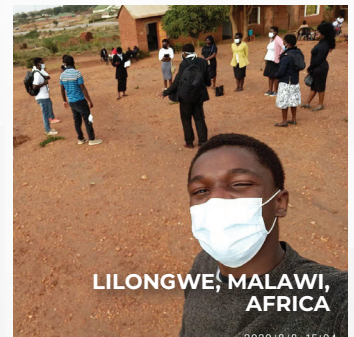
Registration for GCS's fall semester is open this week. Lord, we give you thanks for the varied opportunities we have to learn and grow in faith. We pray for wisdom and strength for the students, teachers, and administrators. May they be equipped for the good works you have for each of them.

2 PORTLAND, OREGON, USA

Join us in praying for ways to connect more deeply with our community. We are hosting a virtual community talent show with hopes of creating a space for relational bonding.

3 COLLEGE PARK, GEORGIA, USA

We are rejoicing over the opportunity to partner with a Summer Food Program and practically serve our neighborhood. Twice each week, the church delivers meals to 85 children who might otherwise go hungry during the pandemic. Join us in praying for all who participate to personally feel God's love and provision for them.



LILONGWE, MALAWI, AFRICA

4 GCI- WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Our congregation is celebrating regathering! We held services on both Saturday and Sunday, and also provided Zoom options for those who were unable or uncomfortable gathering in person, enabling us to also share interstate. We are feeling blessed to have our new home and participate in God's plan for the area.

5 BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

Our Men's Ministry monthly gatherings start today! Join us in praying for a time of relationship building, centered on the Word, that will be a fruitful disciple-making space.

6 GCI PASTORS

Lord, we thank you for our faithful pastors who serve you through our congregations. We pray for your love and the fruit of the Spirit to permeate their lives and ministry—that love, joy, peace, and patience will guide; that kindness and goodness will be companions; that faithfulness will be the motto, and that gentleness and self-control will be evident to all.

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7 MEDITATION MONDAY

Matthew 5:9 (TPT) - God call us to be peacemakers, not peacekeepers. Peacekeepers struggle to keep peace at all costs and do their best to avoid any confrontation, while peacemakers are willing to challenge people for the sake of true reconciliation. We cannot be true “makers of peace” by avoiding conflict, honesty, and tense situations. For a peacemaker, reconciliation means waiting for Holy Spirit clues as to when to speak the truth in love, and then listening with an attentive, open heart. Making peace can get messy, especially when you allow for honest communication. Spend a few moments taking inventory of your heart: Are there any places where you might profess a love for peace, but your words and actions show differently? How is God calling you to be a peacemaker in your life, your home, and your community?

9 COLLEGE PARK, FLORIDA, USA

We are excited for a new way to minister to our community. Belong Academy, a new homeschool co-op, is coming to Orlando starting September 10. Belong Academy exists to create a safe place for every student to learn, flourish, and thrive. We believe each child (and adult) is fearfully and wonderfully made by a Creator who loves them. We also believe that each person has the potential to change the world, one life at a time. We are now accepting homeschooled students, please join us in praying for our inaugural year.

10 PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, USA

As we begin to regather, we have five new members in regular attendance. Join us in praying that our church will be characterized by fervent love for God, genuine love for our neighbors, oneness in spirit, and a bold holy testimony in the community.

8 CINCINNATI (EAST), OHIO, USA

We continue to engage with a local apartment complex to build relationships with the families there. Recently we had a snow cone party for the residents. Join us in praying that God will draw near all who participated and reveal his face and grace to them.

11 NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK, USA

Our congregation has been personally affected by the pandemic. As we heal and wait for a return to “normal” meetings, we looked into the community and renewed our commitment to come alongside “people of peace” already doing the work of justice and restoration in the community. As we continue to meet practical needs of protective and hygiene products, we pray that the good news of Jesus will be experienced by our neighbors.

12 GCI-PHILIPPINES

Our church leaders start The Nature of God weekly theological lectures this month. We pray that this time together will equip our leaders to share and embody the gospel in their various ministries and through every area of their lives.

13 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

In many of our congregation’s re-gathering plans is a search for a new facility. Lord, we pray for an anointing over their searches. Provide a way forward and make your will clear. Help our churches to find locations where we can be of service to you and our neighbors.

14 MEDITATION MONDAY

John 5:7 (CEV) - There was a certain pool in Jerusalem where sick people went for healing. Jesus noticed a man lying near the water who had been an invalid for 38 years. Jesus asked him if he wanted to be healed. The man replied that he had no one to help him into the water. Jesus said, “Pick up your mat and walk,” and immediately the man was healed and picked up his mat and walked away. The only life this man knew was on his mat in a perpetual state of waiting. When Jesus told him to pick up his mat, it meant leaving his place of comfortable excuses and putting ALL his trust in Jesus. Sometimes we can become so accustomed to our pain that it might even feel normal, but Jesus wants you whole and healed. In what area of your life is Jesus inviting you to trust him and step out of your comfort zone? How is Jesus asking you to pick up your mat today?

