



## *“PURPOSEFUL LIFE”*

2024 Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer

November 11, 2024

For nearly 75 years, sisters in Christ have united in prayer for the Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer. It is an incredible honor to build upon this legacy as we gather again this year to pray in homes, churches, and communities around the world!

**Our 2024 theme is “Purposeful Life” drawn from Romans 8:28:**

**“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”**

**As we pray together this year, we hope you will experience the joy of living out your God-given purpose! Add your voice to the chorus of women in more than 100 countries who are interceding for their communities and seeking to be difference makers in the world. Link hearts and hands with others as we seek the wisdom of God's Word, pray with intention, and hear how the Spirit is moving in every part of the world.**

- What do you think it means to be “called according to His purpose?”
  
- What or who has been most beneficial in your spiritual life to help you identify and live out your purpose?
  
- When have you seen the promise of Romans 8:28 in action in your life?
  
- How do you stay focused on the promises and purpose of God when facing challenges?
  
- Wilderness seasons can sometimes make us feel we are alone in our struggles. How can you walk with others right now who are trying to make their way through the wilderness?

Bad things happen to all people. We will face hardship. Matthew 5:45b *“He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust”*. However, as followers of Jesus, we have a Savior who has overcome the world and promises to walk with us through every adversity.

**Take a minute to reflect on these scriptures:**

Psalm 23 *“The Lord is my Shepherd”*

Isaiah 41:10 *“Do not be afraid-I am with you”*

Joshua 1:9 *“Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord your God am with you wherever you go”*.

Deuteronomy 31:8 *“The Lord Himself will lead you and be with you”*.

John 14:26 *“The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you”*.

Jesus is our Redeemer. He knows us intimately. He protects, He delivers, He redeems.

*“This is what the Lord says...he who formed you, Israel: ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.’”* (Isaiah 43:1-2)

The prophet Isaiah was reminding the people of the Redeemer who is with us in the storm.

While we don't ask for hardship, we can confidently say that God works in the most difficult of places to bring His good to those who love Him and are called according to His purposes.

He is making all things new. He is bringing to life that which was dead. The Lord says to us, *“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland”*. (Isaiah 43:18-19)

We walk with the One who brings purpose to what we do. Amidst all our adversities, He sees us, He delivers us, He restores us, and He leads us forward. As you live for the Lord, may you know His hand upon you, bringing good in all things.

# **Together We Pray**

## **Good Governance**

Pray for the nations to be governed with honesty and integrity by God-fearing people. Pray for people to vote for leaders who will serve their people without corruption and for people of faith to be voices of hope and truth as secularism rises.

## **Supporting Women in Crisis**

The struggle for women facing unplanned pregnancy is prevalent throughout North America. Ministries in both Canada and the United States are engaged in assisting women during this time and providing support as they choose to give birth. Pray for these ministries and all the women and families these ministries serve.

## **Homelessness**

The number of people facing homelessness continues to grow with complex factors contributing to the increase. Pray for this ministry and others like it who are at the forefront of engaging with families on the brink of homelessness in a way that stabilizes the family and provides the resources needed to bring spiritual, physical, and financial health.

## **Mental Health**

Mental health in the United States and Canada is rapidly declining, but we give thanks for ministries and resources that exist in North America to address this need in both preventive and supportive ways. Pray that those hurting and struggling with mental health issues will be refreshed by the love of God, our ever-present help, and that our churches will be places of healing and health.

## **Spiritual Growth Resources**

Christian women desiring a deeper relationship with God often do not know how to find resources to help in this process. Pray this ministry will grow in its outreach across North America and around the world and that women will be strengthened in their relationship with God.

## **Women in Ministry**

Women sometimes struggle to find places of service to express their God-given gifts. Pray they will be surrounded by sisters and brothers in Christ who will support and encourage them as they pursue God's plan. Pray for women to see God at work opening doors of service in churches, communities, and workplaces.

## **Next Generation**

Substance abuse is a significant challenge among young people. Pray for God to set people free from these addictions and for the church to be an instrument in educating and equipping the next generation to break generational cycles.

### **Trafficking**

Pray that the networks perpetuating human trafficking will be found and stopped. Pray for healing for those who have been harmed by this heartbreaking practice. Pray for protection for the increasing number of refugees who are susceptible to trafficking due to their circumstances.

