Greetings from the President

Every year we, The Youth Department of the Baptist World Alliance, unite together to pray for our brothers and sisters around the world. As we grow in faith and our relationship with Jesus Christ, we learn that prayer is a very powerful weapon. Sharing with God our many struggles that we face in our lives as young people can bring change. God has given us the ability to bring our petitions to Him and cast all of our cares on Him for He cares for 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 three years, we have been committed to living 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 “*Speaking Out!*” 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, which can be found on our Web site. (Click Youth World Day of Prayer link) [http://www.bwanet.org/programs/youth](http://www.bwanet.org/programs/youth)

Since we left Singapore, our Youth World Day of Prayer has been very successful. We anticipate once again great results from your participation in the BWA Youth World Day of Prayer on June 12, 2016. Remember, we are a chosen generation seeking to be **GOSPEL** 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.

We also have Our Prayer Wall on the BWA Youth Department page on Facebook. You are always welcome to share your prayers and prayer requests all year round.

Blessings,

Amanda Haines  
*BWA Youth Department President*
The Baptist Youth World Day of Prayer is an annual event held on the second Sunday in June. This year that day is June 12, 2016. 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 Christ.

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 “Speaking Out,” and is based on the Singapore Declaration that calls Baptist young people to commit themselves to live as “GOSPEL” people.

Included in this resource guide are five Bible studies developed from the text, Proverbs 31:8-9. It is intended that you will plan to use these, not only for the Day of Prayer, but at other times during the course of the year.

Ways to promote the Youth World Day of Prayer:

- Posting to your churches’ Web site
- Printing/posting to your church bulletin board
- Sharing on your youth group/organization/personal social media platforms/websites.

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, 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 (#YouthPrayer16). 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 now:
Select: “BWA General Ministry” on the drop-down menu;
Complete the donation form;
Write on the Comments: 2016 Youth World Day of Prayer.

Or, send your offering to:
BWA Youth Department
405 North Washington Street
Falls Church, VA 22046, USA
2016 Baptist Youth World Day of Prayer
Suggested Prayer Worship Outline

SPEAKING OUT
“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly defend the rights of the poor and needy.” (Proverbs 31:8-9, NIV)

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

(Music leader should lead within the context of the audience)
Scripture: Proverbs 31:8-9 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 Proverbs 31:8-9.)

Musical Offering (10 minutes)

Prayer Session II—Intercession (15 minutes)
(see pages 20-21. Invite six different youth to use the 2016 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 learn this week that ministry to the poor and needy is multifaceted and is an activity all people can engage in. The Bible lesson series will begin by reminding participants that just as Jesus lived His life giving to others, as God’s followers, we too are to live to give by opening our hearts to those who are in need.

Materials Needed for the Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity: pencils, pens, and multi-colored markers. to use for this week’s Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity. Also bring sheets of notebook paper for group members to use during the G.O.S.P.E.L. People Service Focus.

Bible Study Title: Giving to the Poor and Needy
Scripture Reading: Proverbs 31:8-9

NIV
8Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.
9Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

KJV
8Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.
9Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

Bible Exposition
The book of Proverbs is a book of proverbial teachings representing one of the most ancient forms of literature. According to 1 Kings 4:32, Solomon spoke nearly 3000 proverbs; thus, authorship of the book of Proverbs is attributed to King Solomon. In the chapter 31 of Proverbs, we have the words of instruction to King Lemuel and more particularly wisdom’s instruction on justice. The writer asks that everyone speak out on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves and those who are mistreated or oppressed by adversaries or antagonists. As we plead for those who cannot plead for themselves, we are to “open our mouth for the dumb” (verse 8). The word dumb as used in Proverbs 31:8 is the Hebrew word illem which means “mute, silent, those who are unable to speak.” The focus of today’s study will be on giving ourselves in service to the poor and needy who cannot speak for themselves. To give is to contribute, to give something to someone; to furnish the necessary things. In Proverbs 19:17, the writer notes that whoever is generous to the poor lends to the poor and he will repay him for his deed. As followers of the Christ, we are to model Jesus’ life and ministry. Jesus did not come to be served, but Jesus came to give His life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45). Giving is a beautiful gift. We all know people who give to others without any strings attached. They literally model the meaning of giving because they are willing to give the shirts off their backs. They are not looking for anything in exchange; they
just feel an obligation to give to those who need that extra assistance. The word give appears 880 times in 811 verses in the King James Version of the Scriptures alone. Since giving is used so many times in the Bible, certainly it is God’s intent that we also give. As you give unselfishly to others, watch God bless you in return (Luke 6:38). There are limitless opportunities to give to those physically desperate in need. There are sad hearts to be brighten, love to be shared, and a social cause to address. But the greatest gift we can give is to share with those who are spiritually desperate in need that Jesus is the ultimate giver of life.

