

GRAND MARAIS PRAYER INITIATIVE

May 2021 Newsletter / Issue 2

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.

GREETINGS PRAY-ERS!

The Grand Marais Prayer Initiative turns two months old on May 1st! We hope – no, in fact we pray – that each participant’s commitment to spend a specified length of time each day in focused prayer is having an increasingly positive impact on his/her prayer life. The participants have started to meet in GMEFC’s Fellowship Hall during the adult Sunday School hour on the third Sunday of each month to share such impacts and any Spiritual insights that might be beneficial to others. April’s meeting included people that attended in person and via Zoom video hookup. The Zoom option worked well in combination with the in-person audience, therefore we will make this option available until further notice. Please join us and share the prayer time insights the Holy Spirit is revealing to you; a typical agenda for the Initiative’s monthly meeting has been provided as Attachment 1. We will make an effort to include in this newsletter and its future issues highlights of each monthly meeting.

April 2021 Meeting Highlights

Praying in Jesus’ Name

One participant described as Spiritual insight the understanding he received about praying in Jesus’ name and why it is stated at the end of our prayers. His understanding came in response to prayer about the matter and related that prayer made in Jesus’ name must recognize who He is, the realities of His perfect character, and the redemption He extends to *all* people. When we say the phrase “in Jesus’ name” at the end of our prayers we are in essence stating “If there is anything in my prayer that is out of line with Jesus’ character, I renounce it!”

Praying Scriptural Prayers

Another participant talked about the heartfelt peace she observed when praying Scriptural verses. Those present considered such peace a direct consequence of the perfect nature of Scriptural prayer in that there is no opportunity for praying outside the bounds of Jesus’ role as our advocate.

Prayer Lists

Several participants spoke to the value of keeping a list of prayer needs to ensure no person on the list was inadvertently forgotten. One couple with a large list spoke about managing their prayer list using the

“flip chart” approach, i.e., putting their list on a series of spiral bound index cards and ‘flipping’ through a manageable number of them each day and returning to the beginning once reaching the end of the list.

Follow-up on Last Month’s Suggestions

Encouraging Participation of Beginning Pray-ers

Last month a participant at the monthly meeting suggested efforts be made to encourage the participation of beginning pray-ers who might otherwise feel unsure about being welcomed. One GMEFC Elder suggested the church offer a prayer mentorship program. We will explore options for implementing such a program and report back via this newsletter.

Integration With Existing Prayer Groups

We are still considering how the mission and vision of the Prayer Initiative might be integrated with existing prayer groups.

PRAYER MAP FOR MAY 2021

New Central Concept: Maintaining Unity in Christ

The Prayer Initiative’s central concept for the past two months has been “Cultivating an Urgency for Prayer.” We trust that people participating in the Initiative have an increased awareness of their need to come before God each day in focused prayer, i.e., they are experiencing the Holy Spirit’s directive power to a greater extent. So, it is time to move on – not letting go of our urgent need for prayer – to other matters.

The covid pandemic has created stress in almost every area of life and, among other things, has threatened serious division in the nation’s social fabric. As we begin to emerge from this serious trial we are thankful that our unity in the body of Christ has prevailed! We realize this by the inner joy we experience seeing our brothers and sisters in Christ as we reconvene in-person for worship, prayer, study, and fellowship. We are reminded of the words of the Apostle John in 1 John 4:4:

“...you are from God and have overcome [the Spirit of the antichrist] for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

We are so thankful that the Spiritual enemy has not triumphed in dividing our community of faith that we must earnestly pray to maintain such unity! You will recognize in the subtopics listed on the attached prayer map tenets from Hebrews chapter 10, Romans chapter 12, Philippians chapter 3, 1 Corinthians chapter 13, Ephesians chapter 5, and Matthew chapters 7 & 12. Please join with us in focusing on this month’s central concept of maintaining unity in Christ as part of your daily prayer time commitment.

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 if you have something that should be shared to encourage others’ growth in prayer!

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

- Prayer
 - Charitable Giving
 - Volunteering Support**Supporting Global Christian Ministries**
- Global Revival
 - Persecuted Church
 - Lost Would Recognize Jesus' Love and Repent
 - Social Justice**Prayer**
- Prayer
 - Charitable Giving
 - Volunteering Support**Supporting Nation-Wide Christian Ministries**
- Revival
 - Governmental Leaders
 - Social Justice
 - Lost Would Recognize Jesus' Love and Repent**Prayer**

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

Global

Regional

Local Manifestations of Christian Unity

- Personal**
 - Pressing On Toward the Goal for the Prize of the Upward Call of God In Christ Jesus
 - Taking the Log Out of Own Eyes Before Working on Another's
 - Growing in Jesus' Love
- Familial**
 - Holding Each Other's Strengths in the Highest Regard
 - Maintaining Respect for One Another
 - Demonstrating Integrity
 - Growing in Jesus' Love
- GMEFC**
 - Rejecting Satan's Attempts to Divide/Disrupt
 - Finding Joy in Each Other's Presence
 - Recognizing, Valuing and Celebrating Each Other's Spiritual Gifts
 - Regarding Others as More Important Than Ourselves
 - Outdoing One Another in Showing Honor
 - Growing Spiritually Through Fellowship Opportunities
 - Worshipping Together
 - Praying Together
 - Studying Together
 - Joining Others Where We See the Holy Spirit at Work
 - Sponsored Ministries
 - Sponsored Missionaries
 - Charitable Acts
 - Supporting Brothers & Sisters Through Adversity
 - Rejoicing In Answered Prayer
 - Tenderly Holding Each Other to Account When Necessary
 - Showing Impartiality in All Decision-Making
 - Growing in Jesus' Love
- Ministerial**
 - Maintaining Love as Our Congregational Charge
 - Pure Hearts
 - Clear Consciences
 - Sincere Faith
 - Being Courageous in Leading/Preaching/Teaching
 - Growing in Jesus' Love
- Other Churches**
 - Seeking Cooperative Opportunities to Promote Gospel Truths
 - Actively Pursue Social Justice
- Neighborhoods**
 - Demonstrating Hospitality
 - Maintaining Integrity

Attachment 1: 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