

*"On your walls,  
O Jerusalem I have  
set watchmen  
all the day and  
all the night."*

Isaiah 62:6

# WATCHMEN ON THE WALL

**National Day of Prayer Gathering  
Mobberly Baptist Church  
Thursday, May 6 (noon)**

## Something to Chew On

Watchmen Prayer Warriors,

Through the kindness of a gracious, dear friend, I was privileged to attend the **Mayor's Prayer Breakfast** on April 16, where **Dr. Tony Evans** was the guest speaker. I want to share out of that overflow some of the powerful thoughts regarding prayer that Dr. Evans shared with us.

Speaking from **2 Chronicles 15:1-7**, Dr. Evans noted the eerily similar parallels between what was happening in the divided nation of Israel around 900 BC and what is happening in our community, nation and world today. The problems then and the problems today (physical, financial, political, racial, etc.) are, at their heart, spiritual problems. Just as described in v. 3, there are today three root causes for these problems. First, there is **no true God**. Instead, each person makes up their own god(s) to look to as their source of meaning. Second, there are **no "teaching priests."** Spiritual leadership in our land too often bows before culture and does not communicate God's truth. Third, there is **no instruction**. The Bible has ceased to be the standard – the moral plumb line – for the answers to life's questions. As Judges 21:25b states, "everyone did whatever seemed right to him."

As a result, stress and distress have come upon our world. Note that v. 5 says there is no peace because the land had many conflicts. More telling, v. 6 says that "God troubled them with every possible distress." Wow! God allows our world to become stressful in order to get us to turn our eyes and our hearts towards Him. As C. S. Lewis says, God "shouts to us in our pains."

The solution is stated twice in this passage. In v.3, the prophet Azariah says, "If you **seek [God]**, He will be found by you." Verse 4 says, "When they **turned to the Lord God** of Israel in their distress and sought Him, He was found by them." The answer is to turn to God in humility and repentance. This begins with God's people (2 Chronicles 7:14) and radiates out to a lost and hopeless world.

So what does it mean for our prayer life, Mobberly Watchmen? As you pray through this month's praises and requests, intercede for lost people, for hurting families, for a stressed community and a divided nation. **Pray hard, my friends.** May our prayers call down what Dr. Evans called "an atmosphere" of God's presence – thick with His mercy and grace in response to hearts of repentance. May His presence be evidenced by God's people living as the authentic hands and feet of God in a world that needs believers who do more than advertise love but instead act in love.

Dr. Evans closed with the thought that on Sept. 11, 2001, there were 19 men who changed the world forever because of their deep belief in and commitment to a false god. **Imagine what God can do** with hundreds or thousands of people just as deeply committed to the one true God. May the revival, which can take place in East Texas and our nation, begin here. **Pray hard, my friends!**



Greg Martin  
Pastor of Congregational Care

### **Special Prayers for All in 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 Christ has given us to pray about the spread of any disease and pray for healing for those who have the Coronavirus.

- 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 also around the world, particularly in places unequipped medically to deal with the virus. (Isaiah 59:1-2)
- 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. Scripture says: “*Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts.*” (Psalm 90:12)
- Ask God to protect our missionaries and their families around the world, using this global crisis to advance His Good News to all nations. (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 needed to regain health and strength. Pray for healing and for a treatment to cure and eradicate this virus.
- Pray for the effectiveness of the vaccines that are being distributed.
- Pray for peace, calmness, freedom from fear, anxiety and panic among individuals and communities.
- Pray for racial understanding, peace and harmony. Pray that every person, each an image-bearer of God, would experience justice and protection. Pray for an end to violent confrontations.

### **See web links below for the most up-to-date information about our campus schedules and COVID-19 guidelines.**

Here are some places on our website (all accessible from our home page at [mobberly.org](http://mobberly.org)) where you can get encouragement and information:

- View Worship Gatherings online ([mobberly.org/online](http://mobberly.org/online))
- Find information about the Pastor Search Committee and process ([mobberly.org/psc](http://mobberly.org/psc))
- Prayer concerns ([mobberly.org/pray](http://mobberly.org/pray))

- Give to the Lord through Mobberly ([mobberly.org/give](http://mobberly.org/give))
- Information about Mobberly and COVID-19 ([mobberly.org/corona](http://mobberly.org/corona))
- Stay connected with our social media accounts on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).
- Subscribe to our [email news](#) list.