Personal Daily Prayer Devotional Guidance
This week Google the biographies of the following persons who were “giving” role models and who spoke up for the rights and fair treatment of others. Then jot down how their stories touched your heart.

1. Mahatma Gandhi:

2. Mother Teresa of Calcutta:

3. Nelson Mandela:

4. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.:

5. Dietrich Bonhoeffer:
Today’s Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity—Prayer Calendar

Use this Prayer Calendar to chart your prayers during this Five-Day Bible Lesson. After each lesson, you are asked to think about the persons, near and far, who are in need of God’s care and protection and write a short prayer on your Prayer Calendar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Prayer Request</th>
<th>My Prayer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Prayer for the Oppressed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Prayer for the Homeless</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Prayer for My Neighbor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Prayer for Lost Souls</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Prayer for the Poor and Needy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Living as “G.O.S.P.E.L.” People Service Focus: Modeling the Savior

As a group write an “Open Letter” to a local newspaper, speaking out on behalf of any group that is oppressed. The group should collaborate on the contents of the letter and then ask the adult leader to locate a local newspaper to send to and publish the letter.

**Suggested Prayer**

Loving Father, we thank You for giving us Your best, Your Son, Jesus the Christ, our ultimate giving role model. Teach us to become “giving” role models to those who are in need of help. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.
Today’s Lesson Objective: What is the believer’s role in social justice? What should be the extent of the believer’s involvement in society? Participants will discover that each believer not only has the responsibility to exercise compassion and love for others, especially the poor and needy, in tangible ways; but to also speak up on behalf of the poor to address problems and/or finding solutions to the problems that plague this segment of our society.

Materials Needed for the Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity: Flip chart, marker, sheets of paper and pencils to distribute for creation of comic strips for today’s Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity.

Bible Study Title: Ministering on Behalf of the Poor and Needy

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 31:8-9

NIV
8Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.
9Speak up and judge fairly defend the rights of the poor and needy.

KJV
8Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.
9Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

Bible Exposition

Believers are admonished to speak up... “for the rights” or “in the cause” of all who are destitute. (verse 8). This passage echoes God’s heart for the poor and needy and deals with believers or groups of believers having a social concern for the poor and needy. God’s people have largely acknowledged their role as being social activists as recognized in Scripture which calls for every believer to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves and for the rights of persons, especially the poor and powerless. (see Psalm 140:12, Proverbs 19:17, Acts 20:35, Isaiah 58:10, etc.) On the other hand, there are still many who have overlooked God’s concern for the poor and needy. Proverbs 31:8 clearly shows that God wants us to actively care for the poor while admonishing no mistreatment of or indifference towards the poor and needy. Committed Christian pioneers such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Desmond Tutu, and other people of faith took brave stands against the evils of injustice. Each believer should take their beliefs and values into the community and apply them to crucial social issues affecting the poor and needy, such as poverty and land environmental concerns, as well as sex trafficking, abuse, hunger and homelessness, including the access to clean drinking water and medical care. This is a substantial part of kingdom work. All of God’s creation, regardless of economic status, is entitled to respect and dignity; thus believers must act out of their convictions from Scripture and their experience of God’s grace and power to work for equality and justice for the poor and needy. The Proverbs writer encouraged every believer to speak up for the rights of these who cannot speak for themselves. When Jesus the Christ announced the purpose of His ministry in Luke 4:18 as being primarily focused on the poor, the captive, the blind, and the oppressed, Jesus was stating that His ministry was to be about social justice. God’s people today best represent the mission of Jesus the Christ and thus model the mission of our Savior when they are socially aware of the needs of others. God’s people all across the globe 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 confront injustice, speak up, and touch human needs.
Personal Daily Prayer Devotional Guidance

