

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

ISAIAH 62:6 [ESV]

WATCHMAN ON THE WALL

“Living Hope”

Dear Watchman,

No season of the year sparks hope like spring. It's no wonder that God chose spring to host the greatest comeback in all of history - Jesus rose again, from death to life! What a message of hope!

We were once people who had no hope. And we all know people who live with no hope or at least people who live on “a hope and a prayer.” But Jesus is THE Hope. Will you join me this month, specifically praying for many of these people to experience the hope of Jesus soon?

Please read and begin praying through the biblical text that will be preached in every Easter worship service (April 20 and 21): *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of His great mercy He has given us new birth into a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.”* (1 Peter 1:3-4 CSB)

People who are holding onto a hope have often never heard that THE Hope is actually holding onto them. There is not a Sunday that goes by where we don't witness someone coming through the doors of Mobberly facing hopelessness. Let's both pray and prepare to encounter these each week.

The staff have thoughtfully listed praises and prayers we are privileged to lift up to the Lord each week during our Watchman hour on the wall. Let's also be in prayer together for the following:

- 1) Let us pray for ourselves. May our hearts be prepared for celebrating the Lord's Supper in every service on Palm Sunday (April 14).
- 2) Please pray daily for others. Who is your One? - the person you are engaging and inviting to one of the Passion Week evangelistic opportunities. (Romans 10:1)
- 3) Pray for the children, youth and families who will see and hear the Gospel presented by the Power Team in one of many opportunities in Longview and Marshall, beginning on April 30.



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

- God is a God of mercy
 - Isaiah 30:18 (CSB): *“Therefore the Lord is waiting to show you mercy, and is rising up to show you compassion, for the Lord is a just God. All who wait patiently for him are happy.”*
 - Ephesians 2:3-5 (CSB): *“³We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, ⁵made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace!”*
 - Titus 3:5 (CSB): *“He saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”*

Praise the Lord:

- Our Connect Groups are ministering to our local missions through sharing the gospel and taking items of need. They have been able to share the gospel in this process.
- Our Engage Wall count is 5,655. God is blessing, and many new people are putting balls with initials of those they are sharing the gospel with, in their daily lives.
- Alyssa Whitehurst is settling into her new role as Minister to Women and having great conversations with women’s ministry leaders.
- He is raising up helpers to our women’s leaders who can step in and help facilitate when life happens. God is so good!
- For the spring break mission trips (Nederland, South Dakota and Ecuador) and their successes. We are very thankful for the salvations, relationships made, work done and seeds planted.
- For a sold-out event with Kirk Cameron on March 22, which allowed many couples to “reset” their relationships with God and each other.
- For a wonderful night of worship led by our children on March 27 as they presented “Danny and the Shacks.” Praise God 130+ children have hidden God’s word in their heart through music.
- For the God-honoring Worship Collective held March 31. Volunteers from all campuses and venues who work in the worship ministry gathered together for a night of worship and vision-casting. Praise God for unified hearts as we lead the people of Mobberly to worship Him in spirit and truth!
- For the ten 1st-4th graders who will begin the New Christians Class. Pray for them to gain greater understanding of the decision they made and how to grow as a Christian.
- For God’s provisions for a beautiful children’s ministry facility and resources to share God’s love with children and families. We are so thankful for our new and remodeled buildings. Everyone is back in their original rooms and our offices are complete! Praise the Lord for a beautiful facility for our preschoolers to learn about the love of Jesus!
- For His protection, both physically and spiritually, over our children and families while they are in our care within the children’s ministry.
- For powerful prayer warriors who cover our children’s ministry with great intercession on behalf of our staff, parents and especially kids!
- For 374 clients who have received “living hope” through counseling services at Hope Road during the month of March. Praise God for a total of 402 clients since launch October 15, 2018.
- For the addition of Justin Robinson, LPC to the Hope Road Counseling (HRC) team. Justin has been on staff at Heartlight Ministries since 2012 as an Adolescent/Family Counselor and is a member of New Beginnings Baptist Church. Justin is married to Sarah and they have one daughter, Aubrey.
- For the enlistment of the HRC Advisory Council and their first meeting, March 28, 2019.

