

MARCH 2023

"And when you're done, you may take a long, quavering breath and say, 'Help. ' People say 'help' without actually believing anything hears that. But it is the great prayer, and it is the hardest prayer, because you have to admit defeat — you have to surrender, which is the hardest thing any of us do, ever." — Anne Lamott

MIRAMAR, FLORIDA, US

Most loving and merciful God, we thank you for the joy we have in worshiping you in spirit and truth. As we celebrated Black History Month, we ask that you continue your work of joy, healing, and reconciliation among your people.

2 CINCINATTI, OHIO, US

Take some time today to hold our event before the throne of grace. We will be hosting the Westside Women's Paddle Auction today. The proceeds of each auction go to meet a need in our local community.

Z 3 GCI-US

As congregations from the US gather today for a workshop focused on our theme of Faith, Hope, and Love in Action, we pray Jesus, that your will transcend all our efforts and understanding. Holy Spirit, lead us in your flow of worship and unite our teams to work together efficiently. Bless all those present, ready to be the church in their neighborhoods.



GRACE COMMUNION

Oh Lord, your Word declares that you are our Good Shepherd. Just as shepherds provide guidance for their sheep, we pray that you, Lord, provide shepherds who will nurture your flocks. Raise up servant leaders who will flourish in relationship with you and the teams that they lead.

GCI-US

The US Regional Directors are gathering for three days of ministry assessment and dreaming. The Psalmist says that it is beautiful when brothers get along and are united (Psalm 133). It is in this setting that God commands a blessing. Pray over this gathering as a time of unity and blessing.



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6 MEDITATION MONDAY: PSALM 103:13-14

God's love and compassion for us is like that of a loving father for his children. He understands our limitations and weaknesses, and he meets us where we are. When we are feeling overwhelmed or discouraged, we can take comfort in knowing that we can approach God with confidence, and that he will be there for us.

Take a deep breath and close your eyes. Imagine yourself as a toddler, then a teenager, then a young adult. Then see yourself as you are now. How can you rely on God's compassion and love for you today, as a beloved child of God

8 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Father, we rejoice that your word is filled with women who played significant roles in your plan to draw humanity back to you and who taught crucial lessons through their faithfulness. We thank you for the faithful women in our fellowship and celebrate the way they show your image. May they know their value in your kingdom and in our lives.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Holy God, in your perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness. By the power of your love, lead us to a clearer vision of your presence, and lead the nations into ways of unity and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

9 MODJADJI, SOUTH AFRICA

Heavenly Father, in your love you have called us to know you, led us to trust you, and bind our life with yours. We celebrate the recent baptisms as an expression of new life in Christ. May your newly baptized children grow in your knowledge.

2 JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, US

We are praising God for a wonderful time of fellowship together! Last month we hosted our annual sweethearts dance. We celebrate the ways our God of love shares his affection with us and through one another.

10 RICHARDSON, TEXAS, US

Oh Lord, we thank you that you have called us to be your royal priesthood. That within your church you have a purpose and place for each of us. We are celebrating the commissioning of Jared Santibanez as our Faith Avenue champion. We pray your blessing and annoiniting on his ministry.



13 MEDITATION MONDAY: MATTHEW 9:36

Without a shepherd, sheep cannot survive on their own. Sheep without a shepherd are in danger of getting lost, sick, or killed. Jesus was the shepherd who had a heart of compassion for those who were hurting and in need. He saw their struggles and pain, and he was moved to action. In our own lives, we can follow Jesus' example by looking for opportunities to show compassion to those around us. We can seek to understand their struggles and offer them the same love and care that Jesus offers us.

GLENDORA,

ministry together.

CALIFORNIÁ, US

Most loving Father, whose will it is for us to give thanks in all things. We thank you

for the time of fellowship and planning

that was share by our Avenue champions at our recent retreat. Guide this team and

each of their teams as they participate in

What need(s) are you trusting God to take care of today?

14 MANILA, PHILIPPINES

"We can fearlessly preach about God knowing the fruit is by the Spirit of God."

And this gives us the confidence to share about God regardless of our background. Thank you for joining us on our first Sunday service for February 2023. Thank you to SVNHS SSG students for joining our vocal training. It was fun learning with you guys. See you next time!

17 gcimalaysia

We are so grateful for our leaders in Asia. Let us remember our co-laborers in Malaysia today and ask God to continue to make disciples in their fellowship.