The Proverbs writer reminds us that the practice that is blessed by God is caring about justice for the poor by speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves and defending the rights of the poor and needy. We best honor our God when we are kind and loving toward the needy. In the space below, write down reasons why you believe many people lack concern for the poor and needy.

1. ______________________________________________________________________________________
2. ______________________________________________________________________________________
3. ______________________________________________________________________________________

What do you believe are some of the greatest challenges facing families living in poverty worldwide?

1. ______________________________________________________________________________________
2. ______________________________________________________________________________________
3. ______________________________________________________________________________________

This week, write out a plan on how you can better understand the difficulties of the poor and needy. Then, make a plan about tangible ways you can better pursue justice by speaking up for the poor and needy.

_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________

Today’s Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity—Doodling

Students will work in pairs. On a flip-chart, write down the scriptural references below. Ask student groups to select a Scripture verse and create a cartoon relating to the Scripture. Student groups can create a strip cartoon or a single image. After 10 minutes, ask each pair-group to share by reading out loud the Scripture verse they have chosen and then sharing the cartoon created.


Living as “G.O.S.P.E.L.” People Service Focus: Speaking Up!

Your group is asked to become a mouthpiece for the poor and needy in your area. First, collaborate and choose a cause or social issue greatly affecting the poor and needy. Second with the assistance of your adult group leader, choose a suitable place of gathering and after obtaining all necessary permits and/or permission from government officials, hold a peaceful rally SPEAKING UP and bringing attention to the social injustice issue you have chosen.

Suggested Prayer

Dear God, may the legacies of Mother Teresa, Dr. King, and so many others who lived their lives for the dignity of the poor and needy live through our daily words and actions. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.
Today’s Lesson Objective: Who is my neighbor? Participants will recognize that a neighbor can be anyone in their community and thus they will be encouraged to share God’s heart for their neighbors in need, speaking up and caring for the poor and destitute. Participants will also learn that when we love God with all of our hearts, souls, minds and strength, loving our neighbors will be the natural end result.

Materials Needed for the Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity: Red card stock cut into the shape of a heart; black ink pens.

Bible Study Title: Sharing God’s Heart for the Poor

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 31:8-9

NIV
8Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.
8Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

KJV
8Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.
8Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

Bible Exposition

The date of the Proverbs can be fixed during the reign of Solomon as king or sometime during the 10th century B.C. The purpose of the Proverbs is five-fold, for: (1) “gaining wisdom and instruction; (2) understanding words of insight; (3) receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right, just and fair; (4) giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young; and (5) understanding proverbs and parables…” (Proverbs 1:2-4, 6). Proverbs 31:8 ends by saying that we are to speak up for the “rights of all who are destitute.” The word destitute refers to those who are impoverished or indigent. Jesus demonstrated love for others and we should, as God’s people, demonstrate the same love, not allowing poor excuses, laziness, or indifference keep us from ministering to our neighbor in need. In the gospel of Luke, a lawyer inquired of Jesus what he needed to do to obtain eternal life. Jesus’ response was to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all of your soul, with all of your strength, and with all of your mind,” and “your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27). The lawyer, in an attempt to justify himself asked: “Who is my neighbor?” (verse 29). In reply, Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan (verses 30-37). We know what it means to love God, but there always seems to be some confusion as to what it means to love one’s neighbor as we love ourselves. Jesus did not mean we are only to love those who are our friends and those who are the easy ones to love. Rather, He meant in the same way we love ourselves, we are to love and
be concerned about the needs and interests of others. Jesus wants us to be “neighbors” to everyone who is in need and love like the true neighbor in Luke’s story of the Good Neighbor, showing mercy and Christian love to those in need. Jesus concluded by saying to the lawyer and His followers today: “Go and do likewise” (verse 37). Jesus went through towns and villages teaching and proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom (Matthew 9:35). These prophetic actions of the Christ embody the loving heart and ministry of Jesus. When you love God with all of your heart, mind, soul and strength, your heart will naturally grow to love, care and speak up for the poor and needy.

