

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

Isaiah 62:6

# WATCHMEN ON THE WALL

## Praying for Freedom

Watchmen Prayer Warriors,

We live in a marvelous country...imperfect for sure, but marvelous nonetheless. We experience freedom in ways that most of the world would give everything to experience. At least for now we are free to worship together, free to pray, free to share our faith and free to do so many things that make life in America an amazing experience. Yet so many Americans are not truly free, and they don't even know it. It reminds me of the response by the Jewish people whom Jesus inferred were not truly free (John 8:31-34):

*"To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can You say that we shall be set free?" Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."*

There are people all around us, and throughout the world, who do not have chains and believe they are free. Yet they are enslaved by sin, selfishness, pleasure, addiction, past pains, future fears, caring too much or too little what others think and so many more things. While these slaveries may even seem pleasurable for a moment, they are cruel masters. Even if they don't make you "pay now" (though many do) they will always make you "pay later."

How can people be free? The truth! Jesus said in John 8:32, *"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* Later, in John 14:6, Jesus declares to Thomas, *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* Freedom came at a cost. It was the highest price ever paid in history; the perfect Son of God bearing every sin ever committed and dying to pay the wages of sin for you and for me. But He did it to set us captives free. The truth is that Jesus loves people and wants them restored to the freedom that can only be found in Him.

We have the privilege of praying for these people who desperately need freedom beyond earthly shackles and chains. We pray so often to ask God to preserve and expand the freedom we experience. Now it's time to pray intensely for those impacted by the ministries below as we seek to share the truth of Christ with them. **Pray for freedom, Watchmen!**



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.”* (Psalms 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.

- Jesus frees us to live for Him.
  - **John 15:15 (CSB):** *15I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."*
  - **2 Corinthians 5:17 (CSB):** *"17Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"*
  - **Galatians 2:20 (CSB):** *"20I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."*

## Praise the Lord:

- Pastor Search Committee (PSC):
  - For His provision and protection over the pastor search team!
  - For His provision of new candidates to get to know.
- We are able to join in person to celebrate our national freedom and celebrate the freedom we have in Christ.
- We continue to see people returning to worship in person.
- He has given our team direction for our GO Share-Disciple-Multiply Class for the fall as we plan the curriculum where participants work as a team in discipling new believers.
- More people are coming for decisions each week to our Hospitality Room. Our Decision Prayer Partners are excited to have people to pray with and to direct them to their next steps in following Jesus.
- For a fantastic Family VBS at our lake. Our families had an amazing time learning about how God comes to the RESCUE every time!
- For life change as five kids indicated they accepted Christ as their Savior during VBS.
- For the group of 11 children who just followed Jesus in believers baptism on June 27.
- For a great junior high summer camp. There were 16 salvations, 20 baptisms and lots of life change!
- For an impactful high school summer camp. Our high schoolers are fired up about living for the Lord after this impactful week!
- For Caleb Dorsey, who finished his apprenticeship with us. We are so grateful for him and pray God uses him in mighty ways in the future.
- We had a great young adult retreat the last weekend in June.
- He continues to connect young adults to MBC.
- For the return of almost all of the Adult Group Homes to Mobberly's Special Friends Connect Group, and for an amazing team of leaders that serves so faithfully each week.
- For a Spirit-filled time of worship for Mobberly's senior adults at Williams Lake...such a blessing to enjoy the land God has entrusted to Mobberly.
- For our Better Together single women's event, and the sweet time of fellowship and connections made between women in our church and our community.
- For blessing our summer women's online Bible study kick-off. So far we've seen women watch from six countries, 10 states and an average of over 200 watching each week. May His Name be made known and hearts drawn to deeper relationship with Him.
- Thrive! support ministries are reaching marginalized communities in our area.
- Child Protective Services (CPS) continues to partner with Thrive! to provide services to families in their care.

