

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

ISAIAH 62:6 [ESV]

WATCHMAN ON THE WALL

Watchman Special Update – March 2020

Watchman Prayer Warriors,

We want to provide updated information to guide you in your prayers through the month of March. April's Watchman On The Wall alert will provide new information as well when it is published by April 1. Until then, see below some specific items of prayer for you. You can also see updates at mobberly.org/corona and mobberly.org/pray. Thank you for continuing to be faithful in praying...it makes a difference!



Greg Martin
Pastor of Congregational Care

Prayers For These Times

2 Timothy 1:7 says, “*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*” As believers, we have the authority which Christ has given us to pray about the spread of any disease and to pray for healing for those who have the Corona Virus.

- Praise God for His sovereignty. He is and always will be in control of all things. Pray that we will trust Him to help us navigate this season of uncertainty.
- Ask God, in His mercy, to stop this pandemic and save lives -- not only in our communities but around the world, particularly in places that are unequipped medically to deal with the virus. (Isaiah 59:1-2)
- Scripture says: Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts. Pray that the Lord will give us wisdom in this moment of fear as the foundations of what we know are shaken, that others would realize how fragile life is and how real eternity is, and they would see their need to turn to God. (Psalms 90:12)
- Ask God to protect our missionaries and their families around the globe, using this global crisis to advance His Good News to the whole world. (Mark 16:15)

- Pray for wisdom for governmental leaders, the CDC, researchers, other medical personnel, leaders in churches and other strategic places to have the wisdom to direct us in the best courses of action for prevention and care. (Romans 13:1-4).
- Pray for the protection of doctors, nurses, crisis response teams, emergency first responders, researchers and other medical professionals who risk their lives to protect ours.
- Pray for comfort and healing for those stricken with this virus. Pray they will receive the quality health care they need to regain health and strength. Pray for their healing and for a treatment to cure and eradicate this virus.
- Pray for peace, calmness, freedom from fear, anxiety and panic among individuals and communities.

There are several ways to stay connected at Mobberly:

- Visit mobberly.org.
- View Worship Gatherings online at mobberly.org/online.
- Use [Pushpay](https://www.pushpay.com) or other giving options listed at mobberly.org/give.
- Stay connected with our social media accounts at [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).
- Subscribe to our [email news](#) list.
- Visit mobberly.org/pray to submit prayer requests or pray for others
- If needed, we will use these channels to communicate additional information.

Mobberly Worship Gatherings Online-Only for March 22 & 29

- We are monitoring the closing of schools and large gatherings in our area, and are talking to community leaders and officials. Therefore, our gatherings will be streamed online.
- Pray that the Mobberly family will gather together online each week until we are able to gather together physically again.

We have canceled or postponed all activities at our campuses through Sunday, March 29.

- Please continue to pray for our church, community, country and everyone dealing with this outbreak.

Events which have been postponed or canceled include, but are not limited to:

- **Marriage Moments** on March 18 has been canceled.
- **She Stands – SBTC Women’s Conference** on March 21, has been postponed. We will work with the SBTC to find another date.
- **Upward Sports** is postponed until March 30, when we expect to resume practices and games. The season will shift to accommodate the weeks that were missed. Our current projection is that the season will end on May 16
- **Man Church**, hosted at Mobberly, on March 23 has been canceled.
- **Ladies Bible Studies** scheduled to start the week of March 16 have been postponed. Check back for new start dates.
- **Family Services Ministry** on Tuesday mornings has been suspended for March 17 and 24.

- **Challenge Weekend** for our students on March 22 has been postponed.
- **Father/Son Night** on March 29 is postponed.
- **Malawi Mission Trip** for adults scheduled for May has been canceled.
- **Special Ministries Fishing Derby** on March 21 has been canceled.
- **Senior Adult Branson Trip** scheduled for April 21-25 has been canceled.
- **Divorce Care, Grief Share, Adoptive Mom's Sanity Group, Homecoming: Calming Chaos (TBRI) support group** are all canceled through the end of this semester.

We will continue to follow city, state and federal guidelines regarding all health concerns and communications and update mobberly.org/corona.

Hearing and Following

Dear Watchman,

Have you ever picked up the phone thinking you were talking to a certain person only to realize there was someone else on the line that you didn't expect? How well do you know someone else's voice? Jesus said, "*My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow Me*" (John 10:27). Every Christian hungers to hear and recognize God's voice, but our eagerness to hear from Him rarely matches our willingness to obey Him.

