

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

Isaiah 62:6

# WATCHMEN ON THE WALL

## Honest with God

Watchmen Prayer Warriors,

Last month we talked about humility in prayer. But humility can only come when we also have transparency. Definitions help me understand meanings, so let's look at "transparent."

"Transparent" means free from pretense or deceit, easily detected or seen through, readily understood. To be transparent is to be totally honest in communicating.

Often we put on the "Sunday Mask" with our family, friends, or church family. When the question, "How are you doing today?" comes up our automatic response is "Great!"...even when that may be the furthest thing from the truth. We don't want people to know that we are sad or angry or confused or frustrated or hurting. We want to project the Perfectly Contented Christian image.

But do you have someone in your life with whom you can be totally transparent...admit anything, ask anything, share anything without fear of judgment or loss of love? Someone that you know loves you so much that they don't need or care about that false image we project. That is a treasured relationship, a rare gift – someone with whom you can "spill your guts" and still know that you are loved and accepted.

God is that perfect Father and Friend who can hear transparent prayers. If anyone knew how to pray transparently, it was the shepherd king David. In Psalm 62:5-8 he says, *"<sup>5</sup>Rest in God alone, my soul, for my hope comes from him. <sup>6</sup>He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I will not be shaken. <sup>7</sup>My salvation and glory depend on God, my strong rock. My refuge is in God. <sup>8</sup>**Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts before him. God is our refuge.** Selah"*

We can pour out our hearts before God. We can be as honest as the day is long and never be concerned we'll lose His love and care. Even more, He desires that we express what's truly on our hearts in transparency and humility. So what burdens your heart today? What are your fears, your weaknesses, your failures, your needs, your desires? What is your heart's longing for the Mobberly family – the people, the ministries, the kingdom impact? God cares and wants to hear it from our heart and lips. Let's get honest with God and see what He wants to do in our lives and our world. We can trust Him enough to be transparent. **Pray with transparency, Watchmen, as we open the depths of our hearts before God.**



Greg Martin  
Pastor of Congregational Care

### PRAYER OPPORTUNITY "LONGVIEW PRAYS" GATHERING

Friday, October 3 (6:45 AM)  
Mobberly Baptist Church  
Worship Center Hospitality Room  
Everyone Invited

## **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**, and **Instagram**.
- Subscribe to our **email news** list.

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

- **God knows our hearts and loves us anyway!**

- **Psalm 139:1-4 (CSB):** *<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have searched me and known me. <sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I stand up; you understand my thoughts from far away. <sup>3</sup>You observe my travels and my rest; you are aware of all my ways. <sup>4</sup>Before a word is on my tongue, you know all about it, Lord.*
- **Psalm 142:1-3a (CSB):** *<sup>1</sup>I cry aloud to the Lord; I plead aloud to the Lord for mercy. <sup>2</sup>I pour out my complaint before him; I reveal my trouble to him. <sup>3</sup>Although my spirit is weak within me; you know my way.*
- **Hebrews 4:13 (CSB):** *<sup>13</sup>No creature is hidden from him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.*

**Praise the Lord:**

- Pastor Search Committee (PSC):
  - Praise God for strengthening and encouraging the PSC members individually and collectively through an amazing year of working together to seek God's man in His time.
  - Praise God for His faithful answers to specific prayers by and on behalf of the PSC and search process.
- For blessing our Malawi Mission Team. God did mighty things through a Pastor Training Graduation, Soccer Evangelism Event, Village Evangelism and ministry to children through Child Evangelism Team in the Lighthouse Feeding centers in Mitundu and Dezda, and in schools. God is doing amazing things through our Malawian brothers and sisters as they reach their country with the gospel and make disciples.
- For the faithful missions of Jericho Road Ministries and You Turn Ministries, partnerships that pave the way for our Mobberly teams to go and participate in meaningful outreach and ministry in Malawi and Zambia.
- For business leaders in Lusaka, Zambia and surrounding areas who gathered to be trained in knowing and naming their unique life call and setting ninety day goals based on this discovery. They were so grateful and embracing of this biblical training.
- For what He did for us on the cross, and that we were able to remember what He did through the observance of the Lord's Supper in September.
- For the next generation God is raising up through Mobberly. What a joy to see and commit to pray for families with new babies in our Baby Blessing!
- For a special Night of Worship and Prayer on Sept. 26 in which Bryant Wright taught on the Lord's Prayer. It was a great time of worship and prayer using the Lord's Prayer as our guide.
- The discipleship equipping in GO Share/Disciple/Multiply is off to a great start for those attending.
- Several teams in our GO Share/Disciple/Multiply journey are now engaging in an ongoing discipleship relationship with new Christians as well as some who do not yet know Christ.
- For weekly provision in our Children's Ministry. He proves His faithfulness every Sunday and Wednesday.
- For another 15 kids enrolled in the New Christians class who are ready to learn more about the decision they made.
- For faithful leaders for our ministry programs with children.
- For the amazing resources we have (buildings, supplies, people) to help us share life changing truth and love to kids and families.

