

A large, powerful waterfall cascading down a rocky cliff, with white foam and mist at the base. The water is a deep blue-green color.

**NAYA JEEVAN'S
9TH ANNUAL DAY WITH THE LORD
HANDBOOK
SEPTEMBER 2023**

NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO

Immeasurably
MORE

THAN ALL WE ASK OR IMAGINE

Ephesians 3:20-21

We in Naya Jeevan ministry are pleased to invite you all again to our **Day with the Lord** personal retreat! During the month of September – and year-round – we encourage our friends and partners to set aside special time to be with the Lord - for intercession, devotion, deeper study of the Word, and refreshment of our souls. We facilitate this by providing this Handbook for your convenience, full of spiritual resources and ideas to make your **Day with the Lord** meaningful. Plan ahead! Don't wait for your chosen Day to arrive before you start thinking of your devotional activities. Looking through the ideas ahead of time may help you decide how much time to set aside, where you want to spend it, and what special resources you may need to have on hand.

This year's Handbook starts with our theme article by **Dr Shashi Jatiani**, author of **Strengthening Your Prayer Skills**. You may want to use it as the centerpiece of your devotional time; it is rich in biblical insight and followed by scriptural examples and thought questions which you can explore in greater depth. We also have added many more prayer resources for you to look through and find deep, thoughtful practices to add to your prayer repertoire.

Our theme for 2023 is:

Immeasurably More

***Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask
or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.
Ephesians 3:20-21***

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To encourage others and help make this a community event, please remember to fill in the feedback form once you are done. We will compile answers and send out a report in October.

[Click here for Day with the Lord Feedback Form](#)

DAY WITH THE LORD

SEPTEMBER
2023

Immeasurably More

By Dr Shashi Jatiani

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask
or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

Ephesians 3:20-21

I had heard about Niagara Falls, seen postcard pictures and watched mesmerizing videos of it but when I first visited the horseshoe-shaped natural wonder, it was an experience above and beyond anything I had imagined. The sheer size of the rock edifice, the immense volume of water plunging down every second, the roaring sound, the wind, the mist and the whirlpool waves overwhelmed my senses as I came face-to-face with this unparalleled phenomenon. Over the years, I have had a few more occasions to visit Niagara and each time the experience has been extremely powerful and etched its impact into my memory.

I believe this is analogous to our encounter with the power of God. Apostle Paul writes about this power that raised Christ from the dead and raised him up to the heavenly realms, seating Him at the right hand of Majesty (Ephesians 1:20). Power that accomplished both the resurrection and the ascension of our Lord is a tremendous force having no equal on earth! There is no way a human can assess this power – no instrument can measure it; no mind can comprehend it. It can achieve all things and all things are possible when it is at work.

It seems the Apostle is opening our inner eyes to the reality of possibilities that are not part of our regular thinking, meditations or prayers. There is a hint here, an invitation, to become conduits of God's power and see things happen that will bring forth the glory of God in the church and through all generations. Why conduits? Well, the verse specifically states that the power of God is at work *within us*. He has chosen to work within us and achieve His kingdom advancement through us.

My analogy with Niagara Falls begins to break down here. While the tourist mainly visits for pleasure and building lifelong memories, the kingdom of God is a matter much greater than that. The kingdom of God is about God's glory and the salvation of souls. The entire chapter (Ephesians 3) speaks of a marvelous plan that God has for the Gentiles. It is the intention of God to work in and through us to make all nations, in addition to Israel, rightful heirs of His kingdom through the gospel by joining us into one body, the church of Jesus Christ. In other words, our lives have purpose beyond our own salvation and personal experience of Jesus. We are called to make disciples and join Christ Jesus in building

His church. Our accessing of God's power and allowing it to flow through us has everlasting consequences. It can change the destiny of souls and even nations forever!

Is there a people group, a community, a nation, an ethnicity, an elitist stratum of society, an economic class, or a religious faction that seems too hard to reach with the gospel? Is there a relative, a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker or an authority that seem impregnable to all our efforts of communicating the unconditional love and amazing grace of God unto salvation? Well, that is exactly the kind of situation that the power of God is ordained for. The more difficult the circumstances, the greater God's glory in bringing overwhelming victory. Today, the call goes out to us to approach God and ask Him to send down His power to save souls and make disciples of Christ through us. We are invited to see this impact throughout the earth and in all generations, even among the South Asians in their homelands as well as in the diaspora. It is time for us to respond by calling upon Him to cause His resurrection power to work within us and bring many out of the darkness of spiritual death into the marvelous light of eternal life.

We know of the encounter of a **rich young ruler**

with Jesus. He is a learned religious man with societal standing and legal authority. His condition is tragic – outwardly he is a seemingly righteous man who knows and keeps the law of God but inwardly he is a greedy idolater. In answer to his question about how to receive eternal life, Jesus offers him personal discipleship but requires of him a radical turnaround. He is defeated by the intense materialism of his soul, for he has amassed a



great deal of wealth, and cannot let go of his riches by voluntarily giving all he has to the poor. He is unable to relinquish the perishable for gaining the imperishable. He hangs his head in sorrow and walks away from the Savior's proposal, causing Jesus to remark on the difficulty of the rich being saved. This is astonishing for the disciples because their popular theology equates riches with God's favor. They go on to ask Jesus, "who then can be saved?". It is precisely in this context of the salvation of the seemingly unreachable that Christ utters this famous response: "What is impossible with man is possible with God" (Luke 18:18-27). Jesus masterfully reveals, through the emphasis on forsaking all to follow him (vs 29-30), that riches do not necessarily reflect favor with God but could actually be a snare, and being ordinary does not preclude salvation but can open the doors to temporal and eternal God-ordained rewards.

All around us are those who are captives to sin, souls trapped by the longings and indulgences of the flesh, downtrodden folks who have become alienated from God because of life's injustices and inequalities, ignorant bystanders who are being played by political and religious propaganda, egoists who cannot save themselves, high leaders who see it beneath themselves to bow before the Almighty, atheists who don't understand the bankruptcy of their philosophies, eternal beings ensnared by the riches of the world at the expense of an eternity with God, rebels who have alienated themselves from their Creator, members of unreached people groups with little or no access to the gospel, and the like. Do you believe God can save them? Do you believe the Holy Spirit can convict them? Do you believe the God who knows every heart could use your prayers to turn their hearts to Him? Do you believe that God can empower you to be His agent of grace to those deemed "impossible" to reach, as Ananias was used to turn Saul into Paul (Acts 9:1-18)?

Today, you may be saying to yourself, I have never (or not recently) felt that power at work in me and flow through me to reach others. Or you may have seen others being used by God to be conduits of

His power but somehow feel it is not for you. Or perhaps you see yourself being used sporadically but not consistently as a channel of God's love, mercy, compassion and power. The truth is the power of God *is* at work and God *is* able to do the impossible in using you and me to expand His kingdom. All we need to do is believe (Mark 9:23) and abide in Him (John 15:5-8)! One of the best ways to evidence faith is to pray great prayers that are filled with requests you know are God's will, such as salvation for the lost (2 Peter 3:9, John 3:16), and justice (Isaiah 42:1-4).



This is what Day with the Lord is all about. We are taking time out to prioritize our relationship with God, seeking His help to reinvigorate our fervor for His kingdom and interceding for salvation for hard-to-reach people and nations. Let us deepen our fellowship with the Holy Spirit and strengthen the tangibility of His presence, purpose and power in our lives (Romans 8:26-28). For the same Spirit who raised Christ from the dead is the one who lives in us and imparts resurrection power to our mortal bodies (Romans 8:11). Through His Spirit, God can use us to preach the good news, to melt the heart of

stone, to open blind eyes, to set the prisoners free, to heal the broken-hearted, to rescue the trapped, to comfort all who mourn, to bring deliverance to the oppressed and display His splendor (Isaiah 61:1-3).

