

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,

Followers of Jesus, follow Jesus. What may sound obvious is not always easy. When Jesus called His first four disciples to follow Him, it changed everything for them. Matthew 4:22 states: *“Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.”* Following Jesus changes everything.

Jesus never calls us to cheer for His team. Fans sit in the bleachers expressing their praise or dislike for what they see happening on the playing field. But when Jesus calls us to follow Him, it’s a call to participate in His work and conform our character to His. Following Jesus requires a change in our attitudes, actions, affections, and aspirations.

An overarching prayer I have for Mobberly this year is that we will become more faithful to the call to follow Jesus. For three months, starting in February, we are going to study God’s Word in-depth on this theme. I’m asking as Watchman prayer warriors, for us to spend this month praying that God will prepare our church to hear God speak to us as individuals, families and as a community of faith to look, act and sound more like His followers than we ever have before.

If you literally followed Jesus around every day for three years, as the early disciples did, can you picture yourself taking part in the same recreational activities that you do today? Would we have the same attitudes about money that we do today? Would we be using the same words in our conversations that we do today? Following Jesus changes everything.

The more we pray to become genuine followers of Jesus, the more God will be preparing us for what He has prepared for us.

- Pray we will follow Jesus’ example in engaging others.
Ask God to embolden all the participants in numerous engage classes this month.
Ask God to open all our eyes to the divine encounters He anoints for us and the spiritual conversations He appoints to us.
- Pray that we will love like Jesus in our family relationships.
Pray for the couples attending Marriage Moments (and for me as I teach on the 14th in Longview and Russ Montgomery as he teaches on the 16th in Marshall).
Pray for parents, especially on our Merge Parenting Day, Jan 27.
- Pray for the ever-growing Mobberly family to become true followers of Jesus.
Ask God to bring who He wants to join the Mobberly family at the upcoming Discover Membership classes (13th in Marshall and 16th in Longview).
Pray for God to increase our love for one another as we celebrate the Lord’s Supper in every service and campus on Jan. 13.

Pastor Dlynn

Praise: Praising God for who He is and for what He is doing.

God works in our lives to transform us.

Philippians 3:21 (CSB), *"He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject everything to himself."*

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (CSB), *"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit."*

Praise the Lord:

- For over 120 spiritual conversations with our guests at the Christmas Community Dinner. Several came for assurance or recommitment.
- For 30 people who started following Jesus during the month of December through the ministries of Mobberly.
- For the many volunteers that tirelessly served throughout the Christmas impact season.
- For children who have followed Jesus through salvation over the holiday months.
- For His work in the lives of three people now following Jesus through a saving relationship with Him during the Tuesday morning Family Services Ministry since our last Watchman report! Pray for these new sisters as they begin their walk with Christ: Summer, Bridget and Angeloran
- For incredible children's leaders who serve with joy each week on Sundays and Wednesdays.
- For the remodel of the existing preschool building as it is coming to a close in February.
- For 24 students who have come forward for baptism over the last quarter. Pray they will continue following God and not be afraid of whatever He has for them.
- For Cory Perkins, a new addition to our youth staff. God is using Cory to add value to our team in numerous ways. We're very grateful to have him on our team.
- Our students were able to raise over \$1,300 for the clean water well in Africa.
- For His many blessings on our student ministry in Marshall, as He has continued to grow our group in size and spiritual maturity. Praise God for students hungry for the truth of the gospel.
- There is a consistency within the college group, as we are growing spiritually, as well as numerically.
- For the women's ministry leadership and the many God stories they shared as we gathered in December to praise God for all He had done in each area of ministry to women.
- The new Hope Road offices are open and we are able to share the hope we have in Jesus with many people from Mobberly and our community!
- For the generous giving during December to Hope Road to help with startup cost and to continue offering discounted counseling for Mobberly members, first responders, single parents and pastors & ministers from across East Texas.
- For the provision of volunteers to work with Thrive! for Children and Youth for this spring semester.
- For the 40 students and empty nesters that served together at Operation Christmas Child's Dallas Processing Center taking part in the packing of over 60,000 boxes to be shipped to Mexico and Central America. Pray the gospel message shared with these boxes would result in many coming to a life-changing faith in Jesus Christ.
- For the salvation of the following people through our Mobberly en Español worship services: Maximiliano Lopez, Geronima Guerrero, Leilani Lobo, Natalie Garcia and Isaac Pastul.
- For the new encouragement and excitement among our Mobberly en Español men, which is in large part due to the leadership of one of our leaders, Edwin Pastul.
- For the start of our Mobberly en Español, New Believers Class, where new believers are being disciplined every week.

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)

Ask God:

