

Shining Like Stars in the World, The Journey Outward Striving for Christian Maturity

What joy from a life formed by Christ rings out from the pages of Paul's letter to the Philippians! Written in prison in his latter years, Paul speaks of Christian maturity leading to "shining like stars in the world" (2:15). Sharing the Gospel with others is joy. What perspective for the journey outward.

In his suggested spiritual preparation for 2013 Annual Conference, Moderator Robert Krouse speaks of the Journey Outward as a response to our Journey Inward where we prepare to live for others. "Loving my neighbor as myself is not possible without loving my God with all my heart."

In order to pray for various mission endeavors, in this spiritual disciplines folder we are going to look at Paul's letter to the Philippians. A lifetime of growing in spiritual maturity led the Apostle Paul to great themes in this letter where he shares about growing in Christ and in Christian community.

Being a short letter, you will find just a few verses to read and ponder over for each day. Also, Moderator Bob has given us a daily prayer focus on a mission endeavor. The pattern below can assist us. In the insert you find possibilities to take your next incremental steps in spiritual maturity.

For each day, we suggest a prayer pattern:

- 1) Release all to God and begin to feel God's love.
- 2) Slowly read the text and reread it, pondering its meaning and seeing if anything calls out to you.
- 3) Have prayers that focus on God's mission.
- 4) In solitude, listen to God speak to you.

May the grace of Christ be with you as we strive to shine like stars in the world through Christian maturity. Together as the Christian community we hold one another up in prayer.

Mon.: 4/1 - ...”servants of Christ Jesus”... Phil. 1:1-2
USA – Pray for sufficient # of volunteers needed to serve in 2013

Tues.: 4/2 - “I thank my God every time I remember...” Phil. 1:3-5
S. Sudan – Athanasus Ungang & Brethren Ministry Center

Wed.: 4/3 - “I am now confident of this...” Phil. 1:6-7
Brazil – Suely Inhauser in Biblical counseling with couples/families

Thurs.: 4/4 - “For God is my witness” Phil. 1:8-11
Africa – Twa Pygmy communities Rwanda, Burundi and D.R. Congo

Fri.: 4/5 - “helped spread the Gospel...” Phil. 1:12-14
USA – Children’s Disaster Services in their planning

Sat.: 4/6 - “These proclaim Christ out of love...” Phil. 1:15-18a
Nigeria – Carl and Roxanne Hill at Kulp Bible College

Sun: 4/7 – “by speaking with all boldness, Christ...” Phil. 1:18b-20
India – Pray for the COB students in High school in Valsad

Mon.: 4/8 - “For to me, living is Christ,...” Phil. 1:21-26
D. R. Congo – Displaced by rebels Congolese Brethren in Goma

Tues.: 4/9 - “Striving side by side with one mind...” Phil. 1:27-28
Honduras-Blessing for work camp led by Bill Hare of Polo, IL

Wed.: 4/10 - “Granted you the privilege of suffering Phil. 1:29-30
CWS – Church World Service throughout the world

Thurs.: 4/11 - “hearts encouraged, united in love...” Phil. 2:1-3
Brazil – Campinas congregation seeking a facility for worship

Fri.: 4/12 - “Let the same mind be in you...” Phil. 2:4-5
S. Sudan – Jillian Foerster’s safety in Yei, South Sudan

Sat.: 4/13 – “but emptied himself, taking the form...” Phil. 2:6-8
Haiti – the Haiti Medical Program as it continues to grow

Sun.: 4/14 – “So that at the Name of Jesus” Phil. 2:9-11
Nigeria – greater understanding between Brethren farmers and nomadic cattle herders.

Mon.: 4/15 - “Work out your salvation with fear...” Phil. 2:12-13
South Sudan – Jocelyn Snyder, BVSer serving in Kajo Keji

Tues.: 4/16 – Shine like Stars in the world” Phil. 2:14-15
North Korea – Robert and Linda Shank, Pyongyang University

Wed.: 4/17 - “Holding fast to the word of life...rejoice” Phil. 2:16-18
USA - Emotional healing of families in Newtown, Conn.

Thurs.: 4/18 - “Cheered by news of you” Phil. 2:19-21
Dominican Republic – Jeff Boshart as he visits coffee growers

Fri.: 4/19 - “like a son with a father, he has served...” Phil. 2:22-24
Nigeria – Carol Smith, math teacher, EYN Secondary School

Sat.: 4/20 - “he has been longing for all of you” Phil. 2:25-27
Millenium Development Goals be priority of our nation

Sun.: 4/21 – “in order that you may rejoice...” Phil. 2:28-30
Colossians 3:12-17
 USA – Work of Nate Hosler in Washington, D.C.

