

Joyful in Hope – 33 – April 24, 2020

(thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”

Romans 12:9

Good Friday, Family

Today, I'm going to give you a few prayer updates, and also pass on an article I discovered, that will help guide us in our prayers. With the new extended stay at home restrictions, it becomes more difficult to predict when we will be able to gather for worship again. I want to encourage everyone to be praying about that as well. We miss you all, but are so thankful for your health and wellbeing.

Continued prayers for:

Janet Smith, Phuong Janulis, Bruce Houser and family, Shawn Martin – Youth minister at Royal Oak, Dorothy Welch's brother Rick, Percy Pasquin – working with potential covid-19 patients, Maralee's friend – showing improvement, Bob Peters – at home doing better, Rob Peters – back to work, Barb Flatt – recovering from surgery, Melanie and Rachel's friend – improving at home. Tim Brimer – ongoing health concerns, Kim Morgan – She did not get the position at WSU.

And, please add these to your prayers:

David Moseley's mother tested negative for covid-19,

Justin Corbin – ongoing prayers for sobriety and health,

Libby, Andrew and baby Huxton – Praise God!

Agim Pepa and wife are new parents, Hannah was born Wednesday

Angie Lopez – frustrations with not being able to get out of the house. (Amen to that!)

[Praying through a pandemic: 10 specific prayers for responding to coronavirus anxiety](#) –
from Christian News

How do we not worry and live lives of boldness, not fear? Scripture and the dark-hours experiences of our persecuted brothers and sisters tell us that prayer is our action point. Jesus calls us to pray because that is where we find His presence. Below, we share 10 specific prayers you can pray and adapt to your family and community. Hopefully, you'll add your prayers to this list and find courage to follow Jesus' example as you bring your requests to our Savior who acknowledges that in this world, we will have trouble, yet He doesn't leave us there. “But take heart!” He says, “I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

- Pray that God would calm fears and that His people would be reminded we have a different identity—one of boldness, not of fear. Pray that the church would be a calming presence and radiant light in the face of so much confusion and darkness.
- Pray that we would be people of compassion who intentionally reach out to others in our neighborhoods and to our family around the world where following Jesus often results in denial of community healthcare, less or no access to medicines and social boycott.
- Pray for world leaders as they work with healthcare organizations and the medical community to develop next steps. Pray that all would be united for the common good.
- Pray with researchers and biologists as they work to develop a coronavirus vaccine. Pray for wisdom and insight.
- Pray with first-responders around the world who are tasked with triaging, testing, and treating increasing numbers of people. Ask God to give them patience, wisdom and a gentle spirit as they work to navigate fears and offer effective treatment. Hospitals are seeing unprecedented numbers of patients with symptoms of flu.
- Pray with church leaders as they offer insight and wisdom to their congregations and communities. Ask God to give them opportunities to be voices of reason, clarity and grace.
- Pray with the families of the 50,000 people in the United States, and nearly 200,000 worldwide (as of April 23, 2020) who have died and for those undergoing treatment. Ask God to comfort the broken-hearted and to strengthen those who are suffering physically and emotionally.
- Pray for those whose jobs or hours have been cut due to economic downturn. Pray for parents who are struggling to work and care for their children. Pray that churches would look for ways to reach out to families in their communities to provide for them and show them the love of Christ.
- Pray that God's people would be unified as one Church, and that we would look to the lives and faith of our persecuted brothers and sisters as we navigate fear and the unknown ... that we would look to them for guidance and for hope.
- Pray that we as God's people would be reminded of our hope in Christ and the truth that our Savior who died and rose for us has already overcome the world. Pray that we would be people who read His Word and take both His call and His promises to head and heart.

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you . . .

Colossians 1:3