Greetings,

We are approaching the time of year in which we, The Youth Department of the Baptist World Alliance, can unite together to pray for our brothers and sisters around the world. There are many struggles in our lives as young people, but God has given us the ability to bring our petitions to Him and cast all of our cares on Him for He cares of us (1 Peter 5:7). Our prayers to God can make a difference, not only in our lives, but also in the lives of other young people around the world.

The BWA Youth Department is encouraging you to rally up your Christian brothers and sisters in unity to intercede on behalf of your brothers and sisters around the world, to celebrate the union we are as the body of Christ, and to contribute to help the success of mission projects involving young people around the world.

For the past two years, we have been committed to live out our Singapore Declaration. As young disciples, we desire to go beyond the church walls and express to all the life that we live in Jesus Christ. Our theme for this year is “Open to God’s Mission.” God’s mission continues with us. With God’s direction, we can do great things locally or globally. During this time of prayer and study as a Baptist youth body, we hope that you experience God in a wonderful way and become empowered to do God’s mission with great impact.

We have materials available for you to follow that can be found on our website: https://www.bwanet.org/programs/youth/baptist-youth-world-day-of-prayer. We are anticipating great results from your participation in the BWA Youth World Day of Prayer on June 14, 2015. Remember, we are a chosen generation seeking to be G.O.S.P.E.L. people.

Giving
Open to God’s Mission
Speaking Out
Prophetic Action
Evangelism
Living

We look forward to hearing about your spiritual experiences, and know that our prayers are always with you.

Blessings,
Amanda Haines, BWA Youth Department President
2015 Baptist Youth World Day of Prayer

The Baptist Youth World Day of Prayer is an annual event held on the second Sunday in June. This year that day is June 14, 2015. Young people around the world are encouraged to plan services that reflect upon the importance of prayer and to intercede on behalf of others.

It is a time to celebrate the unity we share as believers in Jesus Christ and to seek a deeper relationship with Him.

It is also a time to contribute to our Annual Prayer Offering. This offering is used to assist with mission projects involving young people around the world and leadership development training.

This year’s theme is “Open to God’s Mission” and is based on the Singapore Declaration that calls Baptist young people to commit themselves to live as G.O.S.P.E.L. people.

Included in this resource guide are five Bible studies developed from the text Luke 4:16-20. It is intended that you will plan to use these not only for the Day of Prayer, but also at other times during the course of the year.

Ways to promote the Youth World Day of Prayer:

- Posting to your church's Web site.
- Printing/posting to your church bulletin board.
- Sharing on your youth group/organization/personal social media platforms/Web sites.

Youth World Day of Prayer on Social Media

We invite you to follow us on Twitter—@BWAYouth—and join our Facebook page. There, we encourage people to post prayer requests and memories/pictures from the Youth World Day of Prayer gatherings, and also to be connected and know what the global Baptist family is doing.

To promote the Youth World Day of Prayer on Twitter or Facebook, please use the BWA handle (@BWAYouth) and the Day of Prayer hashtag (#YouthPrayer15). We also encourage you to share/re-Tweet posts that the BWA Youth shares!

Youth World Day of Prayer Offering:

You can make an ONLINE DONATION by visiting our Web site https://www.bwanet.org/online-giving.

2. Complete the donation form.

Or send your offering to:
Baptist World Alliance Youth Department
405 North Washington Street
Falls Church, VA 22046 – USA
Open to God’s Mission

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” 20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. —Luke 4:16-20, NIV

Call to Worship (1 minute)
Praise Celebration (15 minutes)

(Music leader should lead within the context of the audience.)
Scripture: Luke 4:16-20 or other appropriate Scripture

Prayer Session I—Intercession (15 minutes)

(Ask the audience for prayer points focusing on their own needs as well as the needs of others. Have two persons offer prayers on behalf of all.)

Musical Offering (10 minutes)
(Music leader should lead in prayer choruses.)

Bible Study/Sermon (30 minutes)
(The leader is encouraged to use the text Luke 4:16-20.)