"We have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God." Colossians 1:9-10

5 WINNEPEG, CANADA

Holy Spirit, we thank you for your faithfulness to fill us with power, love, and self-control. We celebrate the oridnation of Willy Mulenda Kabonesa. We ask that you continue to equip him for the ministry you have prepared for him.

38 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

Father, we lift up our congregational ministry teams. We thank you for the volunteers who so enthusiastically participate with you in ministry. We pray that our teams will continue to be Team Based — Pastor Led, following the lead of the Spirit as they engage with their communities.

16 sud-kivu, bukavu, congo

Father, Son, and Spirit, we ask that the abundance of your wisdom and imagination, energy, and vision will be evident in the ministry and life of Gullaume Asembe Bombela. We celebrate his recent ofridnation.



19 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

Lord, our Rock, we thank you for our pastors who faithfully serve you. We know of their faith in you and their love for all the saints. May we never stop giving thanks for them, always remembering them in our prayers. We will keep asking that you, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, will give them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that they may know you better.



MARCH 2023



Even in the midst of difficult or unforeseen circumstances, we can find secure hope in God's unfailing love and compassion for us. His mercies are new every morning, and his grace is always available to us. When we feel overwhelmed or discouraged, we can call to mind his love and faithfulness, and be filled with hope and peace. Thank God for the hope you have in him because he is able to do anything. Ask the Lord to help you trust him. Ask the Lord to be your hope.

Who is in your life that needs Jesus' compassion and hope today, and how can you show that to them?

4 RAYONG, THAILAND

Father, we thank you and praise you

will work in their lives to help them

you. Bring them closer to your grace

faith. May each of them continue to

in your Spirit and trust in your word.

experience your grace and to walk

for all our youth. We pray that you

follow you and become closer to

and grant them strength in their

23 LEMON GROVE, CALIFORNIA, USA

Lord, we ask that you continue to deepen our love for our neighborhood. As we continue to serve our neighborhood through our cleanup initiatives, grant us insight into the needs of our neighbors and unite us in relationship in and through Christ.

27 MEDITATION MONDAY: JOHN 11:33-35

In this powerful moment, we see Jesus' deep compassion for those who were grieving. He was moved to tears by the pain of those around him, and he wept with them. As we follow in his footsteps, may we seek to show the same compassion and empathy to those around us who are hurting. We can be present with them in their pain and offer them the love and support they need.

How has God shown up for you in your times of grief? How might God lead you to show empathy and compassion to someone who is grieving today?



Lord, in you we see the beauty of community. Create a spirit of collaboration and shared learning as our Hope Avenue teams in Africa participate in webinars about developing inspirational worship gatherings.

25 gci congregations

Pray that our church family will be united in our worship of God, fellowship with one another, and ministry to the community. Ask God to help believers confront and remove issues and problems that threaten this unity.

22 ^{GCI-FIJI}

Glory to the Father, Son, and Spirit. We thank you for our brothers and sisters in Fiji. May they rest in your promise in Matthew 28:20: "I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age." Daily reveal your goodness and steady their feet with your faithful presence.

26 gci-us central

Lord God Almighty, we praise you for who you are and what you have done. We thank you for our recent retreat for young adults in our region. We pray that they will continue to experience an awareness of Christ's love in their lives and to be filled with a desire to join him in ministry.

28 CLEVELAND, OHIO, USA

Join us praying for our annual women's conference that will be available virtually this year. The theme is "Rekindle."

"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:6-7



GCI-HONDURAS

We lift up our GCI community in Honduras. Let us pray for their fellowship today.

"I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him." Eph. 1:16–17

30 PRETORIA, SOUTH

Almighty Father, we pray for your favor and an outpouring of your love, grace, and wisdom upon Thabo Caleb Makhela, Jr. We celebrate his ordination, and ask that he will have an assurance of your presence with him as he ministers to your children.

37 SURREY HILLS, OKLAHOMA, US

Loving God, we praise you for those who responded to your invitation and were baptized last month. As we welcome our newly baptized members into our fellowship, we thank you once again for your gift of grace and the forgiveness you give each of us.

Does your church have an event, Congregational prayer request, or praise report you would like included in next month's Prayer Guide or other GCI Publications?

PLEASE EMAIL INFO@GCI.ORG WITH DETAILS AND PHOTOS.