We have only seen the tip of the iceberg of all that God wants to do in and through us. What He has ordained is immeasurably more than what we naturally think of asking! Come, let us believe the unbelievable because God is at work within us to do the impossible. To Him be all glory forever and ever. Amen.

Further reading

Ephesians chapter 3

Acts 9:1-19, 1 Timothy 1:15-17

Acts 10:23-48

Matthew 13:31-33

Romans chapter 8

Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8-11

DAY WITH THE LORD

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Practical Helps for your Day with the Lord

Tips and Ideas

- ❖ Pray the Lord's Prayer in your own words.
- ❖ Spend time in repentance personally and nationally.
- ❖ Spend some time praying loudly and some silently; similarly with Bible reading.
- ❖ Cover yourself with a prayer shawl during some of your prayers for a sense of the comfort and family inclusion with our heavenly Father; it also communicates humility and submission.
- ❖ Draw or paint a picture that comes to you as you read Scripture.
- ❖ If you read from a gospel or other narrative portion, write out a description of the scene and feelings of the characters, imagining yourself as one of those present.
- ❖ Hand copy Psalms or other Bible portions into a journal, meditating on the words as you write.
- ❖ Sing or listen to hymns, praise, or worship songs.
- ❖ Read a whole book of the Bible for the big picture or saturation effect.
- ❖ Read from a devotional book.
- ❖ Listen to or watch a sermon.
- ❖ Fast throughout the day or for several days leading up to the time; fasting can include doing without food, sleep, entertainment, and other distractions you feel led to give up for a time.
- ❖ Write a letter to the Lord.
- ❖ Journal your thoughts, impressions, and personal applications.
- ❖ Compose a worship song.
- ❖ Memorize a passage of Scripture.
- ❖ Pray through the names and attributes of God:
<https://www.navigators.org/Tools/Discipleship%20Resources/Tools/30%20Days%20of%20Praying%20the%20Names%20and%20Attributes%20of%20God>
- ❖ Prayer-walk or prayer-drive through a neighborhood or city.
- ❖ Pray through a passage of the Bible.
- ❖ Read one of the Gospel accounts of someone who encountered Jesus, such as the sinful woman in Luke 7:36-50; the centurion whose boy was healed, Zacchaeus, etc. Think about what it teaches us about God and ourselves. Learn it well enough to tell it accurately and pray by name for a particular person you should share that story with during the week.
- ❖ Pray through the day's news headlines.

Prayer Postures

Try incorporating different prayer postures appropriate to your prayer moods or topics throughout your Day (taken from Strengthening Your Prayer Skills).

- ❖ Sitting denotes rest, 2 Sam 7:1.
- ❖ Kneeling portrays submission to God, Acts 7:60, Dan 6:10.
- ❖ Standing displays respect and attentiveness, Mark 11:25.
- ❖ Uplifted hands mean surrender or praise, 1 Tim 2:8, Ps 63:4.
- ❖ Prostration indicates beseeching, agonizing, repenting, Matt 26:39.
- ❖ Walking denotes ownership, expectation of victory, Josh 6:1-5.

***And pray in the Spirit
on all occasions with
all types of prayers
and requests.***

Ephesians 6:18

Prayer Resources

- ❖ **Strengthening Your Prayer Skills** by Dr Shashi Jatiani makes an excellent resource for prayer training and is filled with creative ideas to deepen and enliven your prayer times. Consider watching one session during your Day with the Lord, with time spent meditating on your application points. Or look through your SYPS workbook as you plan your Day and incorporate some of the creative ideas found throughout the sessions. If you do not yet have a workbook (hard or soft copy) or the videos or DVDs, please make a donation of any amount to the Breakthrough account <https://give.cru.org/0803950>. We will receive an automatic notification, then contact you and gladly send you what you request. Strengthening Your Prayer Skills will be available in Hindi by the end of 2023!
- ❖ **Video testimonies of salvation and prayer**
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLk-u40hUR8O0JCa7okOKSgr53JSAslLcJ>
- ❖ **Prayer websites:**
www.tandemprayer.org
<http://www.thisdayipray.com/>
<http://operationworld.org>
<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/prayer.html>
<https://www.namb.net/pray/>
<https://pray.interserve.org/>
<https://joshuaproject.net/pray/videos>
<http://southasianpeoples.imb.org/pray>
- ❖ **Devotional apps:**
[One Minute Pause \(John Eldredge\)](#)
[Pray as you Go \(Loyola\)](#)
- ❖ **Prayer Guide for Every Village in South Asia:**
<http://pray4ev.org/>

Prayer Walking Guide

Goal: To pray blessing upon our city and its inhabitants.

What Is Prayer-walking?

- Prayer-walking is simply praying in the very places where you expect God to answer your prayers.
- It's praying in the place where you want to see God work.
- It has been defined as praying onsite with insight.
- It is talking to God about people rather than talking to people about God.
- It is what Abraham did when he walked with God and talked to him about the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

What Is the Purpose Of Prayer-walking?

- It is to seek God's blessing, mercy and transforming power for the community and its residents.
- It is a valuable tool for identifying needs in a community and awareness of possible future ways to serve.
- It is a way for us to be God's presence and God's servants in a community.

Remember: The presence of God's people guarantees the presence of God!

- It may provide opportunities to interact with and bless people whom you encounter while walking.
- It helps sensitize you to the issues facing a neighborhood. It gets you close to the needs of people. What you are praying for is right in front of you – before your eyes.

Some Things To Do:

- Walk with someone else, not alone.
- Pray aloud in a quiet, conversational tone, if you feel comfortable doing so. If not, pray silently, but let your partner know what you are praying about.
- If anyone asks what you are doing, be prepared to respond: *"We're praying God's blessing on this neighborhood. Is there any special way we can pray for you?"*
- Be open to opportunities to interact with and bless people that may grow out of this experience.
- Plan to spend at least 30 minutes each time. If you are not comfortable doing a prayer walk, do a prayer-drive.
- Smile and be pleasant with people you meet. God may be working in their lives. Ask God to bless them in Jesus.
- Don't be afraid of silence. It's Okay to walk and pray silently for a time or to listen for God's voice.
- Pray with your eyes open – *"watch and pray!"*
- It's Okay if prayer-walking feels awkward to you at first. It will become more comfortable as you do it more.
- Pray with your walking partner before and after your walk.

Some Things NOT To Do:

- Don't call attention to yourself. It has been said that *"you can be on the scene without making one!"*
- Do not knock on doors. This is not the time for home visits. Never go in a house even if invited!
- Do not pray loudly. Greater volume does not mean greater effectiveness. Passion can be expressed quietly.
- Do not make promises of financial or other kinds of help to people you may encounter. Prayer is the mission!
- Remember: This is not your devotional time; this is praying on behalf of others and their needs, not yours!

Some Prayer Helps:

- Pray with a purpose – God's desire for the residents.
- Pray with God's Word – pray God's promises not just the problems that you see. Use scripture in your praying.
- Focus on God, not the technique or method.
- Pray with God's Spirit – what is the Holy Spirit placing in your heart as you walk, observe and pray?
- Pray for discernment to see the neighborhood through God's eyes. Ask God to show you how you can pray with greater insight for the people, places and families.
- Some things to pray for the residents: Pray the blessing of God's will. Pray for the blessing of spiritual hunger. Pray for the blessing of a repentant heart. Pray for the blessing of freedom from fear and bondage. Pray for the blessing of peace. Pray for the defeat of evil and triumph of good in the neighborhood. Pray for salvation for all!
- Pray with compassion and feel God's heart for people.
- Agree with your partner regarding times for fasting. Also choose times to pray privately for the neighborhood.

As you pray God's promises with specific homes or situations in view, you'll find that hope for people begins to grow. You'll begin to see them as God does. You'll grow in compassion and faith!

