

Preface (Duane West)

Merry Christmas, my brothers and sisters! Blessings to you all on this, the day we set aside to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This is the most joy-filled time of the year for a lot of people; even non-Christians are different around Christmas. But there are others who find this season to be depressing for a variety of reasons. These are the folks that we especially need to pray for, so spend sometime before the Father on their behalf, won't you?

This is also the period when we begin to direct our thinking towards a brand new year. And, fittingly, 2012 begins on a Sunday, which makes everything just sort of fall into place, at least in my book.

As we move towards 2012, it might be good to look at some of the things we feel that the Lord is moving us to pray for, as well as "how should we then live?" to borrow Francis Schaeffer's book title.

Obviously, our first matter for prayer is transformation; personal, congregational, and community. It has been our priority for more than a year and it will continue to be until God tells us otherwise. Jesus told us in Matt. 7:7, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." The idea behind the three verbs – ask, seek, and knock – is that you do not so them once and then quit; you continually ask, continually seek, and continually knock. In Luke 18, Jesus told the story of a widow who had a problem, and kept coming to the judge asking for justice until he finally relented, simply because of her persistence. Let us have that same dogged determination in seeking God for transformation. There is an acronym that fits here: **Pray Until Something Happens** – but I would add "Don't stop when it does!"

As a sidelight to praying for transformation, keep praying for our various ministries to children: Armor Bearers on Wednesday nights, Middle School on Wednesday nights, and Good News Clubs on Thursday afternoons at Pt. Harmony Elementary. Also, pray for workers to step forward and begin a Good News Club at Cross Lanes Elementary. These ministries are vital to changing the next generation of children and young people in Cross Lanes and the surrounding areas.

This church has long been known for our pro-life stance, and that is another thing we will continue to pray for: a change in this country's attitude towards the unborn. Pray that men and women would begin to see that what grows inside a woman is not merely a "product of conception" or a "mass of tissue," but a life that has worth and potential, and is precious to God.

As we begin to wind things down for 2011, let us look back at how God has kept us, blessed us, guided and directed us. And as we do, let us be truly thankful for all He has done.

Once again, Merry Christmas and God Bless You!



Prayer Guide • December 26-January 1

■ MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2011

In anticipation of the coming year, let's take a look at some of the things that we need to focus on here at Perrow Church: glorifying God, making disciples, and finding our joy in Jesus. The first point – glorifying God – come from the first question in the Westminster Larger Catechism: Q. "What is the chief and highest end of man?" A. "Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever." In the preface to his book, *Desiring God*, John Piper re-worded it slightly to become "... to glorify God by enjoying Him forever." I would think that this statement makes good sense, and for this reason: Do you do something with excellence that you don't enjoy? If you find drudgery in your job, are you excellent at it? If you don't enjoy God fully, then how can you fully glorify Him? In my way of thinking, there is no way that you can.

"Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you." – 1 Sam. 12:24

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." – 1 Cor. 6:19-20

Scripture: MONDAY

Zech 9:1-17; Rev 17:1-18;
Ps 145:1-21; Prov 30:32

Staff: Ruth LaMachia,
Administrator

Deacon: Matt Young

Member: Frieda Hall

Missionaries: David & Sue Imbrock,
Canada

Teacher: Duane & Mary West

Student: Corey Bonasso, WVU

■ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2011

Making disciples is next on our list, and it is probably the most obvious one. You all know what Jesus said in what has become known as "The Great Commission": "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Part of that charge to make disciples is getting them in the church to begin with. We are not only to make disciples, but we are to preach the Gospel. Paul saw the vision of the man from Macedonia asking for help, and the rest of his group (including Luke) realized that they needed to Macedonia and preach the Gospel to them. You can't make a disciple out of someone who isn't saved – that only stands to reason. So

Scripture: TUESDAY

Zech 10:1-11:17; Rev 18:1-24;
Ps 146:1-10; Prov 30:33

Staff: Debbie Dean, Staff Assistant

Elder: Alan Smith

Member: Ed Haver

Missionaries: Mobin & Gladys
Khan, Muslims/California

Teacher: Martha Turley

Student: Ethan Davis, WVU

we need to get the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus, to the world around us; and once we do, and they believe on Jesus, *then* we make disciples of them.

■ WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2011

Finding joy in Jesus sounds so simple, doesn't it? And in some ways, it really is. But in the world in which we live, there are so many, many things which can distract us from that. Our jobs, our families, our hobbies, politics, etc. - all are distractions in one way or another, and so we need to re-focus from time to time (daily, in actuality) on the Lord.

Here are a few Scriptures to help you do that "re-focusing:

"Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." Neh. 8:10

"And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with **all** your heart and with **all** your soul and with **all** your mind. This is the great and first commandment." - Matt. 22:27-28

A former pastor once said to us "God doesn't want much; much isn't enough. God wants it all." Let us get back to giving God our all, and finding our joy in Jesus Christ alone.

■ THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2011

I'd like to focus a bit longer on the word "joy," if you'll permit me. Let's see what else the Scriptures say on the subject.

