

“Calling Upon Jesus in Our Urgent Need!”

Week 8 - 100 Days of Prayer

May 15 - 21, 2020

“Transformed by God’s Love”

By Derek Morris

“Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.” – Jeremiah 31:3

Mary Ann Roberts grew up in a Christian home, but as a young person she never made a personal commitment to Jesus as her Savior and Lord. After college she married, her husband joined the military, and they moved to Europe. It was there that Mary Ann abandoned all connections with church and became a self-described party animal.

In 1983 she hit rock bottom. In the midst of a weekend-long drinking binge she became so drunk and sick that she was unable to attend a family reunion. That’s when Mary Ann decided to ask God back into her life. The vivid picture that came to her mind at that low point in her life was of a loving Father running down the road to meet His prodigal child. Mary Ann knew she was that child.

Realizing that she needed to make some radical changes in her lifestyle, she wrote to a Christian pastor and told him of her commitment to become a follower of Jesus. That pastor’s wife understood how difficult the transition would be and supported Mary Ann by calling her on the telephone every single morning for an entire year to pray with her.

Even though Mary Ann started attending a Christian church and God became a vital part of her life, she sensed that something was still missing—that God had something special in store for her that she had not yet discovered. She always wished that she had continued her education, and decided to go back to school. Perhaps it would fill the void in her heart. She applied to and was accepted into a graduate program in science and eventually completed a Ph.D. in neuroscience. But somehow life still seemed incomplete.

In the summer of 2001, Mary Ann attended a campmeeting in North Carolina. She was mainly interested in socializing with friends, so she sat near the back of the auditorium. During one of the meetings though, she overheard a Christian evangelist invite those who were interested in a ministry project in Kenya to meet with him after the service.

“Usually I like to mull things over before I act,” Mary Ann recalls, “but it was as if someone were standing in front of me and pointing directly at me.” At the close of the meeting she walked up to the front of the auditorium under deep conviction that God was calling her to participate in the ministry project in Kenya. After talking with Mary Ann, the evangelist invited her to conduct a series of meetings in the primitive community of Rongo, Kenya. Mary Ann was not a public speaker. She had no homiletics training and absolutely no

experience in frontline mission work. It had never crossed her mind that God would ask her to become a preacher. But she was open to the working of the Holy Spirit that day, and, in her own words, she began to pray a very radical prayer: “Lord, I give You permission to throw me out into your harvest.”

Fast forward a few months and Mary Ann traveled to Kenya to do just what God had called her to do. Although she was terrified, every night when she stood up to preach, she sensed God speaking through her to the crowd assembled in the town square. At the end of her meetings more than 500 people confessed their love for Jesus in baptism. As you can imagine, Mary Ann was filled with joy—radical joy! And that joy has not disappeared. Mary Ann has continued to preach, share God’s love, and follow His leading. She found her calling when she gave God permission to use her in His harvest.

Will you give God permission to use you in His harvest? It might not look the same as it did three months ago, before the COVID-19 crisis hit. But there is still much to do, and many souls waiting to hear the good news! Pray and ask Him what He would have you to do!

*Derek Morris is president of Hope Channel International. For more inspiration like this, we encourage you to read our featured book of the week by Derek Morris titled **The Radical Prayer**, from which this week’s devotional has been taken.*

HEART QUESTIONS: What about our life today? Have we given God permission to use us in His harvest? If we feel distant from God, let’s remember that He’s waiting with open arms of love for us to turn to Him. He not only wants to welcome us home, but He also has a special place of service for each of us. Will we open our hearts to His call?

ACTIVE HEART CHALLENGE: Look around for the different ways God is showing you His love. Perhaps you will see His love through others, through nature, or by some other means. When you discover His love in a unique way, write it down, then share it with two people this week as you claim John 15:12. Make it a habit to look for God’s love and for unique ways that you can share His love with others.

“The Father loves us, not because of the great propitiation, but He provided the propitiation because He loves us. Christ was the medium through which He could pour out His infinite love upon a fallen world. ‘God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself.’ 2 Corinthians 5:19. . .Such love is without a parallel. Children of the heavenly King! Precious promise! Theme for the most profound meditation! The matchless love of God for a world that did not love Him!” – Steps to Christ, p. 13, 15

Going Deeper - Additional Reading Suggestions for this week:

- Ellen White, *Steps to Christ*, chapter 1, “God’s Love for Man”
- Derek J. Morris, *The Radical Prayer*



Day 50 – Prayer Focus – Friday, May 15, 2020

PRAISE REPORTS:

- Elizabeth W.: “I praise God for His healing power!”
- Member in the U.K.: “Praise God for hearing our prayer and miraculously providing food and financial help just at the right time. Also, for healing my back problems!”
- Scientists are eagerly working on finding a vaccination and remedies that help to slow down the virus. Much progress has been made and there is hope!