**Personal Daily Prayer Devotional Guidance**

According to an organization Compassion International (www.compassion.net), poverty is a devastating problem of global proportions. If we are going to be effective in fighting and speaking out about poverty, we need to understand the reality of it. Based on 2015 statistics:

- Almost 3/5 of the world’s extreme poor are concentrated in just five countries: Bangladesh, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, India and Nigeria.

- One third of all poor in the developing world are children 0-12 years.

- Sub-Saharan Africa is home to 43 percent of the global poor.

- Among the poor living on less than $1.25 per day, just under half have electricity.

This week, you are asked to select a prayer partner. Together, commit to coming together in person, phone or via social media and praying for your neighbors near and far who are poor and destitute. Pray specifically that people all over the world will begin to view the poor through Jesus’ eyes, and begin to put their love in action to assist those living in poverty around the world.

**Today’s Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity—Sharing God’s Heart for the Poor**

Form a circle. Each person in the group is to think about a person or a group of people who needs God’s healing and loving touch, then write the name of a neighbor, relative, etc., or a group of people (For example: people in Third World countries, the homeless, etc.) on the paper heart. Once all of the group participants have contributed to the “Heart of Love,” have a volunteer pray a general prayer, lifting all of the prayer requests to God.
Living as “G.O.S.P.E.L.” People Service Focus: Sharing God’s Love
Plan to take a Heart of Love to a homeless shelter and share the lesson of God’s love with others. Just as Jesus gave Himself to us, believers should give themselves to the lives of others.

1. Brainstorm when and where the group will engage in the people service focus.
2. The group leader will notify the shelter selected to alert him or her of the group’s visitation.
3. Create a new “Heart of Love” to take with you on your visit.
4. At the homeless shelter, form a circle with participants and engage in the Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity above.
5. End the activity and visit in prayer.

Suggested Prayer
Heavenly Father, thank You for making us sensitive to the needs of others. May Your love infect our hearts and souls that we might show Your love for our brothers and sisters as good neighbors. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.
Today’s Lesson Objective: Participants will learn that evangelism includes ministry to the poor. Participants will be reminded that God’s people cannot ignore the poor and they must get over being uncomfortable around the poor and needy, and actively engage in evangelism to the poor. Evangelism to the poor is done when we share the Good News of Christ, which includes helping the poor and needy. That is faith in action!

Materials Needed for the Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity: Bring a soft ball(s) for today’s Small Group Activity. At the end of the Bible lesson encourage participants to bring in a non-perishable food item to the next Bible lesson session for distributing to a local food pantry. Bring in a bag or basket for the collection of the food items.

Bible Study Title: Evangelizing the Poor

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 31:8-9

NIV
8 Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.
9 Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

KJV
8 Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.
9 Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

