

January: The Way to the Kingdom

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Today, The Wesleyan Covenant Association's International Intercessory Prayer Network is introducing a series of prayer guides under the banner, "The Way to the Kingdom." Watch for these to come to your inbox monthly and use them daily to pray for God's *will to be done and His Kingdom to come on earth as it is in Heaven*.

Surely, we are all after the same thing. We are searching for the way that leads to the Kingdom of God. That is our great quest. United Methodists are also searching for a way through our present theological impasse, which is a more finite quest. And so we wonder: does the way to the Kingdom also lead through this impasse? Surely our best prayers allow these two roads to converge, and surely our best prayers will lead us both *to* and *through*.

As we pray our way *through* to a workable solution to our impasse that allows everyone to move on with ministry, we must begin in our prayers where our spiritual fathers and mothers (and even importantly, Jesus) counseled us to begin. We must begin with our hearts, and we must aim for the Kingdom.

Will you begin to pray from a Kingdom for our great goal? And may our prayers together pray *through* not just this present time but *to* the very Kingdom of God.

A Suggested Pattern of Prayer

As you pray through the following prayer points, invite the presence of the Lord into your time of prayer. Each day's prompt has a Scripture reference for you to pray through. As you pray allow time to also listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you. When you have prayed through the Scripture and prayer point, you may be led to add your own prayers. Pray and consider what action steps you might take in response to the Lord's leading. Repeat this prayer pattern weekly for the month.

Daily Prayer Points

Sunday: Pray through our cultural differences, and toward genuine religion, which James defines as having a living compassion toward those in distress and refusing to let the world corrupt us (1 Cor. 12:12-30).

Monday: Pray through our anxieties, fears and prejudices, and toward righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-31).

Tuesday: Pray through pragmatism, and toward true wisdom and a deep desire to see only the will of God accomplished — nothing less, nothing else (1 Cor. 1:18-31).

Wednesday: Pray through tolerance, and toward the kind of joy that comes with knowing ourselves as children of God, so that we might know ourselves as God knows us (John 1:9-14).

Thursday: Pray through self-justification, and toward an awakening to our own sins, corruptions, foolishness, and shadows (Romans 3:20-28).

Friday: Pray through any impediment to the spirit of the Protocol, and toward a creative and life-giving solution that honors Christ and gives a winsome witness to the world of what can be (Matt. 5:11-16).

Saturday: Pray through “small religion” in your own heart, and toward the kind of religion Jesus came to establish on earth (1 Peter 3:15-18).

*“This repentance, this faith, this peace, joy, love, this change from glory to glory, is what the wisdom of the world has voted to be madness, mere enthusiasm, utter distraction . . . be thou moved by none of these things.” (John Wesley, *The Way to the Kingdom*)*