- For over thirty pastors and ministers who gathered from five local communities and five different denominational backgrounds to learn about Hope Road and explore partnering opportunities.
- For the completion of Merge: Premarital Course, March 6, which saw eight couples complete the course, and for four couples registered to participate in Merge Weekend Edition, March 29-30.
- For providing many volunteers and plugging in many children into our Upward sports program in Marshall.
- For the generosity of many as we plan and gear up for Community-wide Friend Night in Marshall.
- For a growing student Connect Group experience in Marshall on Sunday mornings.
- For a church full of wonderful Marshall worship leaders, specifically those who will serve in the interim while Laney Wooten is out.
- For the people at the Marshall campus who continue to engage their circles of influence with the gospel.
- We have several new families actively engaged and developing healthy relationships through support groups this semester.
- Thrive! had the opportunity to engage with 40 CPS Region 4 caseworkers to share information on how Thrive! can support families in crisis, prevent some children from being taken into the foster system and bring the hope of the Lord to the children who have been removed from their homes.
- We live in a time and a place where the state Governor has mandated child placing agencies (such as CPS) to collaborate with faith-based organizations to bring hope and healing to children and families in crisis.
- For successful high school and junior high mission trips. We were able to share the love and hope of Christ to many, in more ways than one. Also thankful for the ways God used our students.
- For our student leaders in high school and junior high who are actively sharing the gospel and discipling other students.
- For the ways we've seen Him at work in Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) groups at Hallsville and Pine Tree. Many souls have been added to the Kingdom.
- For families ministered to through recent Alzheimer's seminars, who discovered local resources to help them in this caregiving journey.
- For students who shared their story of participating in the Ecuador mission trip with 17 senior adult Connect Groups and for the on-going relationships developing between those ministries that are generations apart.
- We had a great celebration of six years of Mobberly en Español ministry March 31st. Literally hundreds of lives have heard the message of the gospel in the Spanish language here in East Texas and dozens of people have surrendered their lives to Jesus because of this ministry. We praise Him for what He will continue to do in and through this ministry as we enter our 7th year.
- For three young boys who surrendered their lives during a Mobberly en Español ENGAGE visit to a laundry mat: Julian, Bryan, and Roberto
- For a new brother who has received God's mercy by trusting in Jesus for a saving relationship with Him during the Tuesday morning Family Services Ministry since our last Watchman report! Pray for this new believer as he begins his walk with Christ: Pedro.

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.”* (I John 1:9, CSB)

As you pray, take 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. Ask God for the grace to repent and to restore your fellowship, and then thank God your sins have already been paid for by Christ. Rest in His unfailing 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 bring people to all Easter services and for a clear presentation of the Gospel. As the resurrected Christ is lifted up please pray for each service:
 - ❖ Encore (College Ministry) – Thursday, April 11 (7:00 p.m. – Longview)
 - ❖ Palm Sunday – Sunday, April 14 (8:00/9:30/11:00 – Longview, 9:30/11:00 a.m.– Marshall)
 - ❖ Children’s Friend Day – Wednesday, April 17 (6:00 – Longview, 6:00 p.m. – Marshall)
 - ❖ Youth Friend Day – Wednesday, April 17 (5:00 – Longview, 7:00 p.m. – Marshall)
 - ❖ Cross Service – Friday, April 19 (7:00 p.m.– Longview)
 - ❖ Easter Service – Saturday, April 20 (6:00 p.m.– Longview)
 - ❖ Easter Services – Sunday, April 21 (8:00/9:30/11:00 a.m.– Longview, 9:30/11:00 a.m.– Marshall)
- For people to see their need for learning tools for sharing their faith through Engage 201 and sign up for the class, starting March 27, 6:00 p.m. in D-112-113.
- To give us an abundance of screened Decision Prayer Partners for our April 17th Passion Week Children and Youth events.
- To guide our Connect Team (and all staff teams) as they are preparing for Passion Week.
- That Mobberly members will be active in “Who’s Your One?” and helping as Decision Prayer Partners.
- To bless the senior adult retreat (April 1-4) in the Hill Country. Pray God worked in the lives of those who went.
- To direct staff leadership as we continue to lead, plan and share vision.
- To provide for the Watson family (Brandon, Claire, Alex and Allison) in finding a home in Longview.
- To raise up a core team for the women’s ministry which will equip, encourage and lead the current and upcoming generations of women who courageously seek the heart of Jesus, our Living Hope.
- To lead the women’s team as they develop and plan summer and fall opportunities for women to:
(a) learn about Jesus and His Word, and (b) take the next step of utilizing what they’ve learned as they enter the mission field (home, work, community).
- That 1st-6th graders will be drawn to use the Quiet Time materials we are sending home to prepare their hearts to celebrate Easter.
- That children from our church and community will be present for our special guest and salvation presentation on April 17.

