



April 2024
WCA IIPN Pray Guide
by Rev. Keith Bohley, GMC Elder
Western Allegheny GMC PAC

We have just come through Holy Week and celebrated the empty tomb. Using John's gospel Mary finds the empty tomb and runs to tell the disciples what she had discovered. John follows Peter into the tomb and sees the grave clothes as well as the cloth which had been wrapped around Jesus' head and he believes. We are told; " they still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead." When they leave Mary remains in her grief and is rewarded by seeing Jesus. When Mary looked into the tomb she saw two angels seated where Jesus' body had been. One at the head and one at the feet. Jerusalem was filled with spiritual activity. In Mathews account of the arrest Jesus says "Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"(Matthew 26:53) Can you imagine the demonic and angelic hosts ready to do battle crammed into the small area of Jerusalem. Gives a hint of what is to come.

As Paul writes to the church in Ephesus, a city filled with demonic activity, writes: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."

Ephesians 6:10-13 NIV.

As the eagerly anticipated United Methodist General Conference is set to begin the 23rd of April it is important to direct our prayer effort in this direction. It is easy to see that Satan has assigned spirit beings or "territorial spirits" to cover the churches and certainly the United Methodist Church. If we are to have success in praying for the General Conference we must direct our prayers and not merely

pray a wish list. In prayer and decrement with Mark Ongley, author of Into The Light: Healing Sexuality In Today's Church, (a book with a strong message for the church) we believe a territorial spirit coming against the church and the General Conference is the spirit of disruption. This is a territorial spirit. See Dr Bellini's book: The X-Factor. I believe as intercessors we are the singer going out before the army singing "Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever." 2 Chronicles 20:21.

April 1-6 Call for preparation.

Following Dr Bellini's February guide we need to repent, pray for cleansing and deliverance from inbred sin, pray for entire consecration, claim the promise of entire sanctification, and receive the Baptism of Fire that purges from all sin and fills with all love. Along with this begin to worship boldly. Put on the full armor of God and make sure each piece is in good repair. (Ephesians 6: 10-20)

1. As you focus, activate your prayer team. Ask your trusted prayer warriors to continue to keep you in prayer. Don't enter into this prayer time alone. Ask your pastor for prayer covering.
2. Begin a time of fasting. Maybe a day or even a meal as you spend time in focused prayer.
3. Continue to pray through your prayer list keeping the General conference in prayer as you allow quiet time for God to give you a word or a scripture.
4. Where you know the names of delegates to the General Conference hold them in prayer. Pray against the spiritual attack that will certainly come during the conference.
5. During this season keep your church and pastor in prayer. Pray for a move of God and for there to be a move of the Holy Spirit to touch, save and heal. This will be a strong time for your church. Demonic forces cannot be everywhere but the Holy Spirit can!

April 7-13 Pray for unity.

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

Ephesians 4:1-6 NIV.

See Dr Seamands book: The Unseen Real. As an intercessor you have been given gifts. Activate these in the unit of the Spirit.

Prayer of the conference in Nairobi Kenya held from the 7-11 of April.

Prayer needs given by Scott Fields.

1. **Safe travel and good health** for all of the African General Conference delegates as well as leaders from Good News and WCA who will be gathering in Nairobi in early April to pray, worship, and strategize together for presence and impact at the UM General Conference.

2. Favorable **visa interviews** so that African delegates will be allowed to travel to the US. A number of delegates are having to travel to other African countries for visa interviews and then having to remain for 2-3 days to receive the visa. All of this takes substantial time and expense for the delegates.

3. The General Conference Business Manager's office is making the **flight arrangements** for all international delegates to the UM General Conference. There is considerable concern from African delegates due to how late the flight reservations are being made (no flights can be booked until after visas are approved), the routing of travel and therefore the time required to arrive in Charlotte for the conference, and the resulting jetlag, fatigue, and not being able to fully engage the legislative assembly because of travel stress.

4. Wisdom and discernment to identify possible **African leaders for legislative committees** at the General Conference. The officers of the legislative committees, elected by the committee members, have significant influence over how, when, and if legislative petitions are handled.

5. Joyful and grateful **unity** among the delegates and presenters, many of whom have never met one another before, so that the Holy Spirit will be welcomed in the gathering, love, mercy, and grace will prevail, the Lord will be glorified, and effective planning will be accomplished.

April 14-20 Declaring God's Wisdom

“We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”— the things God has prepared for those who love him— these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.”

1 Corinthians 2:6-10 NIV

1. Begin to worship boldly. Listen to praise music. Read Scripture.
2. Listen for a word from the Lord as you move into a deeper level of prayer. Keep your prayers focused on God. God is not taking us out of the world but protecting us from evil. Start each day with the Lord's prayer as you pray for the General Conference. There are three levels of warfare we will encounter. Ground level spiritual warfare. These are demonic spirits who have been given legal permission to be there by leadership and delegates who have given them rights by their action. We will begin to pray for protection as other delegates arrive. Also as we pray we will be denying demons access and influence.

Occult-level demons will be more organized and will be functioning due to those who are there playing for the other team. I recently heard of a local pastor of another denomination who received help on sermons using tarot cards. Early in my career I worked with an individual who was demon possessed and was being used by a UM pastor much as the slave girl was being used in Acts 16:16. It is not

a far stretch to believe that some people like this have risen into leadership positions.

As we come together in prayer we are focusing on a strategic level force name disruption. As we begin to pray we must put on the whole armor of God. Prayer is the seventh piece of armor. As Paul Miller states in his book, *The Praying Church*: "Prayer-the seventh piece of Paul's armor-was the thread that held evil at bay and energized them for love". (pg. 81) This will be a week to pray and praise.

3. Delegates will start arriving by the end of the week. Pray a Spirit of unity and peace over all who are arriving. Pray a Spirit of protection allowing the Holy Spirit to do the work.

April 21 - 30 Pray for GC 2024 Delegates

"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you."

Matthew 10:16-20 NIV

"Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 10:7-10 NIV

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

Romans 8:28 NIV

Pray that all delegates to the general conference receive the Matthew 10 passage as a word from the Lord. It is a good word to pray over the delegates. We are to be as innocent as a dove yet as shrewd as a snake.

1. Continue to pray for Central conferences especially those in Africa and those Jessica has lifted up in the March guide.

2. Begin praying a full covering for all delegates and especially those you know by name.

3. Pray for God's will to be done. We have our one agenda and what we think is best. Pray through the end of conference the Spirit to move with such might and power that the will of God will be accomplished.

4. Pray against any spirit of disruption functioning in the conference. Pray for a spirit of unity and peace.

5. Pray the conference center will be surrounded by an angelic host that will provide protection to all who enter.

Finally:

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

Ephesians 6:18 NIV