- For the students that trusted Christ the past month, as well as the ones that took the step of obedience in baptism.
- For the adult volunteers God has placed in our student ministry.
- For leading in the re-launching of the Newlywed Connect Group, and providing Tim and Cathy Brown to lead that ministry.
- Our young adults are doing a phenomenal job of reaching out and connecting their peers to the local church.
- Several guests have visited the Young Adult and Newlywed Connect Groups in the last month.
- Several young men are interested and involved in being disciplined.
- For the many new women plugging into the Women's Ministry at Mobberly this fall. We pray they would deepen their love of God and others as they step into community and build relationships with other disciples of Christ.
- For local elder lawyer, Kristin Ishihara, who gave of her time and talents to share about elder law and estate planning at our September Widow to Widow luncheon and fellowship.
- Several Men's Discipleship Groups are starting to meet this fall.
- For nine new Mobberly members from the September Discover Membership in Marshall.
- For the chance for Pastor Geoffrey to share the gospel at a youth rally in Hallsville.
- For many Marshall attenders gathering for fellowship events like Grill and Chill and Campus-wide Potluck.
- For the opportunity for Aaron Deville to organize and lead "Breakfast of Champions" on Friday mornings at the Marshall High School Field House — feeding the football team and leading devotionals.
- For His provision of new Mobberly Staff team members. We are excited to have their positive attitudes and energy added to our staff team as they serve the Lord and the people of Mobberly.
  - Mallori James, our new Connect / Young Adult Administrative Assistant
  - Janie Jordan, our new Women's & Congregational Care Administrative Assistant
  - Debra Stevens, our new Children's Choir / Worship Producer
- For the men and women who faithfully serve on the Hope Road Counseling (HRC) Advisory Council and for a productive and encouraging Advisory Council meeting.
- For the work He has begun in the lives of those leading and participating in each of the HRC Spiritual Formation Groups that began in September and will continue to meet monthly through April 2022.
- That the staff at HRC is willing to demonstrate patience and perseverance by the power of the Holy Spirit as they serve people in their time of need.
- Thrive! is reaching marginalized communities in our area.
- Child Protective Services (CPS) continues to partner with Thrive! to provide services to families in their care.
- Our Tuesday morning Family Services benevolence ministry continues its vital ministry. **Nine 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, **Clayton, Chimiya, Porsha, Bonita, Jeanette, Arneisha, Keiara, Douglas, and Liquieta**.
  - Pray for follow-up by GO Share-Disciple-Multiply teams and others seeking to call these people into discipling relationships with Mobberly or another church family.