- To bless in upcoming preparations for Easter Friend Night. We are already planning for this incredible opportunity to have children invite their friends to hear the gospel. Pray we will cover all the details so there will be no barriers to the gospel being shared.
- To minister to our families who are struggling with their marriages. Pray husbands and wives will seek God first and godly counsel to put their relationships in right standing with Him and each other.
- For the health of our children and leaders so they may remain strong and free of any sickness. Healthy kids and leaders are so important to our ministry, from babies all the way through to our preteens.
- To use our adult leaders in the classrooms on Wednesdays and Sundays...to be strong in their faith and continue to grow in their spiritual life, so they can lead boys and girls to know about God's great plan for each of them.
- To provide several needed new preschool leaders to step up and serve until promotion in August. Also, to provide for many needs for leaders for Easter week—especially the Friday and Saturday night services.
- To bless our students who were on mission trips, that God would give them a heart for missions. Also their experiences will strengthen their faith.
- To encourage the many students who have accepted Christ as Savior at Elevation and at FCA this past month. Pray God will lead and guide them as they determine “what's next.” Pray they will find friends who love Jesus and will sharpen and encourage them.
- To bless the Youth Friend Night on Wednesday, April 17 – that our students will be bold in going after the lost, the gospel will be powerful and many will be added to the kingdom.
- For many to come to our Youth Camp Rally on Wednesday, April 24 and camp sign-up going forward – that every student will be compelled to devote a week to worshipping God and growing in their faith.
- To be with all of our students, so they will not be afraid of whatever God has for them.
- To give college students strength and wisdom during final exams week.
- To prepare and provide for college interns going to South Dakota for summer internships.
- To move in the special Encore college gathering on April 11 for Easter.
- The Bible studies at the Senior Adult Retreat (April 1 – 4) encouraged Mobberly's seniors in an ever-growing relationship with Jesus Christ that produces a strong resolve in the midst of future trials, and serves as a witness to future generations.
- For safety for those traveling as a part of the worship trip to Israel. Pray God will open up opportunities for singing and sharing, and this trip will have a deep impact spiritually on all those who go.
- To multiply back the time many volunteers will invest during Passion Week through all the ministries of our church.
- To draw the lost to attend the two Cross Services on March 17 and 19, and many will come to saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- To bring new choir members to the worship ministry.
- To provide for our Marshall campus Worship Leader, Laney Wootten, and her husband, Jon as they face some medical challenges regarding their unborn baby, Mabel. Pray for God's provision for their every need. Pray for the Marshall worship team as they support and step in as needed to help the Woottens.
- To bless new Therapy Groups starting during the month of April to offer “living hope” through:
 - ❖ *Building Confidence: A Group for Teens.* RJ Ferguson, LPC, will lead teens, ages 13-17, to learn and practice skills to experience relief and overcome struggles with anxiety.