Musical Offering (10 minutes)

Prayer Session II—Intercession (15 minutes)
(See pages 20-21. Invite six different youth to use the 2015 Baptist Youth Prayer Guide to address world concerns.)

Time Alone with God (3-5 minutes)
(This is an opportunity for silent meditation.)

Closing Song (3 minutes)

Closing Prayer (1 minute)

Note: Time should also be set aside to raise the BWA Youth World Day of Prayer offering. Outline adopted in part from “The Praying Youth,” produced by the Youth Ministries Division of the Nigerian Baptist Convention.
We the participants of the 16th Baptist World Alliance Youth World Conference 2013 meeting in Singapore are a generation declaring as followers of Jesus that we are to be part of the change we desire to see in this world.

It is evident that things on this Earth are not as our God created them to be.

As we pray “Your Kingdom come,” we recognize that this broken world cries out for justice, freedom, peace, hope, and love.

We have heard the call of God through the Scripture, life stories, and spoken word. This call is to give our lives afresh to be the transforming presence of Christ, taking faith-based risks, denying ourselves, and taking up the cross of Christ in our daily living to make a difference for God’s glory.

We covenant today to seek to be G.O.S.P.E.L. people.

**G: Giving**

We offer our whole lives to God as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1), into the service of God wherever He may call us to go in a broken and hurting world, that we may use our very lives, our skills, our talents, and our resources for God and His mission. They are not for our purposes, but that we strive to take hold of that for which Christ took hold of us (Philippians 3:12).

**O: Open to God’s Mission (Missio Dei)**

We are a generation committed to linking arms with our brothers and sisters of the larger family of God, while celebrating our being Baptist as part of the family of God. We realize that we are not called to be comfortable, but disturbed into godly action in response to the heartbeat of God for a broken world. Our passion for Christ and the call of the Gospel drives us all to be the hands and feet of Jesus as we live day by day. As authentic disciples, we commit to serve in the work of the Gospel in our everyday lives.
S: Speaking Out

We will not be content with simply following religious motions, but instead will be a people who are a living reflection of Jesus, giving voice to those on the margins, offering hope to the oppressed, the rejected, and the victims of evil in our world. We repent that too often, and for too long, we have remained silent when we should have made ourselves heard. Our commitment is to stand shoulder to shoulder with those in need. We will seek justice, bring peace, and lead with grace.

P: Prophetic Action

In our dialogue and service, we are also called to make the Gospel of Christ known through both word and action. We seek to join with God in His work, not merely asking God to bless what we want. In this we will be seeking transformation in our own lives, being agents of reconciliation, and actively engaging as peacemakers.

E: Evangelization

As we acknowledge that we were first loved by God, we will be a generation known by our love for all people. So being rooted in love and committed to Christ, we will bring the message of salvation and redemption through word and deed. In doing this, we seek to make disciples of all people, reaching our neighbor, and those who are far away (Acts 1:9). We encourage all youth of the BWA to first be disciples of Jesus, and to be committed to the calling to make Him known to all.

L: Living

We want to be living, breathing expressions of the Gospel as free samples of Jesus wherever we may find ourselves. Together and dispersed, we will live this out; this is our desire personally, locally, nationally, and globally. Even in trials and trauma, God gives us opportunities to display His love. As we practice hospitality and love for all humankind in the name of Christ, God will give opportunities for Christ to be glorified.

We undertake to pray for one another, upholding one another in the body—as this is a tough calling. We invite all young people of the world to join us to seek to walk the way of Christ in all things. Ultimately, we are to be a generation of followers of Jesus who will live simply, give generously, and love abundantly as G.O.S.P.E.L. people.
Today's Lesson Objective: Participants will discuss that the church is not the building; as followers of Christ, we are the church. Therefore, the church has a mission to go into the world and carry the Gospel message to all peoples. This series of lessons will settle in the hearts of the participants that mission isn't something that we just do on occasion; it is what we are to the very core and fiber of our being.