GUIDE TO PRAYING FOR SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES

Try to approach prayer for South Asians from a positive, respectful and compassionate point of view – pray for, not against, them. Avoid fostering a critical, self-righteous, condemning attitude. Keep Mt 7:1-4 in mind and pray with humility not only for South Asians but for yourself, your own culture, and Christians in general.

Praying for Christian Witness to South Asians

These verses are directed at Christians praying for our own witness among South Asians who don't know Christ; a few verses will be found in both sections.

- Mt. 22:39 Love your neighbors
Matt. 9:35-38 More workers, motivated by compassion
Deut. 10:18 Love the immigrants among us
Jer 9:23-24 Humility, not arrogance must be our hallmark
Mt 7:1-4 Self-examination not self-righteousness
1 John 1:8-9 Confession and repentance from our mistakes
Mt 28:18-20 We are responsible to make disciples and teach them well
Acts 1:8 We do all in the power of the Holy Spirit
1 Cor 9:19-23 Become like those we serve, enter their world, approach on their terms
Prov 20:5 Witness that tries to draw out the deep thoughts and beliefs of the heart
Prov 18:5 Christians need to be better listeners before we deliver our solutions
2 Pet 3:9 God's patience toward those who need time
Rev 5:9 Every people-group will ultimately be represented in heaven
1 Pet 3:15 We must give gentle and respectful answers
Col 4:4-6 Our conversation must be wise
Mt. 5:43-45 Pray for persecutors
Rom. 12:21 Overcome evil with good (response to opposition)
Acts 4:23-31 Face fears with courage and boldness
Mk 4:2, 33-34 Use of story in sharing God's truth may be more appreciated than preaching
Jer 2:13 Pray for those who are turning from the knowledge of the truth to embracing popular Hindu, New Age beliefs
1 Th 5:12-13 Pray for godly church leaders to set the example in encouraging outreach
2 Cor 6:13 Christian separatism misunderstood and misused
Mt 11:19 Jesus' holiness allowed him to be a friend of sinners, so can we
Jn 17:21-23 Unity that will attract others to Christ

A missionary serving as a prayer leader in a Christian organization informed me with great concern, sure of my interest, that a Hindu temple was being built in his neighborhood and he was organizing Christians to "pray against it." I answered him, "I will pray that the Christians in the neighborhood will welcome their new Hindu neighbors and share the love of Jesus with them."

"I'm very grateful to Hindu heritage for three areas of encouragement. First, it encouraged me to live a moral life. It encouraged me to respect people and relationships. Most of all, it gave me a sincere desire to seek and know God in my life."

-Jay Gupta, former Director of SPREAD International

Praying for the Unsaved South Asians

When a cultural value is mentioned in a positive way (e.g. Respect), we can thank God for this evidence of common grace and pray the Holy Spirit will use it as a stepping stone to Christ, the perfect model of all good traits.

- Ac 14:17 Remember, God has not left Himself without witness; pray they will see His messages

- Rom 1:18-23 Knowledge of God is evident in creation and conscience
Eccles. 3:11 God has placed eternity in their hearts – a sense that there is more to life than this world

Jer. 29:13 Those who seek the Lord with all their heart will find
 Ps. 53:1 Atheists in India are few, but their god-concepts need more truth
 Eph. 5:3 While modesty is valued on one level, purity and morality need to permeate hearts and society deeply
 1 Tim. 5:1-2 Respect is a high value in Indian society
 Eph. 6:1 Parents and elders are honored
 Prov. 12:26 Indians are typically cautious in friendship and make fast friends once trust is there
 Rom. 12:13 Hospitality is greatly valued
 Gen 2:23-25 Divorce is not prevalent though increasing; but marriages lack some of the Mt. 19:16, biblical foundations
 Rom. 3:23 Sense of sin is lacking as a works-based religion teaches they can attain salvation and shame emphasis makes them avoid admitting fault
 Jer 9:23-24, Cultural pride blinds people to the need for Is 64:6 repentance and humility
 1 Cor. 11:1 Guru-shishya (teacher-disciple) relationship strongly affirmed
 Heb. 9:27 One lifetime in which to reconcile with God, no reincarnation
 Jn. 14:6 Jesus is the way, truth, and life – should be good news to those who pray the “asatoma” mantra daily.

Hindu prayer: I am a sinner, what I have done is sin; I am under sin, I am the worst of sinners. Save me, O Lord of Sacrifice.

- *Hindu “Asatoma” mantra: O God, from the Unreal lead me to the Real, from the Darkness lead me to the Light, from Death lead me to Immortality.*
 - *Sikh religious greeting: “Sat Sri Akal,” meaning, Truth is eternal.*
 - *Indian National Motto: Truth alone shall triumph.*
- Ac. 4:12 Salvation only in Jesus, but Hindu tolerance distorts this understanding
 Ex. 20:2-3 Idolatry is practiced in every culture, sometimes with murtis (literal idols), sometimes with materialism or other substitutes for the true God
 Dt. 18:10 Astrology and divination are commonly relied on
 Dt. 18:19-20 Guru cults are popular, each proclaiming their path to salvation
 2 Cor. 11:14-15 When every experience is considered valid, there is little discernment about possible deception

Jn 11:25 Jesus is the God of resurrection not reincarnation
 Jn 14:27 Only Jesus can impart true peace
 Is. 53:4-5 A suffering and victorious savior is good news for the poor
 Gen. 1:26 Maintaining the creator-creature distinction is necessary
 Jn. 3:3 Being born again takes place in this life – good news
 for those who think it will take thousands of

Vivekananda wrote that the West conquers suffering by trying to eradicate it; the East conquers suffering by embracing it. Jesus embodies both.

lifetimes
 Rom. 12:9 Don’t tolerate evil, untruth
 Eph. 3:20 Power is in Christ alone
 Col. 2:8, 20-23 Philosophy has no power to save
 Mt. 6:7 Repetitious prayers take the life out of our relationship with God
 Is. 14:13-14 Pride – religion, traditions can’t save –for anyone
 1 Cor 1:22-24 We need to move from seeking wisdom, signs, or power to the person of Christ
 Heb 10:24-25 Pray for appropriate fellowship opportunities for new believers
 1 Pet 3:18 Christ is our substitute, but the atonement is not well understood or appreciated in the works-based system of achieving moksha (salvation); there is a great analogy or “type” of Jesus’ sacrifice for sin in the Hindu coconut ritual

In ancient days in India, animals were used as a sacrifice for sins. Gradually priests began to substitute the coconut so as not to harm a life for the sake of worship. The coconut is an excellent symbol of payment for sin. The outside of it shows that sin is dirty, ugly, rough, and unpleasant. Inside, the coconut is smooth and white; its milk is pure and clean because it is unpolluted from the outside. In worship rituals, the coconut is broken by hammering it until the shell cracks and the milk is poured out. Jesus is God's provision of an offering for our sin. His body and blood are pure and unpolluted by sin. He said, "I give my body to be broken for you," and the soldiers nailed Him to the cross. He said, "My blood is poured out for the sins of the world," and the soldiers took a spear and pierced His side. Jesus' sinless life was the payment for our sins. The coconut is the symbol, Jesus is the reality.

Gal. 3:28, Socio-economic divisions erased in Christ
Col. 3:11

Matt. 9:35-38 Christ has compassion for those harassed by the devil and oppressive religion

Eph. 2:8-9 Salvation by grace, not works
Eph 2:10 Value of works comes after salvation as gratitude

Ac 10:34-35 People from every nation can be saved
Ps. 103:13, There is debate on whether god has any attributes (nirguna/saguna brahman); but the good news is we can know a personal living God
Ex 34:6-7

1 John 3:16 The real lovable God is attractive to people whose gods are distant and unknowable

Deut. 10:18 Immigrants are especially vulnerable and

insecure, and need the protection and generosity of the host culture

Mk 1:27-28, Jesus' power is used to help and heal the
Jn 11:45 suffering

Lk. 5:16, 9:58, Jesus' demonstrates true spirituality not

Mt 5:3-10 worldliness

Matt. 5:5,9, Ahimsa (non-violence) is honored as a
12:20 traditional value

John 8:32 Jesus is the truth that sets us free

John 4:24 Worship God in spirit and in truth

Mahatma Gandhi's spiritual guru Srimad Rajchandra allowed himself to die of parasite infestation because of his conviction about not killing even such creatures as amebas.

