

ON YOUR WALLS, O JERUSALEM,
I HAVE SET WATCHMEN;
ALL THE DAY & ALL THE NIGHT.

ISAIAH 62:6 [ESV]

WATCHMAN ON THE WALL

Dear Watchman,

We are in need of miracles every day. That's why we pray! As you pray each week, praise God for the miracles realized, petition God for the miracles needed and patiently wait for the miracles to come! Paul's prayer for us expresses it well: *"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength."* Ephesians 1:18 CSB

Please pray for me, Paul, Calixto, and Geoffrey as we preach through the December series, *"Unwrapping the Miracles of Christmas."* Numerous miracles line the weeks of Advent, but none more profoundly described than when the angel Gabriel declared to Mary: *"Nothing will be impossible with God"* (Luke 1:37). As Mary was comprehending the miracle of the incarnation through her, we are reminded of the miracle of Christ in us, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27).

Each week, I'm asking our Connect Groups to pray together that God will open our eyes, open our wallets and open our hearts. At Christmastime we often get sentimental about the miracles and the message of the incarnation. In recognizing that Jesus was rejected by people, even at His birth, we pride ourselves in thinking that we are not like them. A familiar song ringing in our ears even states: "Oh, come to my heart, Lord Jesus; there is room in my heart for thee." Yet how easily those are empty words. If we truly had room for Jesus, we would have room for others, as He does.

1. Open our eyes. Look past appearances. Everyone has needs. Everyone needs Jesus. God can often hide the greatest gifts in the poorest packages (see 1 Samuel 16:7, James 2:4-5). Look around you every day. There are lost people everywhere. There are hurting people everywhere. Look past external evidence to see internal issues.

2. Open our wallets. Trust God with our finances. Is my biggest gift going to God? God is not finished with you nor Mobblerly this year! In a time where our church needs to rise up to meet key financial challenges, December can be a great way Mobblerly members can finish strong in generous giving to God through tithes and offerings. Jesus' beginning was lowly, but His end is exaltation (see Revelation 5:9,12,13).

3. Open our hearts. Embrace others the way Jesus came to earth to embrace us. If we have room in our hearts for Jesus, we have room in our hearts for others. Praise Him for the over 3,300 engaged households and many more who will be hearing the gospel each week this month at our weekly Worship Gatherings, Sounds of the Season and Christmas Eve Gatherings (see Philippians 2:4-5).



Pastor Glynn

Praise: Praising God for who He is and for what He has done.

Praise God: He is a Miracle Worker

1 Chronicles 16:8-12, CSB, “Give thanks to the Lord; call on his name; proclaim his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him; sing praise to him; tell about all his wondrous works! Honor his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wondrous works he has done, his wonders, and the judgments he has pronounced.”

Psalms 77: 11-14, CSB, “I will remember the Lord’s works; yes, I will remember your ancient wonders. I will reflect on all you have done and meditate on your action. God, your way is holy. What god is great like God? You are the God who works wonders; you revealed your strength among the peoples.”

Praise the Lord:

- Over 2,500 people viewed the Compassion Experience in November, and 94 children were sponsored!
- For the great times of ministering and worship the student choir experienced at House of Hope and Harvest Outreach in November. Several people accepted Christ as Savior at Harvest Outreach, and many people were fed physically and spiritually through students’ giving of themselves.
- For the Salvation of Maribel Lopez and Leilani Lobo in the last six weeks.
- For the new excitement among the men of Mobberly Español to want to grow and be disciplined so they can become the men God has purposed them to be.
- For the participation of Mobberly Español members in Engage 201 classes, visits this past fall and for the outcome of this class; the once a month Engage visits to our Hispanic contacts.
- For His continue provision of protection for our children while they are on our campus.
- For His work in the lives of 14 people whose hearts have been enlightened and have chosen to follow the Lord through a saving relationship with Him during the Tuesday morning Family Services Ministry since our last Watchman report! Pray for these new sisters and brothers as they begin their walk with Christ: Cameron, Ricketisha, Chadwick, Arenthia, Yemaya, Quillis, Holly, Terisa, Kadeejah, Edward, Dayveion, Marilyn, Robert and Nathaniel.
- For an intergenerational team of empty nesters and college students who served at Operation Christmas Child’s Processing Center on December 1.
- Thirty people have been involved in a Celebrate Recovery step study this fall. That is an all-time high! Four groups (2 men and 2 women) have run simultaneously this fall.
- For providing a Prayer Coordinator for Hope Road Counseling. DeAnna Stanley has enthusiastically volunteered to serve in this role.
- For providing needed male leaders for Thrive Children’s classes this fall, and for an indication LeTourneau students will be serving in this role for the Spring Semester.
- For existing and new leaders that are stepping up to serve in Celebrate Recovery.
- For continued provision for Hope Road Counseling start-up costs and scholarships this fall. So far \$ 82,448 has been given towards these needs.
- For 130 people who received Christ-centered, professionally integrated counseling through Hope Road in the last 15 days of October, and 169 people who have been ministered to as of November 21, 2018.
- For the gathering of women from the Marshall campus and the passion God has given them to engage and minister to the women in their area with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- For Go Missions Focus in November and for many of our members who have never been on mission trips expressing interest in going on a mission in 2019.
- As we rejoice with Living Rock Church, Severance, Colorado and Josh Green the pastor, for God's great blessing in their first two preview services. They have had outstanding attendances and will be launching the church in January 2109.