15 STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK, USA

Our ministry team thanks you all for your continued prayers for our ASL Bible project. We are rejoicing over receiving our license from Biblica (publishers of the NIV Bible), giving us permission to translate the Bible into American Sign Language (ASL). Join us in asking God for his continued blessings and guidance throughout the project.

16 KINGSTON, JAMAICA

Let us intentionally pray for our pastors and members in Jamaica as they shine your love and truth with their communities. - Jeremiah 3:15 “And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.”

17 GCI-HOME OFFICE

Join us in praying for our all-employee meeting for those who work in the Home Office. We pray for guidance in the matters at hand and ask that God would clearly show us how to conduct our work with a spirit of joy and enthusiasm. Give us the desire to find ways to excel in our work as we support our pastors and members around the world.

18 GCI- SOUTHERN AFRICA

Through our desire to safely worship with one another, we have begun holding outdoor worship services that help us to connect with one another and also with community members who have joined in.

19 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

Loving God, we lift up to you the students and teachers in our fellowship. Open their eyes to see the blessings and opportunities you have put before them. Give them wisdom and courage for the challenges that will come their way.



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20 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

Merciful God, as we enter storm seasons in many regions across the globe, we ask for your protection and provision of our members. Please continue to be a refuge and provide for us as we go through this season.

21 MEDITATION MONDAY

I Samuel 16:7 (NLT) - How often do we judge others by what they look like on the outside? Judgments are expectations based on pre-programmed mindsets or bias, and we all have them. Knowing that making judgements comes naturally, how can we guard our hearts against wrongly pre-judging someone? It's simple: Ask the Holy Spirit. Every encounter with another human being presents us with the opportunity to engage with the One who truly knows "the other," whether it's a spouse, child, co-worker, friend, or even enemy. We have the incredible capacity to tap into the One who sees what we cannot. "Lord, show us their heart, and while you're at it, show me mine, too."

22 LILONGWE, MALAWI

It is wonderful to once again be able to worship and fellowship with one another. Join us in praying that we may sow seeds of the gospel and that they would take root and grow for God's glory.

23 BAGUIO, PHILIPPINES

Join us in praying for our Faith Avenue as we start a small group through our We Believe curriculum. Open the minds of all who participate to grow in grace and truth. Help us all to ask good questions and to listen attentively to the Spirit who will be present in and among us.

24 STOYSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, USA

Gracious God, in perfect assurance of your presence among us, we pray your blessings upon Brad and Marlene Reed as we celebrate their ordinations. May they honor you as they joyfully join with you the ministry you prepared for them.

25 LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA, USA

Our church continues to meet virtually during the pandemic. However, we are celebrating the ability to gather at a safe distance through a drive-by birthday party. It was wonderful to reconnect and celebrate as a church family.

26 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

Lord, we ask you to raise up ministry workers and leaders throughout our fellowship. Help us to make spaces for them to be equipped and encouraged through service to you.

27 GRACE COMMUNION SENIOR MEMBERS

Lord, we lift up the senior members of our congregation. We are blessed by their example and ability to train us. Help us benefit from their wisdom and understanding. Help them receive the strength and power you've promised. May they put their hope in you and be renewed in the process.

28 MEDITATION MONDAY

Job 33:4 - How often do we take for granted this life-and-death action called breathing? We breathe in and out approximately 21,600 times a day, yet most of us don't even notice. What if we were to hit "pause" for a moment and actually take notice of this breath that sustains us? To breathe is to be alive. It is the breath of God that gives life to us and to all living creatures. Close your eyes and take a deep breath. Continue to take slow, deep breaths, and picture yourself breathing in God's Spirit and breathing out any anxieties, worries, or agendas while releasing control to God. With each breath, become more aware of the presence of Jesus who is living in us, with us, and through us. Lord, help us remember to intentionally breathe in your loving presence, and with each breathe, show us how to celebrate this abundant life you have shared with us.

29 GCI-INDIA

We are so grateful for our international leaders. Let us remember our co-laborers in India today, and ask God to continue to transform their ministry. - "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts." Zechariah 4:6

30 HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA, USA

We joined with local organizations in opening our doors and warmly welcoming college students! Please join us in praying for these students, that they may know our Gracious God is with them in this season and whatever comes next. Also, join us in praying for eyes to see the opportunities God has for us to make deeper connections in our neighborhood.



NEW YORK CITY, NY, USA

DOES YOUR CONGREGATION HAVE AN EVENT, CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER REQUEST, OR PRAISE REPORT YOU WOULD LIKE INCLUDED IN NEXT MONTH'S PRAYER GUIDE?

Please email info@gci.org with details and photos.