

# GRAND MARAIS PRAYER INITIATIVE

June 2021 Newsletter / Issue 3

## MISSION

Cultivate an urgency for unified prayer through its committed/disciplined practice.

## VISION

Holy Spirit-led prayer movement makes disciples & transforms the community by radiating Christ-like character.

## UNITY IN CHRIST: THE PATH TO WORLD REVIVAL

The central concept for last month's prayer map (i.e., May 2021) was "Maintaining Unity in Christ"; evidence in Scripture suggests there is no factor more important to the life of the Church than this. In His high priestly prayer in John 17, Jesus asks the following about those who hear the gospel from His Apostles:

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word...that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me." (Excerpted from John 17:20–23 ESV)

The sequence Jesus upholds in this prayer infers that His believers must "become perfectly one" before the world can come to know that God sent Him. In John 6:29, Jesus states the following in response to a crowd's question about what they must do to be doing the works of God: "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." Therefore, it follows that Jesus' believers must "become perfectly one" before the world can do the "works of God".

Of course, becoming "perfectly one" is something our human nature precludes us from achieving, but through God's grace, we get a glimpse of this ultimate reality from the inner joy we experience worshiping, praying, studying, and fellowshiping with our brothers and sisters in Christ. And this glimpse compels us to earnestly pray that we strive for and experience the outcome of further Spirit-born unity. In light of the importance of Christian unity to the ultimate mission of the Church (i.e., world revival), the GMEFC elders have agreed that "Maintaining Unity in Christ" should be extended as the Prayer Initiative's central concept for June 2021. Our job is to continue to earnestly pray for the personal and corporate characteristics which, under the Holy Spirit's influence, will give rise to unity within the body of Christ; God provides the growth (see 1 Corinthians 3:6). To Him be the glory!

## MAY 2021 MEETING POSTPONED TO JUNE 13TH

Because of some scheduling oversights (the Editor's fault entirely!) the Prayer Initiative's monthly meeting in May was postponed until Sunday morning June 13<sup>th</sup>. For convenience, the meeting will be held in-person (yea!) on the 13<sup>th</sup> in GMEFC's Fellowship Hall during the adult Sunday School hour at 9:00 am; a Zoom link will be provided for anyone wishing to participate offsite.

Since no meeting was held in May, there are no meeting highlights to report. A general outline for the monthly Prayer Initiative meetings is provided at the end of this newsletter. We especially look forward to hearing about any Spiritual insights or answers participants have received in response to upholding

their personal prayer commitments. As always, please be prepared to suggest concepts that could be used as the central focus for July's prayer map.

## **PRAYER MAP FOR JUNE 2021**

As explained in the opening section of this newsletter, the Prayer Initiative's central concept for June remains "Maintaining Unity in Christ". That said, the prayer elements for large-scale revival have been expanded. Please do not exclude these elements from your focused prayer time; we fail to be mindful of who God is and what He has promised if we limit our petitions to what we think appears possible; let the Holy Spirit speak instead! "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer..." (1 Peter 3:12a)

## **ANSWERED PRAYERS**

Speaking of being attentive to pray-ers, it would be a great oversight if this newsletter failed to recognize God's healing work and support in the lives of so many of His children (in our community and beyond) that we have included as part of our focused prayers over the past 18 months; we see what He has done; and we thank and praise Him for His gracious work! Again, to Him be the glory!

## **WANT TO KNOW MORE? WANT TO ADD SOMETHING TO THIS NEWSLETTER? HAVE OTHER SUGGESTIONS?**

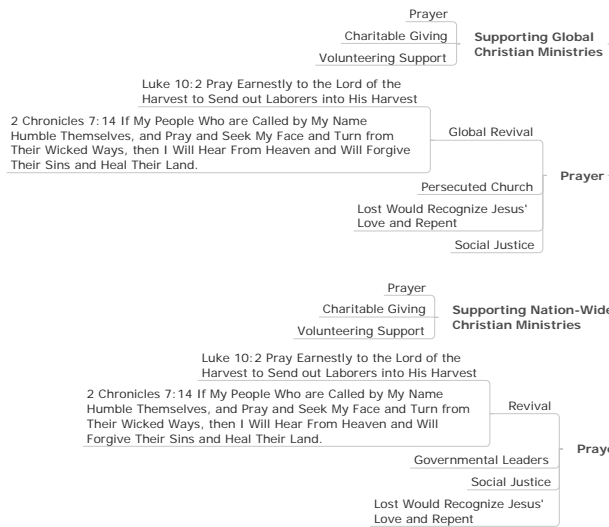
Pray-ers are encouraged to contribute input that would provide for the outgrowth of Spirit-led prayer in the community. Email the editor a note at [online@grandmaraisfree.church](mailto:online@grandmaraisfree.church) if you have something that should be shared to encourage others' growth in prayer!

### **Addendum: Typical Agenda for Monthly Prayer Initiative Meeting**

- I.** Opening Prayer
- II.** Spiritual Insights Revealed
- III.** General Assessment of Accountability
- IV.** Central Concept for Next Month
- V.** Open Prayer Time
- VI.** Closing Prayer

# Grand Marais Prayer Initiative: No House in Christ Can Be Divided June 2021 Prayer Map

## Maintaining Unity in Christ



### Manifestations of Unity Borne of Holy Spirit

- Inward**
  - Urgency to Commune with God Through Earnest/Fervent Prayer (i.e., Drawing Near to Him With a Pure Heart)
  - Heartfelt Desire to Exemplify Christ-like Character
  - Focusing on Jesus' Redeeming Sacrifice
  - Take Captive Every Thought to Obey Jesus
  - Trusting in God's Power to do What He Has Promised
- Outward**
  - Stirring Up One Another to Love and Good Works
  - Submitting to One Another Out of Reverence to Christ
  - Not Failing to Meet With One Another
  - Encouraging One Another All the More As We See the Day Approaching
  - Yielding Good Fruit

### Local Manifestations of Christian Unity