- To guide us as we enter a new year. There have been some significant staff additions and changes this past year. God is doing something in our midst and we do not want to miss where He is at work. Let us pray that we follow him as a church staff, individually and as a team. Pray our hearts would focus towards being united. May God continue to keep the staff united as new staff members are grafted in. We want to be of one accord with God and each other. May God knit our hearts, minds and desires together as we serve the Lord together in reaching our community and the world for the Kingdom.
- To guide us as positions are being vacated, or soon to be vacated. We ask for prayer in the process of those moving forward in their ministries and filling those roles for the future ministries of Mobberly.
 - ❖ For guidance during Eric Perkins’ transition. Pray for his family and Eric in his new role at You Turn Ministries. Pray for God to fill the role of the “Serve” ministry, missions and church planting.
 - ❖ To guide us to His woman to lead the ministry to the wonderful women of Mobberly. Pray for Lesa and Bob, as she has announced her intent to retire and transition to a new chapter in her life of living out His story.
- For His guidance as we are seeking to fill some Administrative Assistant roles for support to our Pastors and Ministers and the valuable ministry they help facilitate.
- To guide and provide for the serve team. As they are considering the transitions that come with Eric’s departure and knowing new leadership is coming in, there is always a level of anxiousness of what it will be like.
- For more members to be involved in our outreach to the community, and take advantage of all of the Engage 201 training classes that are offered this spring, to help Christians feel more at ease in sharing their testimony and the gospel.
- To guide Jan’s leadership with the local opportunities to engage our community with the gospel.
- To lead people to use our new engage reporting wall in the worship center to reflect our engage encounters to God’s glory.
- For our church to further develop opportunities to help parents take discipleship and the Bible into the home. There is a growing number of teens who, if not reached before they leave home, are at-risk of never coming to faith in Christ. We want to do all we can to help curb these numbers.
- To prepare us to be ready to minister to the families this Upward soccer season will draw to our campus. We want to have opportunities to connect further with these families and draw them closer to a God-honoring family and home.
- To comfort and strengthen our families who have lost a child or have received serious health news concerning a child. Pray they would be able to receive God’s peace, and know His presence, as they

follow Jesus through these difficult times. Pray for those who minister to these families to seek God's wisdom and allow God to speak and work through them as they minister.

- For two new fourth grade leaders at the 9:30 hour on Sunday mornings. Ask God to create a desire in these two people to follow Jesus by serving and teaching His children.
- For continued flexibility as we complete the remodel on the existing preschool building.
- To encourage and equip parents to lead their children spiritually as Duffy Robbins preaches all three Worship Gatherings on Jan 27 and teaches a special session for teen parents after lunch.
- To prepare the hearts of our students for Spark Weekend, our discipleship weekend focused on getting closer to God and connecting with others. Pray for all the students that will attend. Pray for and join us in thanking God for our group leaders and host homes.
- For His guidance in meeting ongoing Connect Group leadership needs.
- To lead those that are not involved in a Connect Group to make this vital life-connection as the new year begins.
- For additional leaders for the Alzheimer's Support Group and for families being ministered to through this ministry.
- To continue to develop a spirit of unity and excitement for fulfilling His calling in our worship ministry.
- To provide additional trumpet and trombone players for our orchestra, ten new choir members and additional players and singers for our 11:00 a.m. worship gathering.
- To develop in the hearts of our children a greater desire to follow and worship Jesus as they participate in children's choir and begin working on their spring musical.
- To call out more boys to be a part of our student choir.
- For wisdom and strength to get new offices set up and functioning at a level that will facilitate the best possible environment and experience for those who come to Hope Road for counseling.
- For continued provision through designated giving to meet the scholarship needs of those who cannot afford the regular counseling rates.
- To guide our meetings with local pastors in the next few months to introduce Hope Road Counseling and to explore ways we can partner to meet the many counseling needs in our community.
- To use our upcoming open house opportunities to connect our Mobberly family and community with the Hope Road Counseling staff and introduce them to the counseling and coaching services available.
- To guide and provide for the ongoing and new Thrive! opportunities beginning Mon., Jan. 14. Pray for our leaders to have strength, health and wisdom to facilitate opportunities for recovery, healing and restoration for individuals, families, children and youth.
- For continued enlistment and development of volunteers to enhance and expand many Thrive! ministry opportunities in 2019.
- To guide our yearly Week of Prayer event called Alzad Vuestros Ojos (Lift Up Your Eyes), which will take place Jan. 21-27. This week is designed to challenge us to greater and deeper prayer *"for our city, for the lost and for an awakening."*
 - Pray all logistics will come together
 - Pray, as we have been spiritually preparing for this event for the last two months, God will stir Mobberly en Español to want to participate throughout this week of prayer.
 - Pray for the prayer and worship service scheduled to conclude the week of prayer on Sunday night, Jan. 27, and pray more Hispanic local churches will join us that night for this United Prayer effort.
 - Pray this prayer event will result in God saving more souls this year through Mobberly en Español.
- To guide our Marshall campus Wednesday evening activities as we make some logistical changes to accommodate growth in several areas. Pray for a smooth transition and continued growth.

- To continue to develop our relationship with Travis Elementary as we seek to provide reading buddies for a small group of second grade students and host another reward party this month.
- To provide skilled volunteers to work with special needs children on our Marshall campus.
- To lead several, who have volunteered to work with children, to follow through with screening so they may begin serving.
- To continue to provide children and families to participate in Upward Sports in Marshall and an army of volunteers would also be spurred on to serve our community by helping with Upward, whether by coaching, refereeing or helping with some of the administrative functions.
- To lead members of the Mobberly family to grow in following Jesus through the various Develop Opportunities that are offered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, beginning the week of Jan. 7. Pray they will experience true spiritual transformation and growth, instead of just gaining more head knowledge.
- To give many men the desire to participate in the Thursday morning (6:30 a.m.) Bible study. Pray this study of Psalm 119 will drive men deeper into God's word and allow it to transform their lives.
- To place it on the hearts of many women to use the upcoming Sister to Sister Rally as an opportunity to invite those women they are engaging to fellowship and worship with other followers of Christ, hear the Gospel and be encouraged in their walk with Christ.

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.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."
Matthew 16:24 (CSB)