- ❖ Men's Group: Conquer Series. Russell Montgomery, LPC-S, will lead men, ages 18 and up, to use God's weapons to become conquerors in the area of sexual purity, offering practical tools to conquer pornography and find freedom.
- To provide wisdom in adding a new female counselor to the Hope Road staff.
- To bless a *Newlywed Foundation Group*, forming and starting soon. Pray for Mark and Traci Wallis, and Stan and Cheryl Upchurch as they prepare to launch this new group for newlyweds who recently completed the Merge: Pre-marital course. Pray these couples will experience a lifetime of marital oneness and ministry in the context of a Christ-centered community.
- To provide the HRC Advisory Council with wisdom and insight to share with HRC leadership as the ministry grows and seeks to partner with churches and other organizations to meet the vast counseling needs across East Texas.
 - ❖ HRC Advisory Council Members: **MBC Finance Representative:** Mark Boon; **MBC Personnel Representative:** Debbie Deason; **Prayer Coordinator:** DeAnna Stanley; **Professional Representative:** Joanie Harris, LPC; **MBC Members:** Mike Burns, Jan Sansom; **Local Pastors:** Connor Bales, Lead Pastor of New Beginnings Baptist, Todd Malone, Sr. Pastor, Fellowship Bible; **Local Professionals:** Dr. Joey and Lisa Degraffenried, East Texas Implant and Surgical Center, Dr. Chip Hodges, Texas Oncology.
- To lead in the upcoming CR Leadership Retreat – that it will be a time of rejuvenation and growth for the leaders who will be attending, the Lord will guide the steps of these leaders in the future of CR and the excitement from the retreat will carry on after we arrive home.
- For impact at the Empowered to Connect Conference and simulcast on April 5–6. Pray the conference will be well attended nationwide, and the Lord will raise up leaders to champion the cause of the vulnerable children in our nation and bring hurting families back to Him.
- To bless our local child placing agencies (foster children placing agencies such as CPS, Buckner Children and Family Services, etc.). Pray they will have an abundance of Christian homes that will bring hope to children in their heartbreak, caseworkers will find solace in the Lord in the difficult situation they work through and the judges and lawyers will hear the Lord's guidance in placing children.
- To encourage our Thrive! Volunteers. Pray our current volunteers will feel the love of the Lord and the hope their work provides children and families even in the dark times, and our future volunteers will heed the call the Lord is preparing their hearts for at the appropriate time.
- To provide future participants, and give them the courage to come and get the support they need so they might come to know Him better and find their rest in His everlasting hope and faithfulness and those participants might be a witness of His glory in their communities.
- To be sufficient for Laney and Jon Wootten as they bond with and care for their newborn 6th child, and 2nd with special needs. Pray for baby Mabel's medical journey.
- To provide in the Marshall campus worship gatherings as Laney is out with the newborn.
- For the opportunity to build a ministry to the Marshall High athletic program.
- To supply servant leaders for young adult ministry in Marshall.
- To lead in the launch of a new adult Connect Group in Marshall.
- To reveal a solution to the Marshall Upward program involving our 5th-8th grade division (struggling to keep kids registered)
- To change 30-plus lives with a first time profession of faith at our Marshall community-wide friend night gathering @ ETBU.
- to provide for the financial need for several of our Marshall students regarding Summer camp in 2019. Pray God will provide a way financially for these students to experience a life-changing week.
- To lead the Marshall children's ministry as they host a family night (April 17), where they will share the Hope of the gospel.

- To nurture seeds which will be sewn through the Upward sports ministry in Marshall in the next few weeks.
- To help each member of Mobberly en Español to be intentional about bringing ONE lost person to church on Easter Sunday.
- To encourage Julian, Bryan and Roberto, as they start their faith journey and the Mobberly en Español family will be able to follow up effectively to help them grow.
- To provide a smooth transition for several new staff administrative assistants.
- To bless our church planters. We have had a few launched recently. This is a time of year that is typical for churches to launch.

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.

"³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you."

1 Peter 1:3-4 (CSB)