As we spend time during our hour as Watchmen each week in March, consider using this simple outline to help you develop a habit for hearing from God. The more time we spend listening, the easier it will be to obey. The fact is God does speak to people today. God wants to guide you in those issues, but you've got to be tuned into Him. The prophet, Habakkuk stated, "*I will stand at my guard post and station myself on the lookout tower. I will watch to see what He will say to me and what I should reply about my complaint. The Lord answered me: Write down this vision; clearly inscribe it on tablets so one may easily read it...*" (Habakkuk 2:1-2).

I wonder how many times God speaks to us but we can't hear Him over the sound of our own voice. Here are five habits you can employ to be sure you hear God clearly:

WITHDRAW: Get alone in a quiet place.

Habakkuk says, "*I will climb my watchtower.*" That's a Hebrew expression that means, "I'm going to get alone by myself, eliminating external distractions so I can hear God speak." Find a quiet place alone. In today's world that can be difficult. "*Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed*" (Luke 5:16). We need to turn off the phone. (Be sure to catch Pastor Paul Coleman's sermon on March 8 on how to set limits on technology.) After you get in a quiet spot, you need to quiet yourself.

WAIT: Calm your thoughts and emotions.

Waiting means to calm your thoughts and emotions. Habakkuk says "*I will station myself.*" The Good News Version says, "*I will wait.*" Literally, "don't move, be still." The reason many of us don't hear God is we're too busy. The late E.M. Bounds wrote, "Hurry is the death of prayer." Instead of squeezing God into 60 seconds, let's squeeze our schedule to wait for 60 minutes. If you're in a hurry, you're not going to hear God speak. You must withdraw, then wait in silence.

We all face the propensity of finally sitting down in a quiet place but find our minds racing with all the unfinished tasks to do. The devil will make sure your mind stays cluttered when you pray. When your mind starts bouncing from subject to subject you can't hear God. When you sit down to pray, consider taking a small note pad, too; when something pops into your head, just stop and write it down and get back to praying.

WATCH: Let God give you a mental picture.

Habakkuk said *"I will watch to see what He says to me."* Listening to someone requires our ears, but Habakkuk said "watch," which requires our eyes. Why did he say this? An important key to hearing God is to understand that God's voice is often visual. If you'll grasp this, it will open up a whole new area of your life in relationship to Christ.

Sitting in a dark prison cell, the Apostle Paul prayed for his beloved friends: *"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know the hope to which He has called you"* (Ephesians 1:18). Have you ever been reading a verse you've read a dozen times but then suddenly, it seems to lift itself off the page in a fresh way? That's how God opens your spiritual eyes.

Jesus told Nicodemus, *"Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of heaven."* There is an unseen part of reality visible only with our spiritual eyes. None of us can see God here but He's more real than the room you are sitting in today. He wants us to see from His view.

WRITE: Record the ideas you receive.

Our prayer life can fall into a rut. Even in an exercise like the Watchman, simply reciting the same words each time can allow our minds to "check out." Perhaps that's why God told Habakkuk *"Write down this vision; clearly inscribe it on tablets so one may easily read it"* (Habakkuk 2:2). The solution to break out of a spiritual rut can be as simple as writing out your prayers as you think them. This is called journaling.

If you want an example of this, almost all the book of Psalms is David's own journal. Journaling keeps your mind alert and your thoughts focused. Jotting down your prayers allows you to remember what you've said to God and what He said back to you.

WORSHIP: Thank God for speaking to you.

The last action Habakkuk took part in was worshipping God. *"Lord, I stand in awe of Your deeds"* (Habakkuk 3:2). The most positive habit you can have in any season of waiting is to burst forth in praise and worship to God. Reflecting on all God has done in you and for you and through you enables you to exude the confidence that God is STILL at work - even during the silent seasons. Praise Him for His faithfulness! Worship Him with your whole heart. The more you focus on filling your heart with praise, the less room your mind will have for worry.

The final Sunday of March will be an exciting time of worship as we plunge back into the depths of Romans. I ask you to pray for me as I preach on March 29 a message entitled, "Great is Thy Faithfulness" from Romans 3:1-8.