Materials Needed for the Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity: Prior to class, gather smooth rocks. On each rock, using a permanent marker, write a prayer request. The prayer request can be for a local or global need. Secondly, the group leader should supply a few cases of water to use for this week's G.O.S.P.E.L. People Service Focus.

Bible Study Title: The Mission Has A Church

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:16-20

NIV

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read,

17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,

19 to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor.”

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.

Bible Exposition

Jesus had just returned from the wilderness after being tempted by Satan for 40 days. Jesus is in the “power of the Spirit” (v. 14). Jesus went to Nazareth, a small town in Galilee and the hometown of Mary and Joseph. Since Jesus grew up to manhood in Nazareth (Luke 4:16), Jesus is called Jesus of Nazareth. The modern name for Nazareth is en-Nazirah, a Muslim village with about 10,000 residents. During Jesus’ day the people of Nazareth did not have the best of reputations, which is why Nathanael asked Philip: “Nazareth?! Can anything good come from there?” (John 1:46). It was Jesus’ custom to go to the synagogue on the Sabbath day. The Sabbath day was the weekly day of rest and worship for the Jewish people. In Creation when God was finished creating the heavens and the earth God closed Creation by hallowing the seventh day and then rested from His creative labors (Genesis 1:1–2:3). The Sabbath day during Jesus’ day was held on a Saturday because the Jewish people were still under the Old Testament law. After Jesus’ resurrection from the grave, however, believers began worshipping on the first day of the week, which is Sunday (Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 16:2). Luke notes that Jesus not only attended worship but also participated in worship by
reading from the Scripture. Jesus opened the scroll deliberately to Isaiah 61 and began reading verses 1-2. Isaiah 61:1-2 directly links to Jesus’ ministry as the Messiah. This was Jesus’ first sermon and the initial announcement of His earthly ministry. Jesus had been anointed and endued with the power of God for the purpose of preaching and teaching the Gospel. Jesus was sent by God to this earth on a mission. Before Jesus left the earth, He assigned to His disciples a global mission (Matthew 28:19-20) of evangelizing the world. For the people of faith, mission is not an option; it is something the church has been commissioned to do. The word church comes from the Greek word εκκλησία, which means “called out ones.” The church, therefore, is not a building but the people. Since the doctrine of Missio Dei (translated “Mission of God”), refers to the work of the church as being part of God’s work, God expects His people, the “called out ones” to be committed to the task of evangelism.

**Personal Daily Prayer Devotional Guidance**

This week you are asked to pray and meditate on the statements below. Use the space provided to write down notes as God speaks to your heart:

1. **You**: What specific mission has God called you to do? What special talents and skills can you use for God? Whatever that mission is, perform the mission faithfully as the Holy Spirit leads and guides you.

   ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________

2. **Missionaries All Over The World**: Pray for missionaries in foreign countries. Ask God to watch over them. Pray for their safety and protection from political enemies and illnesses. Pray that God will continue to give them a heart for people.

   ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________

3. **People Living In Hostile Regions**: Pray for God’s protection for stability of their government and that the government will one day be open to God’s mission.

   ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________
4. **Local Believers/Missionaries**: Pray that God will place a burden on the hearts of believers to become laborers in their local communities and share the Gospel message with the unsaved or backslidden.

___________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________

5. **For Believers Universally**: Pray that believers everywhere will delight in the Word of God and experience a greater awareness and dependency on God’s Word as they seek God’s face.

___________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________

**Today’s Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity – Prayer Rocks**

Place all of the prayer rocks on a table. Everyone should randomly select a prayer rock. This week you are to carry around your prayer rock in your purse, pocket or book bag and pray for the prayer request on your prayer rock throughout the day. When your small group meets again, exchange your prayer rock with someone else and repeat the prayer cycle.

**Living As G.O.S.P.E.L. People Service Focus: Water Evangelization**

Working with an adult supervisor, select a day this week and position yourselves outside the church or designated safe area and offer a free cold bottle of water, hot chocolate, or coffee to anyone who passes by (e.g., a jogger, person walking the dog, construction worker, etc.). You will be surprised how cold bottle water on a warm day is appreciated. You can also take the opportunity to introduce these people to the One who can offer them the “living water” (John 4:1-26).