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

- God responds to repentance with mercy and joy.
  - **Ezekiel 18:31-32 (CSB):** *“<sup>31</sup>Throw off all the transgressions you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. Why should you die, house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I take no pleasure in anyone’s death.” This is the declaration of the Lord God. “So repent and live!”*
  - **Luke 15:7 (CSB):** *“<sup>7</sup>I tell you, in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who don’t need repentance.”*
  - **Acts 3:18-20 (CSB):** *“<sup>19</sup>Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped out, <sup>20</sup>that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus, who has been appointed for you as the Messiah.”*

**Praise the Lord:**

- Pastor Search Committee (PSC):
  - For knitting the PSC together with humble hearts and a commitment to seek His will in moving forward in the pastor search process. James 4:1-12
  - For working in the lives of the PSC. Thank Him for His continuous provision and protection from the enemy. Ephesians 6:10-11
- For great attendance at all of our Passion Week worship gatherings. It was a blessing to see families coming back after the quarantine. Worship is better together!
- For the Hilltop Singers from East Texas Baptist University coming to lead us in worship. This group, directed by Mobberly member Cammy Burkhalter, blessed us with their beautiful acapella harmonies, but more importantly, with their vibrant spirit of worship.
- For the children and youth who led in worship using their voices, beautiful motions, and even basketball skills to honor the Lord! May God’s Word be engrained on their hearts through the lyrics of the worship songs.
- As He stirs up our lay leaders to learn, participate and engage in discipling others.
- We are seeing more first-time guests to MBC than we have seen in a year. Our GO Share class has the privilege of connecting with several new families that love our church.
- We had a New Christians Class for kids on the Marshall campus for the first time in a year and got to talk with three kids.
- In the month of April, we’ve seen people come back to the Marshall campus for the first time.
- Christian Phillips transitioned into our preteen apprentice role on the Marshall campus.
- For God’s provision of Keri Montgomery to be our new Associate Preschool Minister.
- We’ve been able to open a babies’ class at 8 a.m. because several younger families are attending that hour, and God brought the two needed volunteers.
- We’ve also been able to open an older babies room at 9:30 and 11 a.m. God provided those leaders as well.

- We are so thankful for people (families with children) returning who have been out for a while. It is good to see new and familiar faces return!
- For our faithful Children's Ministry leaders who have given their time and love to lead our kids on Sundays and Wednesdays.
- For his protection over the health of our leaders, kids and families in the Children's Ministry.
- For our student leaders. They are pacesetters for our Student Ministry. They also serve within many other ministries at Mobberly.
- For two young adult baptisms and several more young adults "in the pipe" to be baptized.
- Many young families are returning to church.
- For the sweet evening our Women's Ministry had in partnership with the College and Young Adult ministry on April 18 for an intergenerational ladies' night United Worship. The evening provided around 50 women ages 19 to 80 the ability to worship, learn and spend time sharing about God's loving work in their lives. We look forward to bridging the gap among the multiple generations of women in our church in the coming days for His glory!
- For the opportunity for an in-home group to launch on May 16 for some of our widows under age 60 to come together to study the Word and encourage one another.
- For the 30 women who stepped up desiring to serve in Women's Ministry through teaching, intergenerational ministry and care/support opportunities on our Longview and Marshall campuses.
- For the participation in the Men's Ministry breakfast April 17.
- The Thrive! support group ministry is reaching marginalized communities in our area.
- Child Protective Services (CPS) continues to partner with Thrive! to provide services to families in their care.
- For God's answers to the Hope Road staff's many personal prayer requests in these last few weeks.
- For His continued provision and guidance for Hope Road leaders and counselors with their clients and in their personal lives.
- For continued provision to allow for the maximum number of clients to be served within the time and office space currently available at Hope Road Counseling.
- Our Tuesday morning Family Services benevolence ministry continues its vital ministry. Two people put their hope in Jesus through this team's ministry since our last Watchmen report! Pray for these new believers as they grow in Christ: Alexis and Erin. Please pray for all the spiritual seeds planted in these weeks.