John 9:5 Jesus is the light of the world

Jer 10:5 Though there are demonic supernatural powers associated with idol worship, ultimately they are powerless

1Sam 15:22 There is no power in rituals alone without relationship with
God

Gal 3:11, There is no power in rules or law (dharma) without a
Col 2:20-23 relationship with God

Mt 23:4,13 Jesus opposes religious leaders with oppressive rules

2 Pet 3:9 God is being patient so that more may repent

1 Tim 2:1-2 Pray for South Asian governments and leaders

Jn 8:12 Diwali festival themes can point to Christ the Light of the World

Rom 12:21 Dussehra festival can remind us of the true triumph of good over evil

Col 3:13 Holi festival can remind us of the need for forgiveness

The BLESS prayer formula – verses for each point suitable to share with non-believers

B Body – Matt 9:35

L Livelihood – Gen 2:15

E Emotional – Jn 14:27

S Social – Lk 4:18-19

S Spiritual – Jn 4:24

Further verses for believers:

B Isaiah 53:5 (1Peter 2:24); Exodus 23:25-26; Psalm 103:2-4; Psalm 41:3; Matthew 9:35

L Luke 12:24; Psalms 34:10; Psalms 84:11; Matthew 6:31-32

E Psalm 23:3; Psalm 30:11; Psalm 147:3; Matthew 11:28; John 14:27; 3 John 2; Isaiah 26:3

S 1 Corinthians 10:13-14; Matthew 26:41; 1 John 2:16; James 4:7; Titus 2:12; Hebrews 4:15-16; Philippians 4:13

S Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 8:16-17; Romans 8:15-16

Lectio Divina

“Divine reading” – a close reading of a Scripture passage
Resource curated by courtnee.white@cru.org

What do I need to know about this spiritual practice?

Lectio Divina is a spiritual discipline of **meditation on Scripture** in which you slowly and prayerfully read and re-read a text in order to listen and apply God’s word to your life. It’s an ancient monastic practice that is used by many Christians today.

- You can use Lectio Divina with any passage of Scripture, but a Gospel story or Psalm works especially well. You simply read and re-read the text slowly, carefully, and prayerfully.
- The goal is not intellectual knowledge but **conversational intimacy with God**. In other words, you’re not seeking information as much as *transformation* — you’re learning to apply the historical and inspired text to the personal text of your life today.
- There are a variety of ways that people do Lectio Divina. Some are more analytical and similar to Bible study and others are more meditative, emphasizing quiet prayer and reflection.
- It’s helpful to both study Scripture and meditate on it because each practice helps us in different ways. Bible study especially focuses on our mind, ideas, thinking, and worldview. Scripture meditation emphasizes our heart, feelings, desires, and prayers.

In Lectio Divina you read the Scripture passage repeatedly in 4 stages (although you may read it more than 4 times). Each time listening in a different way:

- Read (*Lectio*).
- Reflect (*Meditatio*).
- Respond (*Oratio*).
- Rest (*Contemplatio*).

How do I practice connecting with God through Lectio Divina?

- Suggested passages
 - Psalm 1:1-6 | Psalm 91 | Isaiah 58
 - Luke 10:38-42, Mary and Martha
 - Mark 10:46-52, The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus
 - Matthew 8:28-34, The Gadarene Demoniac
 - Genesis 32:22-31, Jacob Wrestles the Angel
 - Exodus 3:1-6, Moses at the Burning Bush
 - Acts 2:1-13, Pentecost
 - Matthew 3:13-17, The Baptism of Jesus
 - Luke 2:41-52, Twelve Year Old Jesus
 - Exodus 3:11-14, I Am Who I Am

Where can I learn more about this spiritual discipline when I’m ready?

- “Lectio 365” is a prayer app with two daily prayers: a shortened lectio divina reading for your morning (push pause to give yourself more time) and an examen prayer for your evening. Examen is a prayer that invites you to look back on your day for evidence of God’s loving presence as well as an invitation to notice and confess how we’ve fallen short today.
- A website: <https://www.soulshpherdinq.org/lectio-divina-guides/>. This resource is full of resources for practicing Lectio Divina, including an online course with recordings to guide you through several sessions of reading Scripture this way. We learn through spiritual companions

such as book authors, friends and mentors, spiritual directors, Christian ministries, and the local church.

- A book to refer to in the journey: *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us* by Adele Calhoun (IVP 2015).

Steps in Lectio Divina

- One method of Lectio Divina is to do four readings, one to focus on each of Guigo's four steps. But these four steps are perhaps best understood as *four underlying rhythms* that are embedded in the process of Scripture meditation.
 - In Latin Guigo's divine reading steps are *lectio* (reading), *meditatio* (meditation), *oratio* (prayer), and *contemplatio* (contemplation). You can use four R's to remember the four steps as **read, reflect, respond, and rest**.
1. **Reading**—In Lectio to read the word of God is to *take it as food and put it into your mouth*. You listen carefully to Scripture — without hurry or intellectual strain. You wait quietly for Holy Spirit to bring God's word to life. Then you pause on the portion of the passage that you're drawn to.
 2. **Meditation**—To meditate on Scripture is like *chewing your food*. You **reflect** and ponder its deep meaning. Gently repeat to yourself a phrase from the Scripture, turning it over and over in your thoughts and feelings to renew your mind (Romans 12:2).
 3. **Prayer**—Praying Scripture is like *tasting your food*. You **respond** to the words with feelings, confess your sins or struggles, and ask God for what you or others need.
 4. **Contemplation**—To contemplate on God's word is to *digest its sweetness*. You **rest** quietly in God's loving arms. No words are necessary at this point and may detract from simply being in God's loving presence. This is the goal of Lectio Divina.
 5. **Incarnatio**—Some spiritual teachers add a 5th step in Lectio Divina of *incarnatio*, which is incarnating the Word by living it out in your daily life.

Three Questions in Lectio Divina

Soul Shepherding's Lectio Divina Guides use three focus questions to guide separate readings of the Scripture. After each reading, time is allotted for quiet prayer or journaling. This works very well as a simple three step model for doing Lectio Divina. It's especially effective for leading Lectio Divina in groups.

1. One Word—What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? In silence meditate on that.
2. Feelings—What do you feel? What specific situation in your life? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.
3. Invitation—What is God's personal invitation to you from the Scripture? You can write down what the Lord may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or simply rest quietly in the Spirit's presence.

Adapted from <https://www.soulshepherding.org/lectio-divina-guides/> written by Bill Gaultiere

Listening Prayer

resource curated by courtnee.white@cru.org

“Hearing God? A daring idea, some would say--presumptuous and even dangerous. But what if we are made for it? What if the human system simply will not function properly without it? There are good reasons to think it will not. The fine texture as well as the grand movements of life show our need to hear God. Isn't it more presumptuous and dangerous, in fact, to undertake human existence without hearing God?” –Dallas Willard, Hearing God

What do I need to know about this spiritual discipline?

Listening for and learning to recognize God's voice is a part of our spiritual transformation journey. Hearing God's voice doesn't guarantee success or perfection. Also, God is not our magic genie. Rather, through listening we learn to enjoy being in His presence and hearing God's heart of love and gentle direction in our lives. Many people fear not hearing from God at all or have a hard time receiving His words of love. We don't know exactly what Jesus did during his prayer times, but it can be encouraging to imagine Jesus spending time with the Father. There are many methods of listening prayer and some of them are also called contemplative prayer in which the goal is to be still and simply be *with* God (Psalm 46:10).