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

- God is our Shepherd.
 - **Psalm 23:1-3 (CSB):** *“¹The Lord is my shepherd; I have what I need. ²He lets me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. ³He renews my life; He leads me along the right paths for His name’s sake.”*
 - **Isaiah 40:11 (NIV):** *“¹He tends His flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart; He gently leads those that have young.”*
 - **Revelation 7:17 (CSB):** *“¹⁷For the Lamb who is at the center of the throne will shepherd them; He will guide them to springs of the waters of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”*

Praise the Lord:

- For a new counselor at Hope Road Counseling, Julie Ford, LPC.
- 100+ people in our community are finding connection and hope through GriefShare, DivorceCare, Adoptive Moms, Calming Chaos (foster families) and Celebrate Recovery groups each Monday night.
- He has strategically placed new leaders on our Thrive! support ministry team with diverse skillsets to support the growth of our programs.
- Several Mobblerly families are exploring their roles in caring for foster children and families in our community and abroad.
- The Great Marriage Weekend brought much encouragement to couples in our church and in our community.
- He is using our “Engage: Who’s Your One?” class activities to see people saved! Recently 3 people were saved on an engage visit, and many gospel conversations and invitations to Mobblerly are happening.
- God is using our college, women’s, youth, young adult, and senior adult ministries who are joining us on Wednesday nights in engage to learn more and in turn share their faith more.
- Our community is hearing the gospel through Mobblerly people providing quarters for laundry and gift cards for those we pray with concerning their needs.
- Over 400 kids are registered for Upward Soccer – 348 in Longview and 62 in Marshall. Praise the Lord for many families that will be impacted with the gospel through sports.
- For the eight professions of faith, three baptisms, and 65 weekly average attendance in seven weeks at Billy Moore, our newest campus.
- For His never-ending grace in my, Teddy Sorrells, life and the ministries I lead at Mobblerly.
- For a great start for student choir, and that they have already sung with the Mobblerly adult choir on a Sunday morning!
- For the Worship Collective & Interest Meeting on Sunday, March 1. For a great time of teaching, training and fellowship.
- For R.B. who has overcome fear and scheduled baptism in March in Marshall.
- For children who invited friends for this year’s Friend Day on the Marshall campus (including a family who has attended each Sunday since Friend Day).
- Our Baby Blessing event on Feb. 16 was a huge blessing to seven families.
- For our leaders in our children’s New Christian Class as they lead kids in understanding more deeply their decision to follow Christ.
- For our faithful children’s ministry leaders on Sundays and Wednesdays. We could not teach or care for the kids that attend our programs without our amazing volunteers!
- He blessed Spark Weekend – almost 300 students attending in 36 Host Homes. We had four students accept Christ and many other decisions of repentance and recommitment.

- For the youth ministry's Wednesday night series with counselors from Hope Road. God used this series to help students dealing with depression and anxiety issues.
- Several young adult men in the singles connect group have been broken by the Lord about the way they have been living life.
- He has sent us several new college students that are looking for a place to serve.
- For a new volunteer leading worship at Mobberly's outreach ministry to the residents of Brookdale Senior Living.
- He is working through the study of Romans in our Connect Groups.
- He blessed a great group in the "Love and Logic" Parenting class. One mom shared she was at her wit's end and applying these lessons brought calm and peace to their family.
- For the women who came to our Open Door Living event on Biblical hospitality, and for our guest speaker, Jen Schmidt. It was a great day with a challenge to walk away living openly and sacrificially for the sake of the gospel. There were multiple languages, generations and members of the community who attended.
- For the leaders He is raising up in women's ministry who have a heart to guard the authority of God's Word while teaching women how to fall in love with it, who desire to daily surrender in a posture of humility and who seek to live open and sacrificial lives for the sake of the gospel and God's glory.
- Five people have responded to the call to salvation through Mobberly's Tuesday morning Family Services Ministry team since our last Watchman report! Pray for these new believers as they grow in Christ: Robbie, Jenny, Maliakaia, Christopher and Dexter.

Repent: Of sins committed and commands neglected.

Our ongoing sins disrupt 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. 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 bless Jamie Vanbiber, counselor at Hope Road Counseling, as she takes chemo treatments.
- To guide, strengthen and encourage the Hope Road Counseling team.
- To help those in our community feeling marginalized to encounter and embrace the love of Jesus and the hope that only He can provide.
- To strengthen the foster families in our community in their ministry, provide encouragement on their path and surround them with a circle of care to meet the needs of their families.
- To protect the hearts and minds of our Thrive! support group leaders and provide strength and encouragement in their ministry.