Repent: Of sins committed and commands neglected.

Our ongoing sins disturb our fellowship with our heavenly Father. This is why we need to repent of our sins and confess them to God. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9, CSB)

As you pray, take some time to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal your sins. Think through various areas of your life: sins of thought, sins of attitude, sins of omission, sins of commission, sins of self-rule, sins of self-reliance or sins of relationships, and ask God for the grace to repent. Ask God to restore your fellowship. And then thank God your sins have already been paid for by Christ. Rest in His un-failing love.

Ask: When our hearts are God-oriented in praise and purified through repentance, then we are ready to "Ask." God encourages us to come boldly to Him and ask. *"Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need."* (Hebrews 4:16, CSB)

The Christmas season prompts all of us to round up the family and come to church. Christmas carols and sermons about the Christmas story conjure up warm, festive feelings that tend to put most of us in a merry mood. I would like to challenge us to expand that thinking and make December a month of intentional evangelism. In addition to each Sunday morning, we have two big opportunities (Sounds of the Season and Christmas Eve) for people to hear the gospel. What if December became the greatest soul winning month of the year? Just what if the greatest gift we gave to our families, friends and acquaintances was the gospel of Jesus Christ? Let's actively pray and actively bring the lost so their eyes might be opened to the truth of God's love.

Ask God:

- To use us to reach our community with the gospel of Jesus Christ through the Sounds of the Season performances Dec. 14-16:
 - To prompt the MBC family to bring lost/hurting people to hear the gospel.
 - That His presence will be evident to all who attend, and He will allow us the honor of seeing people come to faith in Christ and many lives changed.
 - For health and strength for the cast, choir, orchestra, tech crew and our Worship staff as they prepare for the event.
 - To bring all the pieces together in a manner that produces great quality and brings tremendous honor to God and His church.
 - To guide our hosts during our Christmas Community Dinner on December 16 to have many spiritual conversations at their table and people would come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ during this event.
- To use us to reach our community with the gospel of Jesus Christ through our Christmas Eve Worship Gatherings:
 - To draw families from across East Texas to attend in greater numbers than ever before, in order that more might hear the gospel.
 - To encourage our families to extend the conversation of Jesus into their family activities at home.

- To prevent the enemy from distracting those needing to make spiritual decisions. Christmas Eve is a great opportunity for people to hear the gospel, but people often don't respond due to being with the entire family or having somewhere to be afterwards. Let's ask God to change that attitude/feeling.
- To powerfully prompt the hearts of men to obedience in response to hearing the gospel.

Ask God:

- To use the Mobberly Español New Beginners Class (starting Dec. 2nd) for all who have come into saving faith this past fall, to begin to disciple new believers.
- For growing participation and favor in our continuing once-a-month engage efforts.
- To guide our preparation efforts for Lift Up Your Eyes week of Prayer –Jan. 21-27 so that God continues to use this week to burden us more with the need to continue to engage the Hispanic community.
- To strengthen the health of our Children's ministry staff during these months when there is a great amount of sickness going around. Pray God will keep our staff strong and healthy, so we can continue to minister and meet needs of those we serve. Pray for good rest and healthy habits for our staff, that we may remain healthy throughout this season.
- For continued safety during the continuing work in our existing preschool building renovation. Pray the workers will be diligent and that each phase will go smoothly.
- To give understanding to the kids and families who have to make adjustments during the renovation phase for calmness in the rooms and hallways.
- To strengthen leaders and children to remain healthy during this season. Ask God to grant good health and great joy to those who serve, and the kids who are learning about the amazing gift of God's love, Jesus, this Christmas season.
- To protect marriages and homes in our church and community. Pray husbands and wives will seek God first and a right relationship with Him. May parents seek God's truth to live out in front of their children.
- To raise up additional leaders to serve as part of the Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group team.
- To bring to harvest the seeds planted by Dr. Kyle Walker at ManChurch ETX on Nov. 26 in the hearts of men who attended. Pray each man will seek to share the hope of this gospel message in their homes, workplaces and circles of influence every time God presents them with the opportunity.
- To use the Spring 2019 Develop Opportunities, which are now being planned and will begin in January. Pray the people of Mobberly will desire to have enlightened hearts that are growing in the knowledge and hope of Jesus...and putting it into practice day by day!
- To bless our Church Planters' wives as the holiday season arrives. Pray God will give them encouragement in a season where it's difficult to be away from family. Pray for wisdom and strength for the Women's ministry team that serves to support and encourage these precious ladies.
- To receive all glory and honor due His Name and for the Women's ministry leaders to be encouraged as we gather this month to celebrate all He has done through each area of this ministry throughout this year. Pray God will continue to raise up and call out the women He is preparing to lead this ministry into the New Year.
- For continued enlistment, development and effectiveness of leaders for Thrive! Celebrate Recovery, Children and Youth Thrive Classes, Connected Child Classes, Divorce Care, Grief Share and Alzheimer Care Giver Support.