---

**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:**

- Pastor Search Committee (PSC):
  - To help each member of the PSC to have an overwhelming sense of God’s presence and guidance as they work through the next steps of the pastor search process. Joshua 1:9
  - To encourage our future pastor and his family to seek God’s wisdom in every area of life and decision-making. Pray that the PSC be attentive to the Lord’s wisdom.  
1 Timothy 3:1-7
- To motivate the hearts of believers in East Texas to attend the National Day of Prayer gathering on Thursday, May 6 at noon in Mobberly’s Elevation Parking Lot. Ask God to join the hearts of Christ-followers – regardless of their church – in humility, repentance, and intercession.
- To help those who still must worship online to feel very much a part of our Mobberly family each week as they worship remotely.
- To bless our GO Share-Disciple-Multiply Class as we continue to follow up with our Easter Blitz contacts.
- To guide an upcoming meeting for planning how we can integrate evangelism and discipleship into our Williams Lake area as more and more outsiders use this wonderful part of our campus.
- To bless the KidsMin Assembly on May 19 on the Marshall campus. Pray that it will be a fun night out for parents and leaders in the Children’s Ministry. Pray for connections to be made and people to engage in a new way.
- To provide summer volunteers needed on the Marshall campus as college students head home.
- To guide Keri Montgomery as she transitions to the position of Minister to Preschoolers here at Mobberly. Ask God to give her wisdom in knowing how to manage her family, time and new ministry responsibilities.
- To guide us as we transition in a couple of Children’s Ministry areas. Emily Thornton will become our new Mother’s Day Out Director (as Keri transitions to Preschool Minister), and Jessica Storey will oversee Paid Childcare Workers.
- To provide for a GREAT need for leadership on Sunday mornings in preschool and children’s classrooms during the summer. It is such a difficult time to staff our classes with people being gone for summer activities as well as moving forward from COVID. Pray for conversations we have with possible Children’s Ministry leaders. Ask for the Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts and words that we might inspire people to seek God’s will about serving with us.
  - Our Preschool area is in need of 14 adults and four teens to help put our classrooms in an optimal state. We need two adults per classroom and prefer one teen as a helper.
    - 9:30 need: four adults and three teens
    - 11 need: ten adults and one teen
- To provide wisdom as we begin to prepare for Children’s Ministry summer activities, asking that we would know exactly how to prepare for what our kids and families need.
- To bless our Student Ministry Evangelistic Friend Night on May 5. We believe its impact in the past is directly related to prayer. Pray that our students would “go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in.” Pray for souls to be added to the Kingdom on this night.
- To strengthen our students as they finish up their school year.
- To help several young adults struggling with anxiety and depression.
- To encourage more adult leaders to join our Young Adult/College team for next fall.

- To bless the launch of an in-home group for ladies in our congregation who have lost their spouses under age 60. Pray for Debbie Miller as she leads these ladies in the Word and creates the space for loving encouragement and perseverance.
- To bless the women's summer Bible study on the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5) as we plan, film and encourage women to join us in the Word this summer. Pray that women would take part and invite a friend or two to do the study with them.
- To help the Prayer Shawl and Widow to Widow ministry teams as they begin to kick back off (Prayer Shawl in May; Widow to Widow in June) after having been postponed for over a year. These two ministries re-launching will be a sweet time of reuniting and service to the Kingdom to those who truly need fellowship.
- To guide the ongoing development of current Men's Ministry discipleship groups and the formation of new groups in the coming months.
- To help the Mobberly family become more aware of the opportunities and services that the Thrive! support group ministry provides.
- To encourage the right volunteers to step into Thrive! ministries.
- To help families that are balancing health, safety, and school choices.
- To provide safety for children in vulnerable situations.
- To provide for the health and safety of our area social workers.
- To help Celebrate Recovery (CR) participants and leaders stay focused on their recovery and not let fear and anxiety overcome them.
- To encourage people dealing with the loss of meaningful human interaction during COVID.
- To help people dealing with anxieties caused by society moving back to pre-pandemic status.
- To give hope to families grieving the loss of a loved one.
- To give health and safety to the leaders, participants and families of our support groups.
- To provide wisdom and flexibility to accommodate the ebb and flow of the COVID crisis.
- To encourage each member of the Hope Road Counseling staff to seek God with their whole heart as they lead this ministry and their clients.
- To provide wisdom for the next steps with the current building option for Hope Road Counseling.
- To give continued patience and faithfulness as the Hope Road Counseling staff waits on God's timing for a new space.

---

**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 which 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 are better than ours. He knows the end from the beginning, and He loves us more than we can ever imagine.

---

*<sup>3</sup>For many years Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without instruction, <sup>4</sup>but when they turned to the Lord God of Israel in their distress and sought him, he was found by them."*

*2 Chronicles 15:3-4 [CSB]*

---