Bible Exposition

The book of Proverbs is broken into eight sections. Proverbs 31 is part of section eight written by King Lemuel as Proverbs 31:1 states: “the words of King Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.” It is clear the instructions in Proverbs 31:2-9 were addressed to King Lemuel by his mother. Today’s Bible lesson concentration will be Proverbs 31:9 where it states: “Speak up and judge fairly and plead the cause…” Lemuel’s mother instructed her son that as king he must not only judge fairly but she also reminded him of his responsibility to champion the cause of the needy. One of the ways we can champion the cause of the needy is through evangelizing the poor. In January, speaking to a crowd in Saint Peter’s Square, Pope Francis noted that evangelizing the poor is the mission of Jesus and so it is the mission of the church. “To be Christian and to be a missionary is the same thing.” (Catholic News Agency, January 24, 2016). Evangelizing the poor involves both material and spiritual assistance. To evangelize means we are to put the Gospel into practice. We must live what we preach, and therefore it is necessary to act, to serve, to go forth to meet our neighbors and a person’s needs. As we speak up and proclaim the Good News of salvation, we are continuing the mission of the Christ. As we observe the poor, and those struggling to subsist, we “judge fairly” by thinking how these conditions might change, asking ourselves why and what are possible projects that we can engage in that can be instituted to help the poor and needy. Evangelizing the poor and needy means that many people that may need to change their mindset and realize the poor, too, are made in the image and likeness of God. Regardless of a person’s circumstances, we should not look down on anyone, but treat the poor...
and needy lovingly and humanely. As King Lemuel's mother instructed her son, may we too become champions for the poor and needy, providing both material and spiritual assistance. When God's people join in becoming champions for the poor, speaking up and on behalf of the poor, we contribute to inspiring hope and dignity which live within the poor despite the oppressive poverty that afflicts them. We also put our faith in action by sharing the Good News of Jesus the Christ!

Personal Daily Prayer Devotional Guidance

My World Prayer Map

There are persons all over the world in all seven continents who are in need of our prayers and need to hear the message of salvation. Using a piece of tape, stick prayers onto your World Prayer Map for the areas that are in your prayers. Then, you are asked to commit to praying for a continent a day for God to continue to stir the hearts of His missionaries to go to these areas to share the Good News of our Savior. As you join in this global chorus of prayer, in the space below, feel free to write down your specific prayers for these places around the world.

Africa

Antarctica

Asia

Australia

Europe

North America

South America
**Today’s Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity—Prayer Ball**

Everyone should gather in a circle (or two circles for larger groups). Throw a soft ball around the circle. Whoever catches the ball is to say a short prayer for someone who he or she knows needs God’s love, protection, and most importantly, to hear the Good News! After the prayer, throw the ball on to someone else. Play until everyone has had a chance to pray.

**Living as “G.O.S.P.E.L.” People Service Focus: Becoming a Champion for the Hungry**

This week you will be asked to become a champion for the hungry by providing food. The group leader will ask you to collect non-perishable food items from relatives and friends and bring them to the next Bible session. Together as a group, you will visit a local food pantry and donate the food to help families in need.

**Suggested Prayer**

Dear God, help us to take a more active role in the world and become champions of the poor and needy. May we also find creative ways throughout the year to help our brothers and sisters in need, showing compassion and praying for opportunities to share the Good News of salvation! In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.
Today’s Lesson Objective: Participants will be challenged to live lives dedicated to ministering to the poor and needy among us. In order to live a life dedicated to the ministry to the poor, participants will be reminded to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. As God leads participants in ministry opportunities and as they observe those who are in need, this lesson will encourage them to respond with love, kindness and help.

Materials Needed for the Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity: On several 3-x-5 inch cards, write directions (for example: Thank God for your family; Thank God for missionary workers all over the world; Ask God to be with anyone you know who is in need, etc.); provide music for use during the Small Group Prayer Activity. Second, decide on the date and place where the food collected from participants will be delivered. Third, place enough vegetable seeds in a small sandwich bag to give a packet to each participant during the G.O.S.P.E.L. People Service Focus.

Bible Study Title: Living a Life Dedicated to Ministry to the Poor and Needy

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 31:8-9

NIV
8Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.
8Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

KJV
8Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.
8Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