### **Gender-based Violence**

We pray against the rise in gender-based violence, which impacts women and girls. Many are abused at home by their own family members. Pray for churches to be a safe haven for those who are hurting and a demonstrable reminder of God's compassion and care.

### **Young Leaders**

Pray for ways to connect with young women to encourage them in their spiritual journey and equip them through training and mentoring, paving the way for a seamless transition into leadership.

### **Seeking and Sharing Christ**

Pray for those who have grown cold in their faith to come back to their first love in Christ. Pray for Christ's name to be lifted up and proclaimed among the nations in our region and for religious freedom and tolerance in countries where Christians face discrimination or persecution.

### **Youth and Children**

Pray for the Lord's guidance, protection, and blessing over our young people. Pray for the parents, teachers, mentors, and leaders who guide and influence youth and children. Grant them wisdom, patience, and strength as they nurture and disciple the next generation for Christ's glory.

### **Building Community**

Our world is facing a loneliness epidemic. Join us in prayer as we seek ways to build community within our sisterhood so that no woman has to walk alone.

### **Standing Against Domestic Violence**

One in three women worldwide has experienced physical or sexual violence with many suffering abuse in their own home.

### **Missionaries Around the World**

There are many challenges missionaries are facing including language, culture, customs, financing, housing, homesickness and visas, but at the top of every missionary's list when asked how to help is the need for **prayer**. Only through God's power can they overcome the obstacles they face, and break through darkness with the light of the gospel. When we pray for missionaries, our thoughts are focused on the spiritual needs of people groups all over the world, and our hearts are aligned with God's desire to give them abundant life.

Meditating on God's Word with Anne Graham Lotz

**With God, You're a Majority**

*"He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."*

Philippians 1:6, NKJV

God is looking for a few good men and women. Men and women who are willing

to go against the current of popular opinion,

to hold firm convictions in a world where "anything goes,"

to speak the truth when it is not politically correct,

to walk with God when everyone else is running away from Him.

God is looking for those who believe

that what He says is more important than what anyone else says,

that what He thinks is more important than what anyone else thinks,

that what He wants is more important than what anyone else wants.

that His will is more important than their own.

God is looking for another Noah. Another Meshach. Another Shadrach. Another Abednego.

One person with God is not alone but a majority!

Ephesians 3:14-19 – "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you according to the riches of His glory to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God".

We must empty ourselves of worry and pain and let His strength fill us. It is so deep and wide and high and long. You are his precious vessel and you have so much to live for – so many to love - and such a legacy to leave. There is no one like you!

*Believe with all your heart that how you live your life makes a difference.*

## PURPOSEFUL LIFE

### A Bible Study from BWA Women President Karen Wilson

*“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28, NIV)*

When you stop and consider your life and the call to live with purpose and guidance from the Lord, it seems we are facing incredible challenges. The world is groaning under the weight of natural disasters, countries in conflict, media saturation, anxiety, depression and sin. It would seem we are facing things on a global level in a way like never before. The world is volatile, uncertain, and chaotic.

We have a Savior who knew we would be confronted by such challenges. In speaking with his followers, John records Jesus’ words: *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).*

So how do we have peace in Jesus, and how has He overcome? We face hardships when it is hard to see victory.

I was lying at the foot of a staircase not so long ago. I had tripped at the top, fallen, and hit a wall in front of the staircase as I fell. I had badly spiral fractured my upper arm (humerus) and dislocated my shoulder.

In incredible agony, and in and out of consciousness, my screams were heard by my husband who rushed to my assistance. He called the paramedics, and thirty minutes later I was being rushed in an ambulance to the hospital. There was trauma upon trauma that week, and finally after surgery I was sent home where a long road to recovery began. It has taken nine months to be finally cleared as ‘healed,’ and it will be another year before full function returns.

As I lie at the foot of the steps that day with the reality of what had happened sinking in, I remember saying to my husband, **“I wonder how God is going to redeem this.”**

The prophet Isaiah was reminding the people of the Redeemer who is with us in the storm. This was my experience. As I faced the prospect of a long recovery from my accident, I leaned into that Redeemer. I chose to draw close to Jesus in a new way.

My devotional life deepened. Christian friends gathered and prayed for healing. The voice of His Spirit was gentler but louder than ever. I ministered to others with a newfound empathy.

I found strength in Christ far beyond my own ability, and I continued in ministry and leadership despite the physical challenges I faced. I was able to say that humanly speaking, it is impossible.

*“But with God everything is possible” (Matthew 19:25, NLT).*