**Suggested Prayer**

Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. Give us the heart of love for all people and to love as You love. We pray that You will continue to give us boldness in evangelism, wisdom, and discernment to see every door that You have opened for evangelization and discipleship. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.
Today’s Lesson Objective: Participants will discover that as people of faith we are called to love God as well as love our neighbor. After studying this lesson, participants will be humbled with a deep sense of conviction that God’s people best represent the mission of Jesus when they are socially aware and concerned about others.

Materials Needed for the Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity: Bring to the next small group Bible study various photos/images from magazines, newspapers, church bulletins, newsletters or print photos/images from the Internet. Photos/images should relate to the lesson (e.g., world hunger, poverty, homelessness, random act of kindness, etc.).

Bible Study Title: Ministering to the Poor

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:16-20

NIV

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read,

17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.

Bible Exposition

When Jesus entered the synagogue, Jesus was handed a scroll turned to Isaiah. He began reading the prophetic/messianic statement found at Isaiah 61:1-2 and recorded by Luke at 4:16-20. Isaiah prophesied about the coming Messiah. Our text describes Jesus’ ministry as: (1) proclaiming the good news to the poor; (2) setting captives free; (3) healing the brokenhearted (King James Version); (4) giving sight to the blind; (5) setting the oppressed free; and (6) declaring the year of the Lord’s favor. This lesson will begin at verse 18a: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.” During Jesus’ baptism, the heavens opened and all three members of the Godhead were present. Jesus was in bodily form in the Jordan River; the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove rested upon Jesus; and God’s voice is heard coming from heaven voicing God’s approval of His Son (Matthew 3:13-17). The same Holy Spirit who was upon Jesus is the same Spirit who dwells in the heart of every believer who accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit empowers believers to spread the Good News of the Christ. In Jesus’ first documented sermon, Jesus indicated His mission included preaching the good news to the poor (v. 18a). The “poor” can be described here as the helpless, powerless, needy or those who are “poor in spirit” (Matthew 5:3). For those who are described as “poor” the presentation of the Gospel message, which is all about the love, peace, joy, forgiveness and salvation offered by Christ, is definitely good news. Those who are “poor in spirit” realize that if they don’t have God in their hearts,
they really don’t have anything. Those who are considered “poor in spirit” are also those who recognize a deep spiritual need/thirst that causes all of us to cry out to God for what only God can and will supply (Matthew 5:3). As Jesus commanded His disciples to love their neighbor, believers can show godly love and concern when they uphold the dignity and well-being of all persons, especially the poor and the powerless. Believers best proclaim their faith when they put their actions behind their words. May we honor God by reaching out to help children and families in need, serving people regardless of race, creed, color, economic status, religion, or gender preference, and standing up for justice and confront injustice whenever we see it.

Personal Daily Prayer Devotional Guidance

Using the following Scriptures, this week intercede and pray for the different needs of people all over the world:

- Pray for those who feel powerless. (Psalm 34:17)
- Pray for those who are weak, poor, and oppressed. (Psalm 82:3; Psalm 41:1)
- Pray for the poor and destitute among you. (Deuteronomy 15:7-11; Galatians 2:10)
- Pray for those who are spiritually bankrupt. (James 2:5; Matthew 5:3)
- Pray for those who do not believe. (Romans 8:38-39; Romans 10:9-10; Revelation 22:17)

Today’s Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity- Prayer Sharing for Photos

Everyone should spread the photos/images gathered prior to class on a table. Then, each group member selects a photo and/or image. The photo or image selected should correlate with a prayer in the person’s life or some need he or she is burdened with on behalf of someone else. After sharing with the group why the photo or image captured his or her attention, your group will end the sharing with a short prayer from each group participant relating to the photo or image selected and the needs/situation/circumstances discussed.