- For a productive Advisory Council meeting with Hope Road Counseling leadership, and for each council member and the wisdom, gifting, support and encouragement they bring to Hope Road.
- For a healthy and growing community among the Hope Road Counseling staff.
- For His 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.
- That Curt Thompson, a Christian psychiatrist, author and speaker will be with the Hope Road Counseling staff for their fall retreat and will also speak at a Ministry Leaders Conference on November 12, 2021, to be held at MBC.
- Our Tuesday morning Family Services benevolence ministry continues its vital ministry. Three 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: Clanecia, Victoria, and Carla. One lady who made a decision in April – Alexis – is being actively disciplined. 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):
  - For guidance as we move through the interviewing processes.
  - For discernment, wisdom, and patience as we work and wait in the process of selecting God's man in God's perfect timing.
- To impress upon the hearts of His people to volunteer. As people continue to return to in-person worship and Connect Groups, we are seeing the need for more volunteers to regularly serve around the campus in a variety of ways.
- To lead additional people to serve in the choir and orchestra as we return to a more normal schedule. We'd like to recruit more people to participate and serve.
- To bless Hamburgers and Haircuts on August 8 (5-7 pm). This is a great outreach opportunity for elementary school children and their parents to get a free haircut, a free meal, a free backpack, school supplies, as well as someone sharing the gospel with each family.
- To lead those who have made a decision to follow Christ to follow through in baptism.
- To give Children's Ministry leaders wisdom as we minister to our families.
- To continue to meet our needs for Children's Ministry leaders on Sunday mornings through the summer. As people are out on vacation or absent due to illness we will need substitutes to step in and lead and love our kids.

- To help our kids grow in their faith and personal relationship with Christ.
- To prepare the hearts of kids who will attend Preteen Camp July 23-26.
- To bless our high school team in Malawi, Africa. Pray for effectiveness in sharing the gospel and protection as they travel.
- To use other summer missions opportunities for students during the month of July.
- To lead a few adults to serve as leaders in the Young Adult/College Connect Group in the fall.
- To provide a married couple to lead the Newlywed Connect Group.
- To provide volunteers that would pick up Adult Special Friends that are in group homes where transportation is not provided.
- For CareFriends to reach out to Mobberly's homebound members as there have been many additions to this group since the pandemic began.
- To continue to guide and prepare our Women's Ministry leadership for the coming fall semester and the women He brings us to serve. Pray for relationships to continue to be built among disciples and for new women to plug in.
- To continue to bless our women's care ministries like Widow to Widow and Prayer Shawl as they begin meeting again regularly, and for new women to feel ready and safe to plug in with others who can love and serve them well.
- To allow the ManChurch service at Mobberly on July 29 to have a spiritual impact on the men of East Texas, as well as to give this group momentum again after COVID.
- To bless Serve Day on July 10. Pray that we have more people sign up, and that many will have a chance to have gospel conversations with our community.
- To bless Upward football and cheerleading as they start at the end of August. Please be praying that we get coaches and that they will have gospel conversations with their players.
- For the Mobberly family to become more aware of the opportunities and services that the Thrive! support ministry provides.
- For the right volunteers to step into Thrive! ministries.
- For guidance in families that are balancing health, safety and school choices.
- For children in vulnerable situations to be safe.
- For the health and safety of our area social workers.
- For Celebrate Recovery (CR) participants and leaders to stay focused on their recovery and not let fear and anxiety overcome them.
- For peace in people dealing with anxieties caused by society moving back to pre-pandemic status.
- For comfort in families grieving the loss of a loved one.
- For health and safety of the leaders, participants and their families of our support groups.
- For wisdom and flexibility to meet the needs of those on the fringes of our society.
- For God's people to find freedom in His wisdom.
- To raise up another woman He would have serve as a counselor at Hope Road Counseling for those requesting a female counselor.
- To raise up the person He would have serve in the front office at Hope Road Counseling.
- For continued guidance regarding the next steps with the current building option for Hope Road Counseling, as well as for continued patience and faithfulness as the staff waits on God's timing for a new space.
- To guide the Advisory Counsel for Hope Road Counseling regarding the possibility of creating a foundation for Hope Road to help fund special projects in our community.

**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 in 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.

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*<sup>31</sup> To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

*John 8:31-32 [CSB]s*

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