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **Pray** for a willing heart to be used by God whenever and wherever He calls.
- **Pray** all the online evangelism and digital church activities will be utilized and greatly blessed.
- **Pray** for young people who are in the valley of decision for or against Christ. Pray that they will experience the love and truth of Jesus and gladly serve Him all their lives.
- **Pray** for the many church groups around the world who don’t have a building to meet in and are seeking to find land. Pray also for God to awaken all members to engage in church-planting activities.



Day 51 – Prayer Focus - Sabbath, May 16, 2020

God’s Commitment

“God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

– Romans 5:8

“As soon as there was sin, there was a Saviour. Christ knew that He would have to suffer, yet He became man’s substitute. As soon as Adam sinned, the Son of God presented Himself as surety for the human race.” – In Heavenly Places, 13.2

HEART QUESTION:

When Adam and Eve sinned it was God who, despite having been rejected and sinned against, took the first step towards humanity. He came with an attitude of grace, forgiveness and with the promise, that Jesus will crush the serpent Satan (Genesis 3:15) and become the Sacrifice for their salvation. Christ is still walking towards you with that same attitude. He is committed to you and your salvation. Will you run into His loving arms today and accept His cleansing blood and His righteousness?

PRAISE REPORTS:

- Dr. Hammel’s healing from Covid-19 (Medical doctor in Berrien Springs) after much intercession from community of faith.
- The church in China is thriving despite restrictions due to Covid-19 and communism. Hundreds of thousands are connected online for worship.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **Pray** for God to open your eyes to His endless love for you. Ask Him to show you more of His loving character each day.
- **Pray** for church leaders and members in Indonesia where some have been infected by Covid-19 and passed away.
- **Pray** for Papua New Guinea as the country is not adequately equipped to handle a massive outbreak of Covid-19.



Day 52 – Prayer Focus - Sunday, May 17, 2020

Committing to Jesus

“Aaron spoke all the words that the Lord had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people. And the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.”

– Exodus 4:30-31

“You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair. What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him.”

– Steps to Christ, 47

HEART QUESTIONS:

When faced with the reality of God’s loving promise of salvation from slavery, the people of Israel’s reaction was one of surrender, commitment and worship.

As you contemplate God’s incredible love for you, will you choose today to respond to Him with the same kind of attitude? Will you give Him your will, your life, your heart?

God is good. He desires to help and heal. The process can hurt at times, but it is worth it. Why not let go of the world, surrender, and commit your life and will to God today and worship Him?

PRAISE REPORTS:

- Covid-19 restrictions have led to an increase of interest in the gospel in the Middle East. Various individuals, while staying anonymous have connected online with the church.
- Massive prayer movements are taking place in the Inter-American Division.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **Pray** for Literature Evangelists around the world who are financially affected by the pandemic. Pray for ways for our literature to still spread during this time and for many to be blessed by reading them.
- **Pray** for those faithful members who are serving with food banks at this time. Pray that they are protected from the virus as they do this service of love for their communities.
- **Pray** for laymen, Bible workers, and evangelists who are dependent on farming and other self-supportive measures to sustain themselves and their families. Pray for those living and serving in regions that are affected by heavy droughts.



Day 53 – Prayer Focus - Monday, May 18, 2020

Committing to Friends

“A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” – Proverbs 18:24

“Jonathan, by birth heir to the throne, yet knowing himself set aside by the divine decree; to his rival the most tender and faithful of friends, shielding David’s life at the peril of his own; ... the name of Jonathan is treasured in heaven, and it stands on earth a witness to the existence and the power of unselfish love.” – Education, 157

HEART QUESTIONS:

Jonathan and David’s friendship had a spiritual quality and depth that is rarely seen anymore. Their friendship was based on a holy covenant of mutual spiritual support and commitment. Do you have spiritual friends? Are you a spiritual friend to somebody else? Why not choose to commit to the spiritual development of your friends by putting personal desires and pleasures aside, and committing time and love to support your friends in their walk with Christ?

PRAISE REPORTS:

- The ItIsWritten online evangelistic meetings are reporting amazing results with thousands of people participating and many making decisions for Jesus. Seekers are connecting with local Adventist churches for follow up.
- Many former Adventist members are reconnecting with the church thanks for the increased online outreach activities.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **Pray** for your friends. Especially those who do not know Christ or have lost their way. Pray that God will give you the courage to be a positive, proactive, spiritual influence in their lives.
- **Pray** for evangelistic meetings planned in the Rift Valley in Kenya, which is an unentered territory for our church.
- **Pray** for the Phoenix Beacon Light SDA Church’s community center as new members are getting it ready to serve their community.



Day 54 – Prayer Focus - Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Committing to Your Spouse/Family

“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord ... Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ... Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right ... Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” – Ephesians 5:22, 25; 6:1, 4

“The cause of division and discord in families and in the church is separation from Christ. To come near to Christ is to come near to one another. The secret of true unity in the church and in the family is not diplomacy, not management, not a superhuman effort to overcome difficulties—though there will be much of this to do—but union with Christ.”