"For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his place. Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!" - 1 Chron. 16:26-28

"But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for **joy**, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you." - Ps. 5:11

"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is **fullness of joy**; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." - Ps. 16:11

And last but not least, Galatians 5 :22-24 tells us "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**,

Scripture: WEDNESDAY

Zech 12:1-13:9; Rev 19:1-21;
Ps 147:1-20; Prov 31:1-7

Staff: Lyle Helmick, Worship
Ministry Director

Deacon: Dick Lanham

Member: Ginny Haver

Missionaries: Dan & Margaret
Lynch, Washington DC

Teacher: Matt Young

Student: Aaron Dean, WVU

Scripture: THURSDAY

Zech 14:1-21; Rev 20:1-15;
Ps 148:1-14; Prov 31:8-9

Staff: Alan Smith, Media Ministry
Director

Elder: John Young

Member: BJ Helmick

Missionaries: Corrie McKee,
University of Kentucky

Teacher: Mark Addesa

Student: Mark Dean, WVU

peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” You can’t have joy unless you have love, and you can’t have peace unless you have joy; these three go hand in hand, just like faith, hope, and love (1 Cor. 13:13). But always remember that that joy absolutely must be rooted in Jesus Christ, for He truly is our Source.

■ FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2011

It’s December 30th, the next-to-last day of the year. Hard to believe, isn’t it? Where has the time gone? But, then again, it’s like that every year. We think that the next year is going to be longer, for some reason, but it never is. That is why, I believe, the Apostle Paul told us “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, *making the best use of the time*, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” (Eph. 5:15-17)

We are on the verge of something great happening in this Valley, this state, this nation; I can feel it. So let’s not get discouraged by what we see happening around us – God’s not finished with us yet. The United States has been used greatly by God in the past, and He will use us again in the future. But it will take a mighty revival amongst His people, and the Transformation of the lost around us. The saying used to be “The sun never sets on the British Empire,” and I believe that the sun has not set on the spiritual influence of the United States, either. Are you with me in that belief?

■ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2011

Many people have been planning for this night for quite awhile; a night in which they can indulge in revelry, debauchery, drunkenness, and other crazy antics. I’ve never quite understood the thrill of going absolutely nuts on New Years Eve. Don’t get me wrong: I love to have good times with friends and family like most people, but to do some of things these folks do? No way!

But, then again, I have a hope within me that causes me to ponder soberly all that God has done in my life through the past year, and to rejoice in anticipation of what awaits me in the coming one. I can only guess about where the Lord is taking me, as well as this church, but I can also say that wherever He takes me, and whatever He does – it’s gonna be good! Why? Because that’s His nature: “Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to **the LORD, for he is good**, for his steadfast love endures forever!” (Ps. 106:1) That thought

Scripture: FRIDAY

Mal 1:1-2:17; Rev 21:1-27;
Ps 149:1-9; Prov 31:10-24

Staff: Jeff Mitchell, Custodian

Deacon: Duane West

Member: Lyle Helmick

Missionaries: Memli & Luiza Mema,
Albania

Teacher: John Young

Student: Bryan Hill, WVU

Scripture: SATURDAY

Mal 3:1-4:6; Rev 22:1-21;
Ps 150:1-6; Prov 31:25-31

Staff: Josh Hanson, Pastor

Elder: Mark Addesa

Member: Jeanne Helmick

Missionaries: Brian & Katherine
Miller, Colombia

Teacher: Dan Hill

Student: Jonathan Hill, WVU

is repeated time and again in Psalm 118, so let's have faith for the good things that the Lord will do in our midst in 2012! Happy New Year everyone!

■ SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2012

Father God, thank you so much for giving us another year in which we can serve you. Your Word tells us in Leviticus that Your mercies are new every morning, so why should the first day of a new year be any different! We are so thankful for what has taken place in our midst over the last few weeks, and we look forward to what's in store for your people here at Perrow Church.

Lord Jesus, we ask that you would keep watch over us and guide us in the ways we should go. We have so much to do to make a difference in Cross Lanes, Poca, Winfield, Teays Valley, Hurricane, Nitro, Charleston, and the surrounding areas, and we know that we cannot do it in our own strength – it isn't enough. So humbly ask, O Lord, that you would send your joy into our midst to be our strength, so we may go forth and make disciples, glorify the Father, and find our joy in You.

Holy Spirit, have your way in this place today. Blow through us with your holy fire and change us into the people who we are called to be. We are so in need a wholesale Transformation, Lord; we're tired of living as we have been. Make us different when we leave from the people who walked in the doors this morning! In Jesus' Name. Amen!

Scripture: SUNDAY
Gen 1:1-2:25; Matt 1:1-2:12;
Ps 1:1-6; Prov 1:1-6
Staff: Jack Maxwell, Associate
Pastor Emeritus
Deacon: Matt Young
Member: Dan Hill
Missionaries: Tim, Middle East
Teacher: Doug Dean
Student: Olivia Mason, MU



Merry
Christmas and
Happy New
Year~