

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

ISAIAH 62:6 [ESV]

WATCHMAN ON THE WALL

Standing Guard Through Prayer

Dear Watchman,

We cannot take this assignment lightly. Standing guard as a watchman underscores the priority we understand for the supernatural work of God through His church. This spring, we have witnessed tremendous numbers of people experiencing “life-change.” Please join me in praying for our entire church to individually continue in their pursuit to be “ever-growing” in relationship with Jesus Christ.

As Watchman, we stand guard with the immense responsibility to lift up new believers while praying for the continued maturation of seasoned saints. Angela Merici said, “Consider that the devil does not sleep, but seeks our ruin in a thousand ways.” Our work of prayer is not weekly, but daily (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Aren’t we thankful that the people of God at Mobberly are praying around the clock? In fact, I’m going to ask you to incorporate a simple **A-B-C** outline in your daily prayers this month (see below).

Summer is not the season to scale back or coast. Our prayers are needed more than ever. For example, as you’ll notice in this Watchman alert, just to name a few: Many church members will be taking the gospel far and wide, so we must pray for these mission trips; we need to lift up our current staff and future staff team that God has called to serve here; we need to pray for consistent giving and serving during the diverse summer schedules; we have to pray for families to seize their summer days intentionally in making disciples at home.

I’m reminded of our role as guardians of the gospel. When Paul exhorted Timothy, he reminded him: “*For this gospel I was appointed a herald, apostle, and teacher, and that is why I suffer these things. But I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that day.*” (2 Timothy 1:11-12). In this vein, in addition to our weekly hour on the wall, I’m asking all Watchmen to pray the following **A-B-C’s EVERY DAY** in our own prayer times.

- Pray for **A**wareness – to see how God is always at work around us, in us and through us (Col. 1:16-17; Phil. 2:12-13)
- Pray for **B**oldness – to speak for God, we must first speak with God (Acts 4:31; Col. 4:6)
- Pray for **C**larity – to carry out His will, we must know His will (Eccl. 2:13; James 1:5)



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

- God is trustworthy.
- Psalm 9:10 (CSB): *“Those who know your name trust in you because you have not abandoned those who seek you, Lord.”*
- Psalm 33:4 (CSB): *“For the word of the Lord is right, and all his work is trustworthy.”*
- Isaiah 12:2 (CSB): *“Indeed, God is my salvation; I will trust him and not be afraid, for the Lord, The Lord himself, is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.”*

Praise the Lord:

- Fred Jennings will be leading as a volunteer in helping to coordinate our Men’s Ministry efforts. Pray that God will lead and use Fred as we seek to engage men in following the Lord and leading their families.
- The Watson Family (Brandon, Claire, Alex and Allison) has found a house here in Longview.
- God moved in the hearts and lives of kids during our Easter Kids Night and through the Power Team.
- For continued protection of our kids while they are in our care.
- For the beautiful facilities and amazing resources, we have to help kids experience, know and understand God’s truths.
- For our upcoming preschool open house on June 2, as we share with our church family all the ways God has blessed us.
- For the adult leaders who faithfully serve in our children’s ministry. Ask God to help them see the blessings and fruit of their service.
- The youth ministry continues to see lots of students coming to Christ on Wednesday nights.
- A record number of students are going to youth camps this year.
- The college ministry ended the school year with a great deal of excitement and momentum.
- Over 100 senior adults ministered to more than 70 of Mobberly’s homebound members, along with their families and care givers, through the Home Bound Fish Fry. Pray for new Care Friends that will reach out to MBC’s homebound on an ongoing basis.
- God has called and provided a women’s ministry coordinator, Catharine Griffin, for our Marshall campus. Pray for Catharine as she comes alongside our Minister to Women, Alyssa, and Marshall Campus Pastor, Geoffrey, and equips and empowers women at our Marshall campus to take their next steps in serving His Church.
- For “K”, a lady residing at House of Hope, one of our local women’s shelters. “K” re-dedicated her life at Easter, joined Mobberly a week later and was baptized in May at the I Am Not Ashamed baptism celebration Sunday. We praise Him for her fervor and desire to connect with Him as she serves as an encouragement to other women in her boldness and consistency.
- For the new Generation Team that met in May, consisting of ladies from high school through senior adults, who are prayerfully at work to assess how we can better: minister to the lost, minister to our church membership and consistently bring all generations together as they explore becoming godly women.
- God blessed our Power Team events in our local schools and the night time performances as the team shared the gospel to all ages.
- For unselfish MBC members who gave of their time and resources to help our community recover from the storm damage.
- Hope Road continues to see increasing opportunities to walk with people from across East Texas and church planters and missionaries in other states along a path of hope and healing. Weekly sessions have grown from 303 in January to 398 in May.
- For three churches that are now partnering with Hope Road financially: Fellowship Bible, New Beginnings Baptist and High Ridge Church. Others are currently considering a partnering agreement.