Bible Exposition

Today’s lesson will focus on the concluding words of Proverbs 31:9: “the poor and needy.” The poor and needy are often referred to as the marginalized. “Marginalized” is a term referring to those who are prevented from having attention, power, or influence. Moses told the children of Israel that: “For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore, I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’” (Deuteronomy 15:11). How often do we open our hands to our brothers and sisters who are in need? According to Moses, it is a process we must do. Jesus referenced this Scripture in Matthew 26:11, Mark 14:7, and also in John 12:8. Jesus reminded us that we will have the poor with us always. The presence of the poor and needy among us allows us the opportunity to show love, kindness, and benevolence. God allows for such people to exist in our world. The presence of the poor and needy also gives us the chance to exercise unselfishness. Since Jesus said there will always be the poor among us, then we must expect to have poor persons in our neighborhoods, communities, churches, and in the world. Therefore, whenever you have the blessed opportunity to encounter a person(s) who is poor, needy, destitute and marginalized, Mark added to Matthew’s statement by saying in Mark 14:7: “and whenever you wish you may do them good.” Essentially, we are to do good [to the poor] by relieving their wants and distributing to their necessities. As we wrap up this important series of lessons, remember, it is God’s will that the followers of God defend those who are destitute and not able to defend themselves and speak out for themselves. You are encouraged and challenged, after studying this Bible study series, to live a life that models the life and ministry of our Savior by giving, praying, and being sympathetic to the plight of our poor and needy brothers and sisters near and far. Most importantly, be sensitive to the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit.
as God leads you to people who need your love, kindness, and help. Remember, Jesus reminds us: “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40, NIV).

**Personal Daily Prayer Devotional Guidance**

Each day in the upcoming week, during your quiet time with God, look up the following Proverbs that deal with social concerns and write in the space provided in your booklet ways that God’s people can respond to the reality of God’s concern for the poor and needy or the “least of these” today. Then pray for God to provide opportunities for you to help the poor and needy around you.

Day 1: Proverbs 14:21 ______________________________________________________________________
Day 2: Proverbs 14:31 ______________________________________________________________________
Day 3: Proverbs 28:27 ______________________________________________________________________
Day 4: Proverbs 19:17 ______________________________________________________________________
Day 5: Proverbs 22:9 ______________________________________________________________________
Day 6: Proverbs 21:13 ______________________________________________________________________
Day 7: Proverbs 22:22-23 ___________________________________________________________________

**Today’s Small Group Prayer Guide/Activity—Musical Prayers**

The group leader will place several cards face down on the floor all around the room. The group leader will then play some music. When the music stops, pick up the card nearest you and do what the card has written on it.

**Living as “G.O.S.P.E.L.” People Service Focus: Living It!**

This week a seed has been planted in your heart to evangelize and be sensitive to the plight of the poor and needy. The group leader will give you a small packet of seeds. The small packet of seeds is to be placed in a visible spot in your home or in your Bible to serve as a daily reminder to pray the following prayers adding an appropriate ending. Then, during the planting season, plant your seeds and donate the fresh produce to a local food shelter that services families in need.

| S | Speak in the hearts of those that need God's messenger of love, mercy, and grace and firmly plant the seed in their heart to ______________________________________________________________________ |
| E | Encourage believers to reproduce themselves all over the world to use their Christian witness to ______________________________________________________________________. |
| E | Enlighten the hearts of believers worldwide to sow seeds of faith and love their neighbors as they love themselves and to ______________________________________________________________________. |
| D | Draw us together in community with Your Son, Jesus, as we sow into the lives of the poor and needy ______________________________________________________________________. |
| S | Shower us with Your love, strength and courage to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves and may our seeds germinate and bear fruit for the kingdom of God and ______________________________________________________________________. |

**Suggested Prayer**

Dear God, thank You and we praise Your name for reminding us that we are to be concerned for the poor and needy among us as they are our brothers and sisters in humanity. As we conclude these series of lessons, we pray You will always be with us, above us, and beside us as we do Your will here on earth. In Jesus’ mighty name we pray. Amen.
AFRICA
1. Thank God for setting Africa free from EBOLA.
2. For our upcoming AABYF Continental Conference in Nigeria August 2-6 2017 under the theme: “YOUTH, THUS SAYETH THE LORD!” and our strategy to reach many countries.
3. For AABYF sub-region conferences:
4. Western Africa August 2016 in Ghana
5. Southern Africa December 9-11, 2016 in Namibia
6. For the francophone conventions and unions in general and especially those in the Central part of Africa
7. For the AABYF new leadership to be elected in Nigeria in August 2017
8. For the countries in conflict in Africa and in the world.