Living As G.O.S.P.E.L. People Service Focus: Giving

Make plans for a Lunch Give-A-Way Day. The community/mission service should take place in a park where there is a large number of poor families. As they come, be ready to pray for the children and families and to share the Gospel with those who are searching for Jesus. Another option would be for your group to volunteer their time assisting a local ministry in your area that seeks to meet the needs of the poor.

Suggested Prayer

Dear God, may we be servants of Christ, young people who live the Gospel. We pray for an humble spirit so that we are ready, willing, and able to assist those who are poor, neglected, weak, or feel powerless. Help us to be sensitive to their needs. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.
Today’s Lesson Objective: God’s people cannot abandon their responsibility of embracing and ministering to the brokenhearted. Jesus came to heal those who are broken. Since Jesus’ mission is our mission, we cannot allow our commitment to the kingdom of God to fade. Participants will be encouraged to become sensitive to those who are hurting and brokenhearted.

Bible Study Title: Ministering to the Broken and Hurting

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:16-20

NIV

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read,

17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.

Bible Exposition

A church group visited a home for senior citizens. The group was there to sing and fellowship with the seniors. During the visit, a few members noticed a woman sitting alone. One of the members asked the elderly woman if she wanted to join the rest of the group. The woman, with tears in her eyes, looked up at the group member and told him she had lost her daughter the previous week and that her daughter was the only family she had left. Even though the woman verbalized her faith in God, the church group member could tell that the woman was suffering from a profound broken heart. Often believers do not understand that as God’s messengers on earth we have a ministry that has been handed down to us by our Lord—helping to heal the brokenhearted. This ministry is simply pointing people to the One who can heal a broken heart, and that is Jesus Christ. Brokenhearted is defined as someone who is overcome by grief. A broken spirit will cause one to worry, fret, and develop anxiety. A person who is broken will begin to feel a sense of hopelessness and despair, and negative thoughts begin to materialize such as “I am no good to anybody.” When one is broken he or she does not function properly, and sorrow has set in deep. Believers can join in the mission of Jesus when they engage their world with the redemptive message of God’s love by proclaiming the Gospel, but also when they touch human needs. Luke recorded Jesus’ purpose of His ministry in Luke 4:18 as being primarily focused on the poor, the hurting, the captive, the blind, and the oppressed. While there are many things we can speak out against in our world today, it is best to focus on speaking out on one message, and that is Jesus Christ. Our main message should be the Gospel message, because in the Gospel there is the power to save (Romans 1:16). May we honor God by taking advantage of every opportunity God has placed at our disposal to serve the hurting and restore the broken.
Personal Daily Prayer Devotional Guidance

Psalm 34:18 says: “The L ORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” In the space below, write about a time when you were hurt and broken and you felt God’s presence and peace in your life.

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_____________________________________________________________________________________
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If you are ministering to another youth or teen who is going through a “broken” season, encourage them to spend time in prayer asking God to reveal their heart areas that need rebuilding. Urge them to confess any sins, and then allow God to rebuild their broken life.

Today’s Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity

The group leader will lead you in a roundtable discussion on the following questions regarding ministering to people who are hurting and/or broken:

1. In your own words describe what brokenness is?
2. What are some of the issues that contribute to brokenness?
3. In the midst of brokenness, how can people find healing?
4. Discuss the importance of your youth group members cultivating an atmosphere of humility and respect when dealing with the brokenness of others.
5. Name a few examples where Jesus was patient with the people Jesus ministered to.

As a believer you have something that cannot be purchased at the local store. You have the living Lord! It is your job to embrace the hurting and love them. That’s what Jesus did. It is your duty to do likewise.
Living As G.O.S.P.E.L. People Service Focus: Speaking Out

Plan to have small group Bible studies outdoors or at a local senior citizen home a few times this summer. Because Bible studies are informal, they are a great way to meet needs of unbelievers in a non-church setting and can serve as the perfect doorway into your church/fellowship.