**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):
  - Pray for the potential new Senior Pastor and his family as they seek the Lord's direction and provision in this potential transition.
  - Pray for the Mobberly staff and family to continue preparing our hearts to embrace and love a new Senior Pastor and his family, and to be ready to follow his leadership under the Lord to accomplish God's mission for Mobberly.
- Pray for a great turnout of believers (including Mobberly members) for the "Longview Prays" time on Friday, October 8 (6:45 AM) in the Worship Center Hospitality Room. This can be a powerful time of pray as believers from churches across our area gather to seek the Lord on behalf of our community, our nation, and our world. Everyone is invited.
- To bless Mclean Chimwenje and other African pastors and leaders from the Mitundu, Malawi area such as Chembe Soko, Jority Blackson, Samuel, Precious Phiri, McEdwin Blackson, missionaries Wayne and Amy Heaton, and many others who are leading follow up and discipleship efforts following our evangelistic outreach efforts.
- To guide in follow-up efforts in the southern area of Ulongwe (primarily a Muslim area). A pastor training school is being planned for this area. Pray for Gibson, Handson and others who will be leading this effort.
- To bless in follow-up sessions through Zoom with business leaders from Lusaka, Zambia.
- To impress on our people's hearts the need for corporate prayer and worship, and that many will return for the next Night of Worship and Prayer on Oct. 24.
- To help us learn to be more transparent in our prayer and also in our worship. Help us to use our worship times on Sunday as a time for self-reflection and confession as well as heartfelt offerings of praise to God!
- To guide and encourage the Go Share/Disciple/Multiply leaders and participants as we continue to grow and learn together to make disciples who multiply. We pray God will provide success as our GO Share/Disciple/Multiply teams reach out to those who want to be discipled.
- To continue to send people who are willing to serve and lead in our Children's Ministry Sunday morning and Wednesday night programs, including second floor front foyer greeters in The Bridge on Sunday mornings at both hours.
- To help our children be bold for Jesus when they are at school and at extracurricular activities.
- To lead the kids in our New Christian Class to understand and be able to apply truth to their lives.

- To keep our kids, families and leaders healthy and strong.
- To bless the Youth Ministry student evangelistic event at end of October. Pray for the lost that will be there, asking that they would hear and know the truth and that it would set them free.
- To send us new Apprentices and volunteers in the student ministry.
- To re-connect with Connect Group members that have disconnected.
- To provide peace for those struggling with anxiety.
- To provide four additional Connect Group leaders to help with Young Married Connect Groups.
- To help us plan well for our upcoming Better Together: New Mercies Special event for women of all ages and life-stages on Monday, Nov. 1. We are so excited to have the founders of New Mercies lead us in a fun evening of hand-lettering, devotional teaching and table discussion in The Crossing.
- To give our Women's Ministry leadership council wisdom as we pray and plan for the future months and invite women of all backgrounds to a seat at the table. We ask that He cultivate in us humble hearts and a continued desire to make intergenerational ministry and discipleship the heartbeat of all that we do as we seek to bring Him glory and honor.
- To bless the outdoor events for the GO Share/Disciple Multiply (Oct. 3) and the fishing clinic (Oct. 17) with good weather.
- To help Marshall campus volunteers to be trained, inspired and excited for ministry as we gather for Team Night on October 10.
- To encourage Single Adults to be willing to build community in a new Connect Group in Marshall.
- To raise up college students in Marshall to be called to serve in our local church.
- To lead the team of 35 core leaders in Marshall beginning to dream about and own a vision for ministry.
- To raise up the persons He would have serve in the front office at HRC.
- For continued guidance regarding a larger space for HRC.
- To continue to protect the health and community of the staff at HRC and the heavy loads they are carrying due to the volume of new intakes coming into the center.
- For wisdom for the HRC staff to stay within the limits of what He has ask them to do and to be Spirit-led in all that they do.
- To direct every detail of the upcoming HRC "Soul Shift" conference and staff retreat with Dr. Curt Thompson.
- To be with the clients of HRC and all that they are going through.
- For comfort, peace, and felt-safety for the children, students, parents and adults that will be attending Thrive! support groups this fall
- For the Mobberly family to become more aware of the opportunities and services that Thrive! provides.
- For children in vulnerable situations to be safe and seen.
- 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 Covid-19.
- To bless and encourage our healthcare workers who are overwhelmed with the area caseloads.
- For comfort in families grieving the loss of a loved one.
- For health and safety for the leaders, participants and families of our support groups.
- For wisdom and flexibility to meet the needs of those on the fringes of our society.

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**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>8</sup>Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts before him. God is our refuge.  
Selah"*

*Psalms 62:8 [CSB]*

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