Like other spiritual practices (Scripture engagement, musical worship, church service with preaching & group Bible study) we are putting ourselves in a position to hear from God. And in each of these settings, we are instructed to test what we hear against Scripture because God will never tell us something that contradicts who He is or what He has already said. Many ministry and spiritual practices today happen not because they are explicitly in the Bible, but because they are derived from principles that we know to be based in the Scriptures.

In listening prayer, we have a task that focuses our concentration and slows us down to listen for God. When the young boy Samuel hears from God, he is sleeping beside the ark (a symbol of God's presence). He wakes up 2 times thinking he hears Eli, the priest, calling for him. Eli realizes that God is calling Samuel, but Samuel doesn't yet recognize God's voice so he tells him what to do the next time he hears the call. Read the full story in 1 Samuel 3:1-19.

How do I practice connecting with God through listening prayer?

The Immanuel Journaling prompts below are an opportunity to practice sharing your heart with God and listening for his loving response.

Immanuel Journaling Worksheet

“Immanuel Journaling” is a listening prayer method that focuses on conversing with God and receiving his empathy and help. To write your two-way prayer letter simply complete each sentence. It's helpful to read your letter out loud to a friend or small group who will listen and pray for you.

Write Your Prayer.

Dear Lord (or other name for God) _____ ,

I need your help with (briefly describe a specific situation of need)...

I appreciate that you (e.g., are emotionally present for me, empowering me, etc.)...

Write God's Response.

Dear ____ (Your Name) ____ ,

Examples of God's loving gentle voice:

I see you in this situation and notice your physical demeanor (e.g., being busy, tossing and turning in bed, clenching your jaw, slumping your shoulders, crying)...

I hear what you're saying (out loud and/or in your mind)...

I understand that you're feeling (e.g., angry, afraid, anxious, guilty, sad, alone)...

I realize this is really big for you because you want...

I'm glad to be with you and I'm proud of you for your (e.g., vulnerability, courage, perseverance, kindness)...

I want to encourage you and help you by (e.g., a Scripture promise)...

The Prayer of Examen

Ignatius of Loyola taught that it was easier to discern places where God spoke to us by looking back on the day that just passed. He called it the prayer of examen. The examen is a listening prayer exercise that invites you to look back on your day for two things:

- (1) Where did I experience God's love, hear God's voice or feel particularly close to Him?
- (2) Where did I not live from a place of love? (Asking God to shine the light on our shortcomings.)

There are many written guides and (and now apps) for praying the examen. Download the *Lectio 365* app using the QR code and click on the evening prayer to be guided through the examen prayer. It's nice to have the audio reading as a companion and guide while you learn this prayer.



Prayer of Lament

A form of prayer, usually written as a poem or song
resource curated by courtnee.white@cru.org

*“To lament—that is to cry out to God with our doubts, our incriminations of him and others, to bring a complaint against him—is the context for surrender. **Surrender—the turning of our heart over to him, asking for mercy, and receiving his terms for restoration— is impossible without battle.** To put it simply, it is inconceivable to surrender to God unless there is a prior, declared war against him.*

“Christians often assume our conflict with God was finished when we converted. At that point, we were enemies of God—indeed, we were, and it was a great battle. But the battle is not over with conversion. Though it is the decisive victory that assures the outcome of the war, it is hardly the last and final fight.

“Sanctification is a lifetime process of surrendering as more and more intense conflicts with God and others expose and dissolve our urgent preoccupation with the self. A lament is the battle cry against God that paradoxically voices a heart of desire and ironic faith in his goodness.” Dan Allender, Mars Hill Review, 1994

What do I need to know about this spiritual practice?

In our grief and sorrow, we cry out our anguish, despair, disbelief, confusion, anger.

Lament is the cry of “Where are you, God?” “Why didn’t you prevent this?” “Why are you silent?” “Why did you abandon me?” “You aren’t doing what I thought you would.” “This is unfair, unjust.”

After trauma, our soul churns with heart-rending cries that, unless expressed, turn us to bitterness and judgment—against both people and God. We can become cynical, numb, or falsely pious.

Rooted in our cry is the assumption that surely, if God truly loved us, he would take away our pain.

In Psalm 13: 1, David asks, *“How much longer will you forget me, Lord? Forever?”*

Lament allows you to fully express your grief and even accuse God. In lament, grief isn’t stuffed or hidden. In expressing the full range of grief through lament, you don’t stay in grief, but move forward in calling out to God for His help.

Lament can lead to a deeper expression and experience of faith. For example, note the shift in Psalm 13, verses 5 & 6: *“I rely on your constant love; I will be glad, because you will rescue me. I will sing to you, O Lord, because you have been good to me.*

How do I practice connecting with God through lament?

Write a psalm of lament. Here are some details to inspire you to get started.

Elements of a Psalm of Lament:

- Cry out to God (your address to God).

- Affirmation of trust (your remembrance of God's presence in your past).
- Complaint (your anger, pain, heartache, or sadness).
- Confession of your sin or claim of innocence.
- Petition/Request (your deepest desire).
- Additional Argument (anything more, why God should intervene).
- Rage against your enemies (bringing your enemies before God).
- Assurance of being heard (what you need to feel heard).
- Promise to offer praise to God (the promise you can offer to God).
- Assurance (the attribute of God you are thankful for in the moment).

Every lament must have a complaint. All psalms of lament have some of the above elements, but do not require all of them. Some leave us in the process of our wrestling. Psalm 88 ends on a bleak note! "You have taken me from my neighbor and friend; darkness is my closest friend" (Psalm 88:18).

Psalms of lament were a NORMAL part of Israel's praise and worship, both as individuals and community. We do NOT attempt to solve our own problem in a lament. But purposely turn our eyes towards God, to wrestle, to listen. We can experience the paradox of sorrow with joy.

Write your personal Psalm of Lament:

- Take a recent event (e.g. loss of a friend or family member to COVID), or other trauma or loss. Take time to sit with the event, taking note of all that you feel as you recall it.
 - Identify your emotions without judgment.
 - Name your complaint without judgment.
 - Using the other elements listed, write your personal Psalm of Lament. Be truthful.
 - You might consider reading your psalm to a safe person, or to your spiritual community. There is something sacred in the empathy we experience in these safe places with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
-

Where can I learn more about this spiritual discipline when I'm ready?

- Listen to "[Season of Lament](#)" (April 29, 2020) [Things Above](#) Podcast by James Bryan Smith.
- Read more lament Psalms. There are 67 Psalms of Laments (some individual, some communal). Individual laments in the book of Psalms: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 61, 62, 63, 64, 69, 70, 71, 77, 86, 88, 94, 102, 109, 120, 130, 140, 141, 142, 143.
- Book to read: *Prophetic Lament: A Call for Justice in Troubled Times* by Soong-Chan Rah

The Loads We Carry

A Listening Prayer exercise for those who feel burdened

It is not so much what I have said to God, but what He has said to ME that has changed my life.

Psalm 139:17
How precious to me are your thoughts, O God...



Lord, would you remind me of a time when you turned a heavy load I was carrying into something “light” or “easy” ?

Isn't that just like Jesus to lighten our load?

Matthew 11: 28-29 MSG

28-30 "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion?

Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life.

I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or illfitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."



Psalm 55:22-23 Pile your troubles on God's shoulders—he'll carry your load, he'll help you out. He'll never let good people topple into ruin.

Listening Prayer Questions (Part 1):

1. God, in words or in pictures, would you show me what load or burden I am carrying today?
2. How does that make me feel?
3. What are my strategies for dealing with that?

Listening Prayer (Part 2)

1. God, in words or in pictures, would you show me how YOU see this load or burden I am carrying today?
2. If I chose to see things as you do, how does/would that make me feel?
3. What would be my strategies for dealing with that?



What are you carrying?