Suggested Prayer

Dear God of the universe, we pray for every hurting soul near and far. Help them to look to the hills from where their help comes. We pray for those who are broken in body and spirit. Turn their sorrow into joy. Work through us to bring wholeness to those who are broken and hurting as we offer Jesus’ unconditional love. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.
Today’s Lesson Objective: Participants will learn there is more than one type of “prison” a person can be locked inside. The good news is Jesus came to proclaim freedom for these prisoners. Participants will learn that God wants His people to share with unbelievers and those that are imprisoned that Jesus Christ is ready to set them free from their sin. Once Christ sets them free, they are free indeed (John 8:36).

Bible Study Title: Ministering to the Oppressed

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:16-20

NIV

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read,

17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.

Bible Exposition

Jesus’ mission encompassed announcing freedom for the prisoners. Whenever we think of people being held captive or a “prisoner” we instantly think of those locked steel doors. There are many other prisons that have nothing to do with a correctional institution. People can create their own private prisons. Some things that imprison a person are: an unforgiving spirit; lust; feelings of low self-esteem; unresolved guilt and shame; alcohol; drugs; gambling addiction; etc. These prisons with unseen walls can be just as overwhelming as actual prison doors. People who are imprisoned behind steel bars or locked in their own private prison are likely struggling every day just to cope. They may be experiencing a flood of emotions from fear, embarrassment, feelings of isolation, loneliness, anger, rejection from others in the community, lack of acceptance from church people, severe financial problems, and/or a sense of helplessness. Believers can help these people to gain freedom in Christ Jesus. Galatians 5:1 says: “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” People of faith can show love to the “imprisoned” by sharing the love of Christ. The mission of the church is to share in the mission of Jesus Christ. Jesus described His holistic mission when He read aloud the Scriptures from Isaiah 61:1-2 and recorded in Luke 4:16-20. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) gives believers a great evangelism responsibility to connect with our local communities to offer support, guidance, and prayer. People of faith also have an obligation to reach out in love in the name of Jesus and be committed to the task of evangelizing all peoples. The good news is that believers all over the world are acting out of their own convictions from Scripture and their own experience of God’s grace and power to share the Gospel message with those who...
Personal Daily Prayer Devotional Guidance

Many people of faith are unable to pray or attend worship services in public for fear of attack, persecution and, in some cases, death. A list of countries that are hostile to the Gospel is listed below. This week your prayer focus is for the courageous Christian brothers and sisters in these countries who are beaten, persecuted, and imprisoned for their Christian faith. Pray for their strength, their family, community, church life, continued courage, and protection. Also pray that God will fill them with love and peace as these Christian workers walk with God.

Monday: North Korea
Tuesday: Somalia
Wednesday: Iraq
Thursday: Syria
Friday: Afghanistan
Saturday: Sudan
Sunday: Pakistan

Today’s Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity

This week you are asked to write a psalm to give to a friend who has been experiencing a difficult time lately, using a portion of Romans 6:18:

“You have been set free from sin ____________________”
In the space below, write what comes to your heart and mind when asked to complete the sentence. Next, think of words to describe your emotions to include as your next sentence. Finally, write in the form of a prayer, how you want God to intercede in the situation. As time permits, you will be asked to read your psalm.

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__________________________________________________________________________________________

After the activity, volunteer participants should take turns praying a short prayer for all those persons around the world who need to be freed as Jesus has come to set “prisoners” free and “preach deliverance to the captives” (Luke 4:18b, KJV).

Living As G.O.S.P.E.L. People Service Focus: Open to God’s Mission

Your church/mission undoubtedly has a list of families and children who have a parent(s) in prison. With the help of the group leader, identify these families and plan a Saturday this month to spend a day visiting and/or calling them to share the gift of the Gospel and God’s love with them.