- Dr. Larry Crabb will be coming September 26-28, to East Texas. He will conduct a staff training day for our Hope Road Team, lead a Ministry Leader Conference at Mobberly and speak at a HRC Supporter Appreciation Dinner.
- Arturo Morales, LPC intern, has completed his internship and is now a fully Licensed LPC counselor.
- Thrive!, in partnership with the Department of Protective Services, is working to develop substantial and lasting interventions for at-risk families utilizing evidenced-based practices through a Biblical lens.
- The Grief Share Support Group began a new session on May 13.
- Praise the Lord for seeds planted and decisions made during Power Team programs in the Marshall area.
- Praise the Lord for providing coaches and participants for Marshall's first Upward soccer season this spring.
- Praise the Lord for so much interest in our upcoming fall Upward Football season on the Marshall campus. Josh Boyd can't plan it fast enough with as much interest as we're currently getting from new families wanting to get their kids playing, or new volunteers wanting to get plugged into serving.
- Praise God for students that have been convicted and led to develop their personal walk with God on a deeper and more profound level this summer with our journey discipleship on the Marshall campus. Students started the "Journal Challenge" this past month (the goal is for them to record their spiritual journey this season through prayer journaling, notes from a Bible study or connect group, or personal thoughts from meditating on scripture). It's a pretty big goal, but they're so pumped about digging deeper in their faith.
- For the 24 (mostly children and 2 adults) who surrendered their lives to Jesus through our annual Día del Niño (Children's Day) Spanish Outreach on May 4.
- For the nine members from Mobberly Español who were baptized on I'm Not Ashamed Day!
- Two have placed their trust in Jesus for a saving relationship with Him during the Tuesday morning Family Services Ministry since our last Watchman report! Pray for these new believers as they begin their walk with Christ: Charles and Patience.

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 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 provide for staff vacancies that we are diligently working to fill.
- To lead in some staff transitions as they continue to evolve.

- For power and protection for our missions area, as we have we have a couple of missions teams who are currently out serving, and several who are preparing to go in the near future.
- For Tim Whedbee, Mindy Avedikian and volunteers as they take 26 people to SonPower, a youth choir and worship conference in Nashville, TN June 16-21. The students will be singing, participating in mission projects and building relationships while there. Pray for safety for the group travelling there and back.
- For a good turnout from our church and community for the Patriotic Celebration on July 3. We want our community to have fun with their families celebrating our freedoms through a great experience at Mobberly.
- To fill and guide Connect leadership as we continue to lead, plan and share vision.
- For excitement and attendance at the Preschool Open House on Sunday, June 2.
- To lead in continued follow-up with kids from our Easter Kids Night event and Power Team presentations who came forward to talk about salvation. We want to be sensitive to kids who are taking steps of faith and make sure the Holy Spirit is moving in their lives so that they fully understand their need for salvation and the decision they are making.
- For great discipleship for kids who have made salvation decisions that they may grow in their faith daily.
- For Vacation Bible School (VBS) on June 24-26; 6:00-8:30 p.m. Pray for volunteers and for the prep work.
- For our summer ministry programs: VBS, Camp in the City and Preteen Camp. Pray that kids will hear and experience the gospel in clear ways and that the Holy Spirit will move in the lives of kids who are ready to accept Christ as their Savior.
- For adult leadership on Sunday mornings throughout the summer. With summer schedules it is often difficult to adequately staff our classrooms on Sunday mornings. Ask God to lead people to step in and serve during the summer months.
- For new children's ministry leaders for the fall.
- For youth camps this summer: High School (June 5-9) and Junior High (June 10-14). Pray for safety, salvations, connecting with God, students called to ministry and unity in the youth group.
- That the college ministry will have success in recruiting seniors to be a part of this ongoing ministry.
- That God will lead in the process of discipling summer students in the college ministry.
- For inter-generational ministry opportunities taking place between Mobberly's senior adults and students this summer.
- To continue to raise up and call those women He would have serve on the Women's Ministry Core Leadership Team.
- That our June 3, *Better Together* summer women's event would spark fresh new relationship and continued conversations on what it means to develop rich, lasting and godly friendship. Ask that women would push past loneliness and seek opportunities to be vulnerable and authentic with other women.
- For our women's summer opportunities to refresh and renew our women's hearts and minds to guard the gospel and give it away with more vigor than ever before.
- For many people to participate in our two June Engage Events: Wed., June 12, at 6 p.m. for Engage Follow-up Visitation and Wed., June 19 for our Vacation Bible School Blitz.
- To encourage Mobberly members to continue to engage others in sharing Christ throughout the summer months.

