



**Wesleyan Covenant Association
International Intercessors Network
Prayer Guide
August, 2024**

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Theme: Watchmen Arise

*O my threshed people, and my afflicted of the threshing floor!
What I have heard from the Lord of hosts,
The God of Israel, I make known to you.
The oracle concerning Edom. One keeps calling to me from Seir,
"Watchman, how far gone is the night?"
The watchman says, "Morning comes but also night.
If you would inquire, inquire; Come back again."
Isaiah 21:10-12*

August 1-3: REJOICE. I say REJOICE, the Lord has chosen you. All throughout scripture there are people groups who come out of oppression, slavery, ungodly rule and walk in a newness with the Lord. God is consistent in His ways and He calls us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

In the light we can see clearly. We can also see things that were hiding, like the cobwebs in the corner or the dust that lays on the unused books. God uses His Light to help us see what things need to be cleansed in our lives so that we can walk forward unhindered by (fill in the banks)

Take some time in this short week and do some housecleaning. *Watch* over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life. ^{Proverbs 4:23} Spend some time reading God's word and renew your mind with the new life God has for you in the Global Methodist Church. ^{Romans 12:1-2}

August 4-10: *Watching* *Be sober (well balanced and self-discipline), be alert and cautious at all times. That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion (fiercely hungry), seeking someone to devour.* ^{1Peter 5:8 Amp}

In the beginning Adam was given dominion in his boundaries and he was to *shamar* or *watch* what had been given to him. Adam was to guard and protect, but he failed in his assignment and the rest is God's story of redemption. In another garden, Jesus took his "three" and gave instruction that they should stay and *watch*. Jesus' watchmen failed, falling asleep during His travail, and they were rebuked. "Just one hour" He said, and you could have overcome the flesh and its temptations.

Watchmen were assigned to the watchtowers and given strict instruction to stay awake, keeping their eyes on the horizon and taking note of everyone who approached the city gates. The watchmen would stand at their post and look to see what the Lord would say. Habakkuk 2:1

Every church, city, or region should have watchmen. A watchman is appointed by God and is gifted to see what others may miss. A watchman will have gifts of discernment and their relationship with the Lord is such that they will know when to speak and when to stay silent. A watchman will let others know what they see and will be the one to give prayer points for the intercessors to take hold and beseech the Lord for His hand upon the situation.

Spend time this week examining your prayer life, your prayer role in the church, and answer the question Am I a watchman? Do I know someone who is a watchman? Pastors and church leaders are not exempt. They are watchmen in many respects, but there may be people in your church who are gifted to be watchmen and they need some help identifying their role and how to operate in prayer ministry within the church.

- Do you find yourself “on alert” praying for people or circumstances as they come to mind?
- Are you alert to spiritual alarms and/or confusion in the church? Of course, the enemy is not behind every bush, but God will alert us to the enemy’s schemes or disorder so that we may pray and intercede. Our prayers can stop the enemy.
- Do you feel a need to watch over, guard and protect those in your church or your ministry?
- Have your spiritual senses been trained to discern good and evil?

August 11-17: Duties *Be earnest and unwearied and steadfast in your prayer (life), being (both) alert and intent in (your praying) with thanksgiving.* Colossians 4:2 AMP

Biblical watchmen were responsible to guard vineyards or fields for harvest. They were also posted in towers to protect cities. We have many stories in the Old Testament that tell us what happens to the harvest and/or to cities when they are not watched over and the enemy gains entrance to steal, kill and destroy. To refresh you, here are a few examples: Judges 6 and 7, Nehemiah 4, Isaiah 5, 21.

Duties of a Watchman: (Through Prayer)

- Keep places, people, and things safe
- Guard against loss, theft, or damage
- Guard people in order to protect them from harm or danger
- God’s secret service detail to protect leaders in His Kingdom
- Set boundaries and know how to watch over them
- Guard and protect what is within the boundaries
- Help preserve the peace and keep things from ruin
- Be on the alert
- Be observant to see what others may not see or miss
- Maintain peace so that things go well

In John 17, Jesus prayed that all He had been given would be kept, saved, and protected. As co-laborers with Christ, we can join Him in asking the Father to guard and protect those that have been given to us to “*watch*” over.