– The Adventist Home, 179

HEART QUESTIONS:

Your spouse and family are people in your life towards whom you have a solemn duty: To love, support and disciple them into a joyful, loving, relationship with Jesus. Will you today commit to extend the same grace, forgiveness and love that Jesus has shown to you to your spouse and family? Is it your desire to be a spiritual leader for your home? Ask Jesus today for a deeper walk and union with Him so that you can be a better reflection of Him to your spouse and family.

PRAISE REPORTS:

- Prosper O.: “Yes! Irrespective of COVID-19, I will still sing praises to the LORD Most High.”
- Jon W.: “This crisis has given me a renewed desire to have an even closer walk with Christ!”

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **Pray** for your spouse, parents, children, siblings, and extended family. Pray that they will know the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray that you will be the spouse, parents, sibling, and son/daughter that Christ wants you to be.
- **Pray** for the June 6 ‘Marriage & Family Day of Prayer’ organized by General Conference Family Ministries (family.adventist.org).
- **Pray** for single people who feel very lonely at this time. Pray for them to see the blessings of singleness as it relates to serving God. Pray that if it is God’s will, that they will find godly spouses.
- **Pray** for individuals who are struggling with addictions.
- **Pray** for a member in Trinidad whose daughter was killed two years ago, and whose son was killed this past March. Pray for her to be comforted and also for protection over the rest of her family.



Day 55 – Prayer Focus - Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Committing to Your Local Church

“Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.”

– Acts 4:32

“The converts to the gospel were ‘of one heart and of one soul.’ One common interest controlled them—the success of the mission entrusted to them; and covetousness had no place in their lives. Their love for their brethren and the cause they had espoused, was greater than their love of money and possessions. Their works testified that they accounted the souls of men of higher value than earthly wealth. Thus it will ever be when the Spirit of God takes possession of the life.” – Acts of the Apostles, 70

HEART QUESTION:

There are times when we might get frustrated with our local church or even the global church. Yet, we know that the church is Christ’s bride. If Jesus is so committed to His church, shouldn’t we be committed to her as well? The early Christians were filled with the Spirit and willing to sacrifice all for God’s church and mission. Why not ask God today to forgive you any sinful attitude you might have against His bride, and ask Him to baptize you with His Spirit, empowering you to seek unity, and to live sacrificially in order to support and bless your local church community.

PRAISE REPORTS:

- We praise God for 900 new churches planted over the last few years in the North American Division.
- In the South American Division Bible study requests have increased 5x since this crisis began!

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **Pray** for the church in the country of Gabon. Pray for its members to have courage and wisdom in reaching their fellow citizen. Pray especially for a group in Akanda who is trying to minister to those with disabilities.
- **Pray** for your local church’s needs. Spiritual and physical needs. Pray for unity, healing, and a renewed commitment to outreach and mission activities.
- **Pray** for the pastors and church leaders of the Haitian Union. Pray for the churches in some regions of Haiti that are full of armed gangs. Pray for spiritual, physical, financial, and mental health of the members in Haiti.
- **Pray** for members who have embraced a wrong or twisted view of doctrines and are actively trying to deceive others.
- **Pray** for former members who have split away from the church and formed their own groups or denominations. Pray that they will be led into the truth.



Day 56 – Prayer Focus - Thursday, May 21, 2020

Committing to God's Mission

"For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them ... I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some."

– 1 Corinthians 9:19, 22b

"Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary." – Desire of Ages, 195

HEART QUESTION:

Missionary work, evangelism, these are not fields of service reserved only for the pastor or trained evangelist. Every believer, in whose heart Jesus dwells through the Spirit, is called to shine a light in this world through words of truth and actions of love.

Why not ask Christ right now to show you who and where your mission field is today? Plead for genuine compassion for lost souls and the courage to share your faith with love to the people in your sphere of influence.

PRAISE REPORTS:

- Makoba Family: "The 100 Days of Prayer have been a good experience for us as a family. Although the situation around us seems fearful, as a family we are taking this period to recommit our lives to Jesus by following the 100 Days of Prayer program seriously."
- The 'One Year in Mission' youth team in Guwahati, India, was able to reach hundreds of Hindus with the health message just prior to the Covid-19 lock down.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **Pray** for clarity as to what God's mission for you is where you are at right now. Pray that God will help you to be faithful in sharing Christ with the people around you through your words, actions and conduct.
- **Pray** for all Adventist Hospitals as they have many needs during this crisis. Pray that the doctors and nurses and staff are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be witnesses to their patients.
- **Pray** for the church's 'Life Hope Centers' around the world to be a beacon of light during these dark days.
- **Pray** for major cities in your territory and for God to give us a breakthrough in reaching the people in these places.
- **Pray** for frontline missionaries, especially in the 10/40 window who are seeking to bring Jesus into communities that have been ruled by Satan for thousands of years.