ASIA
1. Pray for the new emphasis APBY will be taking from 2016-2019. “Making Disciples-Multiplying Disciples.”
2. Pray for the new team (Rev. Ardi Wiriadinata from Indonesia, Ms. Ashley Muk from Malaysia, Rev. YHanh Lucca from Vietnam, Mr. Prem Bhattarai from Nepal, Mr. Franco Ferrer from Philippines, Mr. Suka Taufa from Fiji, Mr. Immatoshi Longkumer from India and Vesekhoiy Tsetso (Vee) from Okinawa, Japan) who will be meeting in Yogjakarta, Indonesia from June 23-25 for meeting while attending the Indonesia Baptist Youth Conference.
3. Pray for an Exponential Growth of the Asia-Pacific Baptist Youth as discipleship emphasis/training is offer to each country through APBY.

CARIBBEAN
Barbados
1. Mutual respect and trust with relationships, in our youth ministries and churches as a whole.
2. A desire to read God’s Word daily and spend time in prayer in order to increase our passion for knowing Jesus.
3. A boldness and willingness to share Christ without fear to unsaved friends and family.

Jamaica
1. Leaders of the church and the nation
2. Unemployment
3. Poverty
4. Child abuse
5. Sexual immorality
6. Family issues
7. Children suffering from identity disorder
8. Dedication of our youth
9. The rise of Muslim extremists
10. More educational opportunities for our youth
Trinidad
1. Youth of the Baptist Faith: Pray that they will truly be guided into the roles that they need to fill for the various Baptist churches, unions, and associations and more so, for the kingdom of God. That they be shielded from the distraction of material things and focus on the one true and living God.
2. The Baptist bodies in Trinidad and Tobago: That we would realize our full potential. That all ministries would collaborate and support one another. That the leadership would be open to new ideas and changes to move this body of Christ forward. That the enemy's stronghold would be broken down in mind, body, and spirit. That the armies of God would arise
3. Leadership in the Region—raise up leaders whose God is Lord
4. The crime situation—That lives would be valued
5. The economy
6. The Next CBF Youth Festival—safety, finances, and changed lives
7. Human trafficking
8. Youth identity issues
9. Violence in schools
10. Issues of racism
11. Youth evangelism

The Bahamas
1. Youth unemployment
2. Upcoming national elections
3. National revival
4. Eradication of mosquito-borne viruses

Grenada
1. Success in exams
2. Emotional stability
3. God's direction: For young people to walk into their God-given destinies without being their own hindrances
4. Sensitivity and discernment: Help from God to perceive what will bring Him glory in situations
5. Avenues to be identified where young people can get help
6. Outpouring of love for those in need of guidance
7. Deliverance from sinful lifestyles or addictions

EUROPE
1. The Refugee Crisis – Pray for Christians and churches across Europe who are seeking to help those who are attempting to cross into Europe and pass through its borders. Many are traumatized and many are children and young adults. Pray God's blessing on those who are caring and those who are travelling
2. Terror – Once again a major European city has been targeted by so-called Islamic State Terrorists. Pray for Brussels and those who live there to know the peace of Christ amid all the uncertainty.
3. Euro 2016 – This major football tournament throws together 24 national teams in France for a month starting June 10. Pray for those churches seeking to reach out to those who will travel to watch this event and for football spectators from all across Europe to experience God’s love for them through His people.

4. “Horizons” Training Program – Please pray for the very first gathering of its mentors on April 28 in the Czech Republic and for the ongoing ministry to train youth and children’s leaders using this online platform. Pray for encouragement and expansion!

LATINO AMERICA
1. Pray for regional and national meetings in different countries of the continent.
2. Pray for the planning and organization of the Latin American Youth Congress July 25-28, 2016 in Cancun, Mexico and those who will attend.
3. Pray for the UNBJ / Mexico, since they have a major role in the planning of the Youth Congress in Cancun.
4. 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 AMERICA
1. Pray for a deeper understanding of the concerns of the rest of the world.
2. Pray for tolerance and dialogue with other faith groups.
4. Pray for the leadership of the youth departments across North America.
5. Pray for North American youth to have the spirit of dedication to passionately engage in God’s mission.