- For DeAnna Stanley as she helps develop and coordinate ongoing prayer strategy and efforts for Hope Road Counseling efforts.
- For completion of Hope Road offices and move in, now estimated to be week of December 3-10.
- For remaining \$ 67,552 start up and scholarship funds for 2018 to be provided by December 31, 2018.
- For wisdom for Hope Road Counseling team as they offer hope to many people facing marital crisis, relational struggles, depression, addictions, spiritual emptiness, anxiety, trauma from present or past events and circumstances, confusion, directional questions and many more life situations too numerous to list.
- To lead Marshall campus attendees to commit to 2019 mission trips.
- To lead many attenders on our Marshall campus to take steps toward membership.
- To prompt our Marshall campus college leadership team to lead out in reaching more students for Christ.
- To help Marshall children, who will be participating in the New Christian Class in December, to understand what it means to follow Jesus in their daily life.
- To guide newer attenders and members to plug in and find a place to connect in December.
- For our people to have an awareness of friends and family who may be open to spiritual conversations associated with the Christmas season.
- For our students in Marshall to be incredibly bold this holiday season. Pray God would renew their passion and zeal for Him in their hearts and for them to love their neighbors and peers unconditionally, as Jesus would.
- To raise up volunteers and coaches for our upcoming Upward season in Marshall, as registration opens December 2. Our vision is God would lead 80 children to take part in Upward this year, and we know He'll bring us the people to lead and serve if we are diligent in prayer and in our preparation for the harvest.
- To guide Connection Church, Sturgis, SD as they begin the process of receiving a building from First Baptist Sturgis. Praying for smooth transition and great growth for the church.
- To guide Living Rock Church, Severance, Colorado as they are preparing for their last preview service in December and their launch in January 2019.
- To guide our staff to open their eyes to look past appearances, to open their wallets and trust God with their finances and to open their hearts and embrace others the way Jesus came to earth to embrace us.

Pastor Glynn Stone - Senior Pastor

Tim Whedbee – Sr. Assoc. Pastor of Worship & Administration

Andy Hill- Executive Pastor of Ministries

Paul Coleman – Teaching Pastor

Gregg Zackary – Pastor of Marriage and Family Counseling

Brandon Watson– Connect Pastor

Eric Perkins – Serve Pastor

Greg Martin – Develop Pastor

Geoffrey Davis – Marshall Campus Pastor

Scott Schulik – Minister to Maturing Adults

Lesa Schwartz – Minister to Women and Ministry Development

Analisa Hood – Minister to Children

Will Hagle – Junior High Minister

Michael Curl – High School Minister

Jan LaJoie – Minister of Engage

Kiley Broom – Minister of Sports and Community Outreach

Charles Barham – Minister of Pastoral Care
Sharon Brooks - Marshall Campus Minister to Children
Laney Wootten – Marshall Campus Worship Minister
Calixto Arce – Assoc. Minister of Mobblerly En Español
Yevonne Donkervoet – Assoc. Minister to Preschool
Suzanne Walker – Assoc. Minister to Elementary
Kevin Jones – Assoc. Minister of College and Young Adults
Katherine McCrory – Assoc. Youth Minister to Girls
Jay Shepherd – Serve Associate Minister
Dick Lindsey – Assoc. Minister of Pastoral Care/Missions
Johnny Norwood – Assoc. Minister of Family Services
Joe Parnell – Marshall Campus Associate Minister
Joshua Boyd – Marshall Campus Assoc. Minister
of Youth and Community Outreach
Nate Harrison- Assoc. Minister of Music

Yield: to what God says to me. Yield my will to the will of God. Yield my agenda to the plan God has for my life. We must be willing to yield our desires and our thoughts to God’s sovereign wisdom. As Jesus faced the cross, He prayed in Matthew 26:39, CSB *“My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”* We must pray with that same spirit, humbly yielding our will to God’s will. To close our prayer by “yielding” to God is a way where we submit our desires to Him. In the end, it is our way of acknowledging His will is what will truly satisfy us anyway. God’s will and plan is better than ours. He knows the end from the beginning and He loves us more than we can ever imagine.

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength.”
Ephesians 1:18, CSB