One way to “*watch*” is to understand His ways. Sometimes things just don’t seem right and you don’t know why. You may have a burden for someone, they keep coming into your thoughts, or a situation makes you feel uneasy. As a watchman/intercessor, it is time to pray, even when we don’t know why for we have the Holy Spirit, and He will help us intercede with groanings too deep for words. ^{Romans 8:26} You may never know what or why. Rejoice when nothing happens and all is well. As a faithful watchman, prayer has averted what the enemy has meant for evil, and we can thank God that He has turned it to good. ^{Genesis 50:20}

If God says to be on the alert, we must believe that He will alert us so that we can pray appropriately. ^{1 Peter 5:8} If God says to not be unaware of the enemy’s tactics, He must want to show us the ways of the enemy and/or his schemes. ^{Hosea 4:6}

Corrie Ten Boom stated that “it is a poor soldier indeed who does not recognize the enemy.” Watchmen do not live in fear of the enemy, nor do they ignore him leading to ignorance. But, as we fix our eyes on Jesus, we will know His ways, and we will discern good from evil.

Take time to evaluate your prayer life and prayer in your church. Do you know the ways of Jesus? Do you know the ways of Holy Spirit? Have you missed His warnings? Does your church always seem to be fighting a battle? Is it time to begin praying from an offensive position rather than defense?

August 18-14: Boundaries *God has made from one man every nation of mankind to live on the face of the earth, and He also determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands and territories.* ^{Acts 17:26}

God has determined your appointed time to be among those chosen to bring forth His new expression of Methodism in the earth. Although we have a global call to the nations, He has placed each of us in congregations, within certain regions, and He has even given us new boundaries with our Annual Conferences.

In 2 Samuel 23 we read of two of David’s mighty men. Eleazar fought the Philistines until his hand was weary and his hand stuck to the sword. Some of you may feel like Eleazar, as it has been a long hard battle in prayer to get to the place where we are today. Many are weary of the fight and it may take awhile for us to switch gears and take on a new assignment to plant and harvest. And then there is Shammah who stood on his piece of ground to defend it. Just a field of lentils, but the Lord brought about a great victory for him. The Lord honored both of these men for watching and guarding what belonged to the Lord.

Where or what is your field? This is your appointed time and place that God has determined to place you. He is expecting you to be like those who will guard and fight for their bean patch. Spend some time this week observing your surroundings - your

church, your city, your region. What ministries has God called you to support? What people groups are you called to reach?

Do you interact with your Annual Conference or region? Do the work of a watchman and ask the Lord to show you what He sees and what is important to Him. Remember, Jesus is always with you and Holy Spirit will whisper those things that you need to hear and see.

As we embark on this new assignment, we can take hold of the wisdom of Paul to be on guard and to stand firm in our faith [in God, respecting His precepts and keeping our doctrine sound]. We must grow up and act like [mature] men *and* be courageous; we must be strong. Colossians 4:2 AMP

August 25-31: Doing the Work *With all prayer and petition pray (with specific requests) at all times (on every occasion and in every season) in the Spirit, and with this in view, stay alert with all perseverance and petition (interceding in prayer) for all God's people.* Ephesians 6:18 AMP

We have been rescued and our Lord is now at work establishing His new body in the Global Methodist Church. Yes, many of us are seasoned veterans of this Methodist movement, but God is doing a new thing and we need fresh vision and new ways to move forward into all the things He has planned for us. We have been given new life; to be Jesus' change agents on the earth, to move out and plunder the works of darkness, and even to be like David going into Ziklag and recovering the spoils of war.

Prayer has been instrumental in birthing the new Global Methodist Church. It is so important that leadership is asking for each congregation to identify a Prayer Point Person. That person will be connected to their Annual Conference. If you lead a prayer ministry in your church and are not connected, find out who the prayer leader is for your Annual Conference and contact them to get on board. All Prayer Leaders of the Conferences are connecting and supporting one another in this mighty work so that no one is left alone.

If there is no prayer ministry in your church, and Holy Spirit is stirring in you a desire to pray, this may be the new thing that God is calling you to. Find your Annual Conference Prayer Leader and they can help you connect with other prayer groups in the Annual Conference – or maybe, you are to pioneer a new ministry in your church.

Nehemiah established one model of watchful prayer and leadership prayer. (Nehemiah 4) The early church would gather to pray at certain times (Acts 2:15, 10:9, 10:30) and at certain places (Acts 12, 16:13-15, 16:25-34,). There are so many ways and models of prayer for churches and ministries. We are fortunate to have someone who "wrote the book(s)" on prayer in churches. Dr. Terry Teykl's books and prayer resources are a blessing to Methodists and to the Body of Christ. Visit his website and connect.

<https://prayerpointpress.com/>

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;
Colossians 4:2 NASB