Mon.: 4/22 – “Finally, ... rejoice in the Lord ...” Phil. 3:1-4
 India – New CNI Bishop of Gujarat, Silvans Christian

Tues.: 4/23 – “...as to righteousness under the law...” Phil. 3:5-6
 Brazil – Campinas Brethren community reaching university students

Wed.: 4/24 – “Let the word of God dwell in you richly” Phil. 3:7-9
 Nigeria – Dr. Rebecca Dali leading Kulp Bible College

Thurs.: 4/25 – “I want to know Christ and the power...” Phil. 3:10-11
 Dominican Republic – for theological program to be established

Fri.: 4/26 – “but I press on to make it my own...” Phil. 3:12-14
 Brazil – Indaiatuba congregation in time of pastoral transition

Sat.: 4/27 – “be of the same mind...hold fast...” Phil. 3:15-16
 Nigeria – Pray for safety of EYN leaders and members

Sun.: 4/28 – “He will transform the body...” Phil. 3:17-21
 Haiti – Ely Freny as leads workshops in trauma healing

Mon. 4/29 -Stand firm in the Lord in this way ...” Phil. 4:1
 Brazil – Pray for the Drug Addiction Program in Rio Verde

Tues.: 4/30 – “Be of the Same Mind as in the Lord... “ Phil. 4:2-3
 USA – Pray for Children’s Disaster Services as they prepare

Wed: 5/1-“Rejoice in the Lord Always, again I will...” Phil. 4:4-7
 Nigeria – Pray for the chick brooding program

Thurs: 5/2 - “Finally, beloved, whatever is true...” Phil. 4:8-9
 India –Pray for the Rural Training Center, Ankleshwar

Fri.: 5/3 - “I can do all things through Christ...” Phil. 4:10-14
 Niger – Pray for the Nagarta ‘Water for Life’ Program

Sat.: 5/4 - “And my God will fully satisfy every need” Phil. 4:15-20
 North Korea – Pray for the Ryongyon Farm Rehabilitation

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This special edition of a spiritual disciplines folder is created for heart preparation for Annual Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina in 2013. Each day Moderator Robert Crouse, has provided suggestions for prayer in various mission projects from different places around the world.

For Sunday and daily texts we have turned to Paul’s letter to the Church at Philippi. Using the copyright designation, you may adapt this folder and copy it for your use. Vince Cable, pastor of the Uniontown Church of the Brethren has written study questions for small groups or classes on the Springs web site

In Springs of Living Water, we are in a partnership with Christ and with others seeking renewal of the church as an ongoing process of spiritual growth. Our hope is to live a Christ-centered mission as individuals and as the church. For more information see www.churchrenewalservant.org or email davidyoung@churchrenewalservant.org.

Shining Like Stars in the World

The Journey Outward



Striving for Christian Maturity

A Special Spiritual Disciplines Folder
Prepared for Church of the Brethren
Annual Conference
Charlotte, North Carolina - 2013
Springs of Living Water
Christ Centered Church Renewal

Shining Like Stars in the World, The Journey Outward Striving for Christian Maturity

Our hope for the next 4 weeks is that we will delve deeply into the theme of shining like stars in the world, striving for Christian maturity. What message does Paul have for us as we look at themes in this letter?

Also, as we pray for the various mission sites, we will be lifting up so many people and projects that can be so helped by prayer. Each one draws us in to consider what we can do in mission.

Below are spiritual disciplines. Spend time in prayer discerning the next step that will help you grow in your spiritual walk. Practicing these disciplines, let us experience the Good News of the Savior.

Spend some time considering striving for Christian maturity. Using this theme, circle the next way you feel called to grow in your faith

1. Daily read and meditate on scripture and have focused prayer lifting up each of the missions listed on the daily readings.
2. Weekly participate in Sunday School and worship.
3. In what way do you feel called to live in mission?

What do you want to give up? _____

What do you feel called to take up? _____

4. What way do you desire to grow in Christian maturity and joy?

List of Spiritual Disciplines: Meditation, Prayer, Fasting, Study,
Simplicity, Solitude, Submission, Service,
Confession, Worship, Guidance, Celebration.

I am asking God's help as I make this commitment _____