Suggested Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the freedom we have in Jesus. May we always be open to the work of the Holy Spirit as God leads us to those who need to hear the liberating Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.
**2015 Baptist Youth World Day of Prayer Bible Studies**

**General Theme:** Open to God’s Mission  
**Scripture Reference:** Luke 4:16-20  
**Lesson 5 – Shining God’s Eternal Light**

**Today’s Lesson Objective:** Participants will discuss spiritual blindness. They will learn that if people do not understand the light of God’s love they are not only spiritually blind but are also blind to the things of God. Participants will be reminded that Jesus came to give sight to the blind and to give light to those who sit in darkness.

**Materials Needed for the Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity:** Dark sunglasses. Darken the glasses with a black marker or black paint. Bring a few small common household or everyday items for use during this activity.

**Bible Study Title:** Shining God’s Eternal Light

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 4:16-20

**NIV**

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read,

17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.

**Bible Exposition**

Luke 4:16-20 deals with the Messiah’s ministry as prophesized by Isaiah in 61:1-2. Luke recorded in verses 19-20 that Jesus’ ministry included giving sight to the blind and setting captives free. Jesus offered to give those who believe in Him spiritual vision and lead them in eternal light. Jesus proclaimed these blessings from God so that all who heard and accepted salvation would come and receive it. Believers are to offer Christ to the unsaved. In Jesus there is love, forgiveness, freedom from sin, a new life, purpose, and direction. In Jesus there is also strength, joy, and peace that surpass all understanding. To be spiritually blind is a title given to those who do not believe in God, Jesus, or God’s Word. Thus, these people will not and do not accept the teachings of Christ or the things of God. Jesus’ mission was to those who did not know God and whose eyes were closed to God. John 8:12 says Jesus is “the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” Even in the twenty-first century, many people have not heard the Gospel message. Isaiah wrote: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings” (Isaiah 52:7). Believers are the “light of the world” (Matthew 5:14), and thus are to be open to God’s mission of proclaiming Jesus by whom mercy, grace, and divine love came to this earth. When believers share the Gospel message they are bringing “good tidings” to all nations, fulfilling the Great Commission. Non-believers need to hear the liberating, sanctifying message of the Gospel. Freedom from sins can only be experienced when a person is connected to Jesus. Finally, Jesus said He had come to “proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord” (Luke 4:19, KJV). The “acceptable year,” observed by Gills Exposition of the Bible, “is a space of time during which God would be pleased to accept such as repented and turn to
him.” When Jesus finished reading, the people were amazed. Jesus was plainly saying that the kingdom was being offered to them through Him. May we honor God by genuinely yearning the salvation of those who are walking in darkness by sharing the Gospel message so that they too can experience the peace and love of the Christ and join us one day in the eternal heavens above.

Personal Daily Prayer Devotional Guidance

This week you are asked to “Pray the Newspaper Stories.” Obtain the local newspaper in print or locate a newspaper online. Read at least three news stories in the newspaper and pray for the people involved, their families, and/or the situation. As you intercede each day this week, jot down in your prayer journal (below) anything that God may speak to you while you are in prayer each day.

My Personal Prayer Journal:

Day 1: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Day 2: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Day 3: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Day 4: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Day 5: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Day 6: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Day 7: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Today’s Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity

Have the participants take turns being blindfolded. Then have them examine several objects. The participants have to guess what they are holding in their hand. After all group members have had a chance to participate, ask why it was hard for them in some instances to determine the items. The Point of the Activity: When people are spiritually blind, they are walking in darkness. When a person accepts Christ, who is the light of the world, Jesus imparts light to them and leads them in spiritual wisdom, godly living, and eternal life. (Note: Be sensitive to those in your small group study who may be sight-impaired.)

Living As G.O.S.P.E.L. People Service Focus: Prophetic Action

This week your group is assigned the task of making plans for an All-Night Prayer Service. Make the event church-wide by inviting everyone to sign up to participate. Have participants sign up for a one- to two-hour commitment. Make a list of issues for the All-Night Prayer concentration. As the church engages in this prophetic act of prayer, pray for the releasing of God’s power through the Holy Spirit and victory through Jesus Christ.