- To provide daily wisdom and protection for our Hope Road Counselors: Sonya Reeder, Russ Montgomery, RJ Ferguson, Jamie Vanbiber, Tony Puckett, Steve Archer, Arturo Morales, Ashley McMahan, Justin Robinson, Gregg Zackary and Administrative Staff: Joni Bailey, Sarah Smitherman, Kayla Zackary. For continued financial provision to offer financial assistance to Hope Road Counseling clients who cannot afford the regular counseling fees.
- For wisdom to offer not only counseling but training and support to partner church staffs and leaders who want to participate with Hope Road Counseling.
- To lead our local Child Placing Agencies (foster children placing agencies such as CPS, Buckner Children and Family Services, etc.). Ask that they will have an abundance of Christian homes that will bring hope to children in their heartbreak, that caseworkers will find solace in the Lord in the difficult situations that they work through, and that the judges and lawyers hear the Lord's guidance in placing children.
- To provide for our Thrive! volunteers – that current volunteers will find rest over the break and be ready to bring hope to children and families in the fall, and that our future volunteers will heed the call that the Lord is preparing in their hearts at the appropriate time.
- To provide courage for our future support ministry participants to come and get the support that they need so that they might come to know Him better and find their rest in His everlasting hope and faithfulness. Ask that those participants might be a witness of His glory in their communities.
- For our church family to go forth boldly and embrace the hurting that walk through our church doors. Pray that these relationships will blossom into paths of support to bring people to the Lord and strengthen families in our community.
- That Celebrate Recovery would continue to experience growth and provide a healthy place for the hurting to find a healing, and develop or deepen their relationship with the Lord.
- That Celebrate Recovery leadership will continue to grow in the Lord to provide strong ministry leadership and remain firm in their recovery while leading others to find healing in the Lord.
- That more leaders to be identified and equipped at the Marshall campus.
- To help the weeknight Connect Groups in Marshall to build momentum through summer.
- That the Marshall campus would experience 10 baptisms this Summer.
- To lead in the follow-up and discipleship of those in Marshall who made decisions in April and May.
- To give wisdom and creativity in using our Marshall space as we continue to grow and more preschool and children's classes are added in the coming months.
- That many unchurched to respond to our invitations to Marshall VBS.
- To guide in the many details of planning and preparing for VBS on our Marshall campus.
- That He would allow our Marshall students to be empowered over these next several weeks of being out of school. Satan is going to work his hardest to distract these students and distort the progress God is making in their lives. Pray that their hearts would be in-tune with God's will for their lives. Pray also for safety as we travel to and from events, retreats and youth camp.
- To do a mighty work on our Marshall campus this summer as we try to build an environment that is so welcoming for families and that we would encourage people to love one another as Christ loves us-unconditionally.
- For our upcoming Mobberly En Español summer conferences for men, women and worship teams. Ask that God will use these times for refreshing and learning.
- For God to speak to Calixto and Mobberly En Español leaders as he takes some much needed time to pray about the future of this ministry and his role in it.

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.

"¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald, apostle, and teacher, ¹²and that is why I suffer these things. But I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that day."

2 Timothy 1:11-12 (CSB)