Sharing the stories that come from interacting with God help us let go of life sucking perspectives and latch onto life-giving ones.

I invite you to share your story with someone...

Let me give you an example...

PRAYING FOR REVIVAL

First Things First

You will never be able to pray for true revival UNTIL you first want revival in your own soul.

REVIVAL IN OUR OWN HEARTS:

- Do a reality check: Our hearts are hard, cruel, judgmental, self-righteous, prideful, hateful.
- The pandemic brought out the best of us and the worst of us. I believe God meant it to do just that. He wants us to open our eyes to what is inside us.

Jesus tells us what defiles a person: Matthew 15:10-11; Matthew 15:17-20 (See also Luke 11:39-40; Luke 12:3; Matthew 12:33-34.)

PREPARATION FOR REVIVAL: We must receive correction and transformation; respond to the Holy Spirit and humble ourselves under God's mighty hand and towards one another (1 Peter 5:5-6).

- We invite God to do His internal holy work in us.
- We are prepared to pray for that kind of transformation in others.
- We can't pray for revival for ALL, until we submit to revival for ONE.
- Praying for revival requires a holy discontent which begins with me.

Leonard Ravenhill said, "As long as we are content to live without revival, we will."

OUR FIRST PRAYER FOR REVIVAL THEN IS: "Holy Spirit, reveal my own waywardness, self-righteousness and the unplowed places of my heart (Hosea 10:12 NIV). Help me to yield these to You."

God wants to turn our hearts from barren quarries to watered gardens - (Is 58:11-12).

WELCOME THE HOLY SPIRIT'S CONVICTION.

- HE IS AFTER US, desiring us, and protecting our relationship with Him!
- God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance (Romans 2:4).

WE NEED REVIVAL! Example of Cru1995 Revival (Answer to Dr. Bright's prayer and fasting for revival)

Will you pray that God would do whatever He needs to do to revive you?
Revival begins with us FIRST.

The Woman Who Drove the Judge Crazy

DON'T STOP PRAYING

- Luke 18:1-8, "kept coming to him... keeps bothering me... her continual coming...who cry to him day and night..."
- Draw the Circle by Mark Batterson (pp. 62-66)
- Luke 18:5 in the NLT says, "This woman is driving me crazy." I think Jesus admired this woman's audacity and persistence.
- Isaiah 62:6-7 "Give him no rest until..."
- Jacob - Genesis 32:22-32
- James 4:2: "You do not have, because you do not ask."

Is our lack of asking God and pestering Him for revival communicating to Him that we are content without it? Is that what you want to communicate?

Read Fireseeds of Spiritual Awakening by Dan Hayes. It will motivate you to pray for revival.

Will you prayerfully consider being a “crazy” woman or man? Will you press into God, even pester Him for revival? He loves it when we do. It demonstrates faith.

PRAYER: “Give us stalwart hearts to pursue the prayers of your righteous purpose until you come.”

Revival Will Come

God gives us a call to pray and tells us what He will do if we respond.

- 2 Chronicles 7:14
- Hosea 10:12c, “For it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you.”
- God wants to bring revival. In the Scripture He called His people to return to Him.

PERSIST & PRAY

- Pray various Scriptures each day.
- Recite it or meditate on it.
- Picture its fulfillment symbolically or what it might look like in your ministry.
- Scripture I pray each week:
 - Monday – Acts 2:42-47; Isaiah 11:2-3a; Isaiah 41:17-20.
 - Tuesday – Psalm 34:8; Zephaniah 3:17; Jeremiah 15:16; Psalm 17:15; Hebrews 12:14-15.
 - Wednesday – Hosea 10:12; Isaiah 58:11-12; Luke 18:1.
 - Thursday – Ezekiel 37:1-14; Habakkuk 3:2; Revelation 3:1-13.
 - Friday - Ephesians 3:16-19; Mark 11:22-25; Luke 3:4-6; Psalm 68:9; Isaiah 57:14-15.
 - Saturday – Zechariah 4:6; Ephesians 2:14-22.
 - Sunday – Acts 3:19; Romans 15:13; Psalm 63.

EXAMPLE: Isaiah 41:17-20 (NIV). I picture deserts becoming olive groves.

REVIVAL CARDS

These cards are meant to catalyze prayer in your personal life, discipleship, Bible Study, church, on a mission trip, with your ministry team, or during a prayer walk. May the prayers lifted up through these cards be as seed sown toward the purpose of God on this earth. May He reveal to you the power of prayer, the gift of prayer and HIMSELF: the reward of prayer. FOLLOW LINKS BELOW:

- [Prayer for Revival Card Instructions](#)
- [Revival Cards](#)
(PDF for self-printing)

“Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you.” Hosea 10:12

Self-Guided Spiritual GPS

*Adapted from the Spiritual GPS Exercise by Danny Mullins, Sustainable Faith
By: Dominique Dawson and Hung Lu

Prep:

- Get comfortable, close your eyes, and feel the ground underneath your feet.
- Try to be still and quiet before the Lord.
- Relax and take deep breaths (inhale for 4 secs, hold for 3 secs, exhale for 4 secs and hold for 3 secs)

Pray: “Give us the grace to know where we have been, where we are now, and hope for what’s ahead, even if we don’t feel it right now.”

Process:

1. Physically- What have you noticed in your body?
2. Emotionally- What are the principal emotions you have felt? Name the feelings specifically.
(Feelings Wheel)
3. Mentally-What has dominated your thoughts? Where have you found your thoughts wandering to?
4. Spiritually-Has this situation affected your walk with God? How So?
5. Relationally-Has this taken a toll on your relationships, family, loved ones, etc.?
6. Longings-When you are quiet, what do you find yourself longing for most?
7. Read over your answers slowly. Does anything stand out?
8. How does the Lord want to meet you? What do you sense the Lord is inviting you to?

Guide to the Psalms

Wisdom Psalms

Wisdom psalms guide the worshiper to avoid the wrong path, turn doubting into trusting, and instruct on how to relate to the Lord in suffering.

Psalms 1, 37, 45, 49, 73

- Avoiding the wrong path
- Doubting → believing
- Relating to the Lord in suffering

Royal Psalms

These psalms identify the king as the extension of God on earth and petition God to carry out his will through the king.

Psalms 2, 20, 45, 72, 89, 110, 132, 144

- Subject → the king
- purpose → ask God to bless him.

Nature Psalms

Psalms 8, 19, 29, 65, 104

Other religions deify or personify nature, but worship of Yahweh praises him as Lord over nature.

- Paganism deifies/personifies nature, but Yahwism praises Yahweh as Lord over nature.

Praise Psalms/Hymns

In the hymn of praise, the poet and congregation are conscious that they are standing face to face with the Lord in his holy space and worshiping him with adoration for his attributes and acts.

Psalms 33, 47, 48, 66, 76, 81, 89, 90, 95, 96, 98, 100, 103, 111-113, 117, 134, 135, 145-150

“The core of the hymn of praise is the consciousness of the poet and congregation that they are standing face to face with the Lord Himself, meeting the almighty, holy and merciful God in His own place, and worshiping Him with praise and adoration” (Mowinkel).

Penitential Psalms

These psalms express deep sorrow for sin and desire for forgiveness.

Psalms 32 and 51

- Sorrow for sin
- Desire for forgiveness

Psalms of Confidence

The poet expresses confidence, or faith in the Lord, in his deliverance, care, and so forth.

Psalms 11, 16, 23, 27, 37, 73, 91, 121

- Express confidence, or faith in the Lord, His deliverance, care, etc.

Psalm 23

1. When there are challenges that tax us, God gives us security (v. 1).
2. When there are tasks that exhaust us, God gives serenity (v. 2).
3. When there are failures that disappoint us, God gives stability (v. 3).
4. When there are dark days that distress us, God gives His sympathy (v. 4).
5. When there are conflicts that threaten us, God gives us prosperity (v. 5).
6. When there are questions about the future, God gives eternity (v. 6).