- To lead our spring Thrive! for Kids and Thrive! for Students volunteers – that the Lord will guide their steps and prepare their hearts for the journey
- To protect our Thrive! leadership teams from the enemy’s attacks, and lead them to depend on the Lord’s guidance to navigate the journey.
- To bless the Spring Blend Conference, allowing it to bring relevant training and encouragement while bathing our participating foster families in the love of Jesus.
- To help us reach our church-wide goals for “Who’s Your One?” for every Mobberly attender:
 - Each person has a “one”.
 - Each person has a gospel outline card.
 - Each person can say their 15 second testimony.
 - Each person can use Romans 6:23 to share the gospel.
- **POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH 30...For additional coaches for Upward Soccer. Pray for strength and spiritual guidance for all of the Upward Soccer coaches.**
- **ACCESS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED...To continue to empower and strengthen the work He has started at the Billy Moore Campus.**
- To bless our planning for 2020 Mobberly mission trips.
- To bless, guide and protect all those who are going on mission with us at Mobberly and going on mission with other organizations.
- To protect our Pastor Glynn as he continues to lead Mobberly.
- To provide Decision Prayer Partners (DPP’s) to help counsel new members and those who respond at Sunday worship gatherings and special events. We will need DPP’s for Easter with our special gatherings.
- To bless Mobberly en Español and provide continued direction for its leadership.
- That many new students will want to come and get involved in the student choir and this ministry of leading worship.
- **CANCELLED...To bless the Union University choir and instrumentalists as they travel to be with us in worship on March 22. Pray this will be an encouraging time for our church and in these students’ lives.**
- That new leaders will step into place in all areas of ministry in Marshall.
- To guide us as we make plans to reach new people in Marshall during the Easter season.
- For the salvation of A.S. (Marshall).
- **POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH 30...That He will do a mighty work throughout our Upward Soccer season in Marshall, and that He would bless our volunteers as they serve our community and our families. We rejoice that God provided the perfect amount of kids and volunteers in Marshall this year! Answered prayer for sure!**
- That God will continue to convict, build and grow our student ministry in Marshall. Ask that He would allow some student-leaders to rise up and be courageous and bold for their faith and be strong witnesses in their schools and homes.
- To provide several new leaders needed at our 11:00 hour in the preschool ministry.
- To bless our special Children’s Baptism Day on March 1. Pray for the kids that will that the step of obedience through baptism. Pray for their hearts and lives to grow in the wisdom of God’s Word daily.
- To help parents as they lead their children to grow and understand spiritual truths. May they be confident and faithful to lead and share God’s Word daily with their kids.
- To provide continued health for our kids, parents and leaders. Pray for protection for their bodies physically to stay strong and healthy during this season.
- To provide safety, strength and spiritual victories on the youth Spring Break mission trips:
 - Junior high is going to Waco

- High school is going to Phoenix
- POSTPONED...To use the Youth Ministry's American Ninja Warrior Day on March 22. Jared Greer (3-time competitor on American Ninja Warrior) will be sharing the gospel with our students, followed by an obstacle course open for students to go through. We are praying that our students will bring their friends for this day.
- To provide more adult volunteers on Wednesday night at Elevation.
- To work in the lives of young families that are separated, praying that God would restore marriages.
- That Passion Week outreach will be a focused time of seeing young adults come to know Christ.
- To help Connect Group leaders realize that they are making a huge impact on people.
- To raise up Connect Group leaders for the Pathfinders Connect Group.
- To provide additional leaders to serve with Mobberly's Adult Special Ministries Group on a permanent or rotational basis.
- To help more leadership development in our Connect Groups.
- To provide a deepening of relationships and community in our Connect Groups.
- To continue to develop all of us through the Romans study.
- To help more people who are not currently associated in a Connect Group to become involved with one.
- POSTPONED...To bless the March 21 Southern Baptist of Texas Convention's regional, "She Stands" conference. Mobberly is hosting it on the Longview campus this year. Pray that women from all churches in East Texas come and are encouraged, empowered and equipped to do the work of the saints in their respective communities.
- To lead the women's team who is writing a Bible study for the women of Mobberly in effort to teach them how to study the Word in their own homes (to be rolled out this summer). Pray that their minds are clear, their hearts are discerning and that they write with expectation that God is speaking.
- To guide the Men's Ministry Leadership Council as we try to discern what God wants us to do with the Men's Ministry at Mobberly.

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, which 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.

"My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me."

John 10:27 [CSB]