Suggested Prayer

Almighty God, we pray that the Holy Spirit will help us to teach others how to know Jesus so that they are no longer blind to Your love. Heavenly Father, continue to be open to Your mission of ministering to the poor, broken, captives, blind, and oppressed. In Jesus’ name we pray.
African Baptists Youth Prayer Concerns:

- Pray for political stability in countries in Africa where there are conflicts, so that our fellow brothers and sisters can worship freely and peacefully: Burundi, DRC, Central African Republic, Somalia.
- Pray for Nigeria, Kenya, Somalia, and Mali to overcome the Islamic extremism that mostly turns into terrorist threats and attacks. Pray for the church in those countries.
- Pray for countries affected by the Ebola outbreak, and thank God for His intervention in mitigating the spreading of this dreadful and mortal disease.
- Pray for more commitment in the work of the Lord in the various unions and conventions within the AABF: for their faithfulness in supporting the mother body through their dues and contribution; pray the same for our Youth Department (AABYF).
- Pray for South Africa as the entire continent is preparing to host the BWA Congress in July.
- Pray for the AABYF West Africa Sub-region Leadership Conference scheduled for August 26-30, 2015.

Asia Pacific Baptist Youth Prayer Concerns:

- The 16th Asia Pacific Baptist Youth Conference that will be held October 21-25, 2015 at Bangkok Christian College, Bangkok, Thailand. We are praying for an attendance of around 1,200 youths from 22 countries that belongs together as Asia Pacific Baptist Federation.
- Pray for our conference speakers, workshop leaders/facilitators, worship band, local committee members, delegates, Baptist churches in Bangkok who will help in accommodating delegates in their churches for APBYF Execom.
- Pray for the financial needs of the many delegates who will be traveling from afar. Pray for the conference financial needs.
- Pray for the next incoming team of APBYF.
- Pray for the new committee members who will carry on the task of leadership, visioning, and training. The next five years will be spent with the theme “Making-Mentoring-Multiplying Disciples: The 3MD’s.”

Caribbean Baptist Youth Prayer Concerns:

- Pray for the leadership of the Baptist Youth Departments across the Caribbean.
- Pray for the Bahamas—that God will release those suffering from all forms of addictions, violence, and crime.
- Pray for the economic situation of the regions, especially those who are unemployed.
- Pray for Caribbean youth to have a spirit of dedication to engage in God’s mission.
European Baptists Youth Prayer Concerns:
- Pray that the youth of Europe do not slide any further into materialism and that the local churches may rise up as a great witness to Christ.
- Many young people in Europe are self-harming. Please pray for breakthrough in this area, that the freedom that is found in Christ may be found.
- Give thanks for the new ExCo of EBF Youth and Children and ask that they would be united and excited about what God wants to do amongst them.
- Pray that young leaders would be identified, trained, and released to serve in our churches and beyond.
- Please pray for the ongoing development of the HORIZONS youth and children’s leadership training courses in numerous countries around the world. Pray for new mentors and new languages to be added (Romanian and Bulgarian this year for a total of nine languages). Pray for the youth and children workers who are now in the program and for the mentors guiding them.

Latin America Baptist Youth Prayer Concerns:
- Pray for regional and national meetings in different countries of the continent (Argentina, Nicaragua, Uruguay, among other).
- Pray for the planning and organization of the Latin American Youth Congress 2016 in Cancun, Mexico and those who will attend.
- Pray for the UNBJ / Mexico, as they have a major role in the planning of the Youth Congress in Cancun.
- Pray for youth groups in every church in Latin America and its leaders. May they continue to grow not only in quantity but also in quality in their relationship with the Lord and with brothers and sisters in Christ.

North American Baptist Youth Prayer Concerns:
- Pray for a deeper understanding of the concerns of the rest of the world.
- Pray for tolerance and dialogue with other faith groups.
- Pray for recognition and response to the growing issues of poverty, racial tension, and other issues of peace and justice.
- Pray for the leadership of the youth departments across North America.
- Pray for North American youth to have the spirit of dedication to passionately engage in God’s mission.