National Psalms

The poet expresses concern for issues of righteousness on a national scale, often reviewing Israel's history.

Psalms 80, 85

- Express concern for issues that had to do with all Israel.

Lamentation Psalms

The psalmist describes his distress and sorrow, often for unjust wrongs, and calls out to God for help.

Psalms 6, 12, 13, 17, 18, 22, 42-43, 69, 102

- Mood = sorrow & distress
- Response = call out to God

Pattern/Form of the Laments

1. Invocation of Yahweh's name
2. Cry to God for help
3. Prayer for deliverance/complaint
4. Confession of sin or assertion of innocence
5. Expression of confidence in the Lord's help.
6. Expression of praise

Imprecatory Psalms

The writer calls on God to send his immediate judgment on the ungodly.

Psalms 28, 58, 109, 137

- These Psalms call on God to send His judgment on the ungodly

Note:

"...these pleas for God's judgment are simply an outgrowth of beliefs about who God is and how He will act" (Hill & Walton, p. 352).

Thanksgiving Psalms

These hymns exude joy as they recount the deeds of the Lord.

Psalms 30, 34, 92, 105, 107, 118

- Exude happiness
- Focus on the deeds of the Lord

Form of Thanksgiving Psalms

1. Invocation of Yahweh's name
2. Description of former need
3. Quotation of former prayer
4. Profession of answered prayer
5. Expression of thanksgiving

Naya Jeevan Prayer Points 2023 Unreached People Group Focus

KARANA PEOPLE of MADAGASCAR

*“Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth, for I am God, and there is no other.”
-Isaiah 45:22*

The South Asian community of Madagascar is collectively known as “Karanas” to the native Malagasy people. Estimated at 25,000, they control a disproportionately large part of the economy. This results in resentment and there is ill-treatment by each group toward the other. Karanas mainly speak Gujarati and are comprised of Muslim Ismailis and Bohras, and Hindus. The first temple opened in Antananarivo in 2022. The Karanas remain unreached as the Christian Malagasy people avoid them.

Thank God: In 2017, the first Love Your Neighbour training was held in Madagascar and out of that a prayer group was formed for the Karana. This group expanded and renewed their commitment after a second LYN held in 2022.



- ❖ **Pray** that the Malagasy Christians will see that the Karana of Madagascar are made in the image of God and need to be reached with the truth of the Gospel.
- ❖ **Pray** that a fellowship of believers be established from this community who will be able to reach others in their community. There are only two known believers.
- ❖ **Pray** that God will lead those in the Karana community who are searching for Truth, to followers of Jesus who are ready and willing to

love them and share Gospel truth with them.

- ❖ **Thank God** that Love Your Neighbour is being used by God to motivate and equip Malagasy believers to share Jesus as good news with Karana people!
- ❖ **Thank God** for the Malagasy translation of Love Your Neighbour that is underway and **pray** it will be used to more effectively communicate the teaching to more Christians.

Naya Jeevan Ministry Prayer Points

Updated as of August 2023

Offering strategies, resources, and training to mobilize believers to share Jesus as good news with South Asian neighbors

<https://nayajeevan.org/resources>

Pray and thank God for:

- ❖ South Asian churches, pastors and ministries to model love towards their neighbors and unity toward each other
- ❖ Political leaders to promote peace, justice and freedom for the gospel to spread
- ❖ Displaced Christians from Manipur – provision, healing for the hurting and grieving, forgiveness toward those who hurt them, courage in their gospel witness, and restoration of peace among all communities
- ❖ God to raise up a new generation of church leaders for South Asia to replace those lost in the pandemic
- ❖ That we in Naya Jeevan will be able to surmount challenges to our goal of creating a Love Your Neighbor video course
- ❖ For the 20+ Love Your Neighbor trainers on five continents to maintain their passion and excellence
- ❖ Thank God for new associate LYN trainers added in several countries this year, pray for God to add even more trainers in more strategic countries
- ❖ Thank God for a newly updated Hindi LYN translation, as well as an update underway in Bengali and new translations in Malagasy and Punjabi; other languages are funded and will be started soon
- ❖ Pray these translations will be used to equip many more believers in more effective and sensitive witness; pray for more bilingual trainers in these and other languages
- ❖ That we can continue to strategically connect more ministry resources with more partners who want to use them this year, mainly by connecting with ministry partners on phone; these resources include Concise Bibles, evangelistic cards, gospel booklets, and more
- ❖ For God to raise up even more Breakthrough Prayer Laborers motivated and equipped to intercede for South Asia
- ❖ Fruitfulness of explorejesusbible.com evangelistic website
- ❖ For a small group of partners working to create a new website to attract Indians to learn about Jesus; pray it will come to fruition within 2024
- ❖ Thank God for Naya Jeevan's faithful financial partners and churches and for God's gracious provision
- ❖ Thank God and pray for our administrative assistant Prakash Mathews and Breakthrough Coordinator Reena Shrestha and other Breakthrough leaders

***Brothers and sisters,
pray for us.***

1 Thessalonians 5:25



DAY WITH THE LORD

SEPTEMBER
2023

Prayer Points for South Asia

Bangladesh

Though the gospel is tolerated, and churches meet publicly in many places, Christians still face persecution from local Muslim authorities, Islamist extremist groups, families and communities. Pray for the encouragement of Christians, who are often the only believers in their village. On the urban front, Dhaka is one of the fastest growing mega cities in the world home to Bengali Muslims who are one of the largest unreached people groups on earth (the majority of them live in Bangladesh). Pray for Dhaka's needs as a growing megacity. It faces many overwhelming challenges with overcrowding, frequent flooding, and pollution.

Pray for wise leadership and good management both in the church and in the government. Pray for Muslims in Dhaka to have opportunities to learn about what it means to follow Christ.

Pray also for Christian women in Bangladesh who are particularly vulnerable to persecution. They are considered weak and are expected to follow orders rather than protest or fight back even though they are more than capable of doing so. Life is often even harder for converts as they endure countless persecution in the forms of mockery, threats, public shaming, and even physical abuse.

Pray for openness to the gospel among the general population, for believers to live vibrant lives and to share Jesus as good news with love and grace. Pray for families and communities to be transformed as new believers walk with Christ.

Bhutan

The U.S. government estimates the total population at 857,000 (midyear 2021). According to a 2012 report by the Pew Research Center, approximately 75 percent of the population follows Buddhism and 23 percent are Hindu. The Open Doors report covering 2021 estimates the Christian population at 30,000 (approximately 3.5 percent). Most Christians in Bhutan are of Nepali heritage, and believers are focused on reaching the ethnic Bhutanese with the message of Christ. Christians are restricted by federal laws and persecuted by local authorities.

The king identifies himself as the defender of the Buddhist faith, and the government works covertly to discourage the spread of Christianity. Christians are viewed as followers of a foreign, Western religion. There is no opportunity for the legal registration of churches in Bhutan. Christians often lose their jobs and are unable to find work because of their faith. Many Christians must worship in secret.

Though small numbers of Bibles are allowed into the nation legally, the government continues to restrict widespread distribution. Pray for successful Bible distributions in the country. Pray for an increase in youth engagement with the gospel. Pray that God will mobilize more Bhutanese Christians to share the gospel with the unreached.

Christians in Bhutan are allowed to practice their faith only at home. Let's pray for the Bhutanese government to allow Christians to preach and practice their faith freely. Lately the government officials were reluctant to issue ID cards to people who are not following Buddhism. Pray for God to intervene and touch the heart of persecutors in the Bhutanese government. Pray that God will supernaturally reveal Himself to Bhutanese through dreams and visions.

Pakistan

Openness to the Gospel and Christian outreach: Pray for openness in society to the message of Jesus and acceptance of the Scriptures. Pray that people will see things in their own traditions and beliefs that point to Jesus and be drawn to him. Pray for protection of national believers and missionaries who are serving in Pakistan and organizations which help with Bible distributions.

Religious Extremism: Pray that God would protect the Christian minorities against religious extremism, who face issues such as: discrimination, persecution, and outright violence.

Blasphemy Law: Pray that God would protect His people who are accused and sentenced through the strictest blasphemy laws in Pakistan. People jailed under these laws risk a sentence of life in prison and worse still, even death prohibited by law. Muslims who change their faith to Christianity, are subject to societal pressure. Extremely controversial were the blasphemy laws, which made it treacherous for non-Muslims to express themselves without being accused of being un-Islamic. Believers who have converted from Islam are the most vulnerable to persecution.

Increased incidents/attacks on Christians/Minorities: Pray that the Lord would intervene in the several attacks and kidnapping instances witnessed in Pakistan recently and save the persecutors as well. Although there were no major attacks against churches last year, there are almost constant attacks against individuals. Christian women and girls are particularly vulnerable. Reports indicate there is a silent epidemic of kidnappings, forced marriages and forced conversion of Christian girls and women in Pakistan.

For Equality and Social Redemption in Pakistan: In Pakistan, Christians are considered second-class citizens and are discriminated against in every aspect of public and private life. Only 25 percent of the Christian minority in Pakistan has received basic education, leaving the remaining 75 percent uneducated. The lack of educational opportunities denies them access to medium and high-level jobs, perpetuating their social and economic marginalization. Legislation to protect journalists at the provincial level in Pakistan is urgently needed.

Transformation: Pray that the good news of Jesus will transform lives on the individual and societal level, for forgiveness, love, humility. Pray for the economy; there is rampant inflation and extreme poverty. Pray for God's Spirit to move, his kingdom to grow, and God to be glorified from among all the 70+ language communities and ethnic groups.

India

Pray for Manipur Crisis. Women raped, men killed in the name of faith and belief, numerous Churches burnt, houses being demolished, open murders, children orphaned, certificates and documents burnt of students who are supposed to shape our country, India. And all possible evil that can happen on the face of the earth. What we are seeing and hearing on the news is just the tip of the iceberg.

Pray for states battling floods and natural calamities. Heavy rainfall during the 2023 monsoon season resulted in severe flooding and landslides across Northern India, affecting thousands of residents in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi. Also Assam in the North East faces massive floods.

Pray for the upcoming National Elections in India in 2024. Pray that the entire nation would vote for good governance and to ensure that our Constitution is honoured and abided by. Pray for the safe and fair electoral process. Pray for the selection of a Prime Minister who would ensure justice for all. Pray that media bias will be replaced by fairness. Ask that Christianity will receive fair coverage in all reports.

Pray for the Indian Diaspora. The Indian diaspora now numbers nearly 30 million and is spread across 130 countries. They are influential in their adopted lands, especially in business, technology and culture. They are likewise a great influence on their relations and communities back in India. Many are open to the gospel – especially first-generation immigrants – and in some countries, there has been significant outreach and response (South Africa, USA, Canada, Mauritius, Middle East).

Pray for Students to be reached with the Good News of our Lord. Students number over 11.5 million in 320 Universities and 23,000 Colleges. The large majority of these will graduate but be considered unemployable due to the competitiveness of industry and inadequate quality of education. Also pray for the ministries of YFC, ICCC, Inter Collegiate Prayer Fellowship (ICPF) and Union of Evangelical Students of India (UESI) as they continue to reach out to Students.

Pray for trained, effective workers to reach out to the significant majority Middle Class population. The middle classes (up to 350 million people). Half the cross-cultural missionaries worked among tribal groups, and many of the rest among the neediest sections of the population. Few today work among the urban middle class and the higher castes. This needs to change, but most workers feel unprepared for such challenges.

Real missionaries and pastors working in the field of our nation continue to receive a bare minimum provision from many of their mission organizations. Though some money comes for them, these precious workers are denied a decent salary or allowance. Pray that they get needed salary so that they can live decently and their children get better education from a good school.

Pray for another Great Awakening to sweep the nation of India as the Lord's people learn to humble themselves with a contrite spirit, and to tremble at the Word of the Lord.

Maldives

Though the island republic of Maldives is known for its beauty, the islands which are home to 521,021 people now stand in a vulnerable state, as the coral that supports them is being destroyed by coral mining and increasing ocean temperatures. Political persecution by the government that enforces practicing Islam is the biggest challenge to the gospel on the spiritual front. Pray that the state's contradictions and heavy-handedness toward Christianity would ease up, as it is split between hardened religion and empty liberties (human rights, religious freedom, and violent opposition).

Pray for the availability of Scripture and gospel literature as many of the people are not too inclined to Islam though the law enforces adherence to the faith. Pray for the genuine name and nature of Jesus to be revealed in this country.

Pray for God to send more missionaries, evangelists and Christian business people into Maldives. Pray for them not to be so focused on making converts but on building genuine relationships with the people. Pray for Christian tourists who travel to the Maldives to have many opportunities to share the truth of the gospel with Maldivian Muslims and to make use of those opportunities. Pray for open doors and for hearts that desire to know the hope of Jesus Christ.

Pray that God will reveal Himself in the Maldives through dreams, visions, radio broadcasts, web evangelism, and witnessing. Pray for drugs, violence, terrorism, and the occult to be supernaturally replaced by salvation in Jesus.

Pray for the strengthening of the faith of the Maldivian Christians, though they be scattered and in hiding. Pray for the financial well-being of Maldivian believers who have suffered material loss owing to their faith.

Nepal

Nepal is a Hindu country. However, Christianity is growing rapidly in Nepal amid intense pressure and persecution. In 2022, the Nepal Christian Community Survey counted roughly 800,000 believers, out of a total population of 30.5 million, gathering in about 8,000 congregations.

Even though Nepal is constitutionally a secular democracy, it has an anti-conversion law, which makes conversion from the original faith – Hinduism – a punishable offense. Let us pray that secularism will be restored in Nepal in its true sense.

The church is growing in numbers, diversity and maturity, many foreign-based denominations as well as indigenous networks of churches are established. Pray that the church may be kept from division and error.

Persecution remains and is intensifying in Nepal. Christians face harassment and beatings from local Hindu nationalists who envision Nepal becoming a “pure” Hindu nation.

Pray for God’s protection upon Christians and for the opening of the spiritual eyes of the people of Nepal including government authorities to the truth of the gospel. The public image of Christianity in Nepal is as a foreign, mostly Western intrusion that undermines traditional culture and society and appeals only to lower castes. Despite this, Nepal’s Christians are, with increasing confidence, defending their rights and building a fully Nepali, fully Christian identity. Pray for discernment, courage and faithfulness for those seeking to overturn this negative opinion.

Sri Lanka

In the year 2022, the US government estimated the total population of Sri Lanka at 23.2 million. The 2012 national census, which provides the most recent available data lists the population as 70.2 percent Buddhist, 12.6 percent Hindu, 9.7 percent Muslim and 7.4 percent Christians. The majority of Christian population in Sri Lanka are Catholics. The constitution and other laws accord Buddhism the “foremost place” among the country’s religious faiths and commit the government to protecting it while respecting the rights of religious minorities.

Pray that God would open the eyes of the people of Sri Lanka to the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray for God's protection on Sri Lanka's vulnerable children, that many would come to know Him and grow up to serve Him.

Pray for the indigenous ministries working in Sri Lanka, that God would grant them every provision to continue sharing Christ's love and truth with people in need of a Savior. Pray for the complete healing and recovery of Sri Lanka from the severe political and economic crisis it faced during the past year.

Pray for the Christians from different denominations to be united in their faith and in their mission to reach out to the lost with the truth of gospel. There were numerous church attacks in Sri Lanka in the past; pray for God's protection upon churches and Christians and the freedom of God's servants who are currently persecuted.