

June & July, 2017

Carolina's 10,000 President's Prayer Partner Petitions & Praises

The 10,000 President's Prayer Partners is a fast-growing group of Carolina Conference constituents who take matters such as these to their knees. We invite you to join us, and make this monthly list a matter of prayer. Together we seek the Lord for His answers and provisions to every need we bring before Him.

1. PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHINA



Elder Robert Folkenberg, Jr., President of the China Mission, says due to the political climate, the church in China has not been able to conduct public evangelism for over 60 years. The situation is changing now that many of our churches have their own facilities. So, please pray for their churches in China this year as they hope to conduct over 500 evangelistic series across that great land. One of these meetings just concluded and 62 people were baptized, including a 100 year

old lady (seated in picture) who insisted on being baptized out in the ocean with the rest of the candidates. God is working in a mighty way across what is often referred to as the “Middle Kingdom.” Thank you for your prayers!



2. A PRAYER FOR A HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS IN VENEZUELA

The Charlotte Spanish Church is asking for our assistance in a major humanitarian effort to relieve the incomprehensible suffering taking place in Venezuela at the moment.

Venezuela is suffering the worst economic crisis in its history. Ordinary people in the oil-rich country are regularly going without food. Three-quarter empty supermarkets are being ransacked by angry and hungry mobs. The government has declared a state of emergency, food is now being transported under armed guard, and basic necessities are being rationed. People have to queue for hours and sometimes overnight on their assigned days to receive staples like rice and cooking oil.



Due to this current crisis, our church is partnering with the Seventh-day Adventist church members of Venezuela with a plan of action to help provide people of our neighboring nation to the south with basic necessities such as non-perishable foods, products for personal hygiene, and first aid.

The Charlotte Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church has already assembled 40 boxes with basic, daily supplies of non-perishable foods, toilet paper, diapers, towels, etc. The cost for shipping each of these crate-boxes is \$90 (per crate-box). The church has already raised \$600 toward these shipping costs.

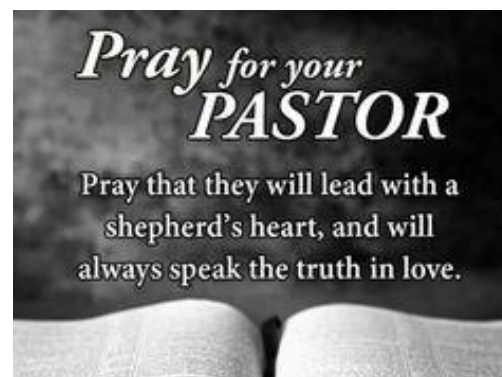
In order to meet their objectives, they are calling on all Carolina family members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to render support and help to their Community Services Committee. This could be through:

- Donations of the aforementioned items directly to the Charlotte Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Donations directly sent to the Carolina Conference for “VENEZUELA HELP” will be transferred to the Charlotte Spanish Church.

Due to the urgency of this situation, we are calling all churches to make this a matter of earnest prayer; therefore, we are requesting that all donations be received on or before June 26.

3. PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH DISTRICTS & PASTORS

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, these words of encouragement were penned for our churches: “Ask of me, and I will answer your requests. **The promise is made on condition that the united prayers of the church are offered, and in answer to these prayers there may be expected a power greater than that which comes in answer to private prayer.** The power given will be proportionate to the unity of the members and their love for God and for one another.” [9MR, 303]



This was the experience of Christ’s faithful disciples as they met in earnest prayer in that upper room as described in Acts 1:14. Let’s pray for a genuine revival in these churches uplifting them and each pastor by name:

PASTOR	CHURCH(ES); COMPANIES & GROUPS
1. Ryan Ashlock	<i>Pastor</i> Charlotte University SDA Church
2. Eric Bates	<i>Lead Pastor</i> Arden SDA Church
3. Ryan Becker	<i>Pastor</i> Rock Hill SDA Church York SDA Church
4. Jason Belyeu	<i>Lead Pastor</i> Columbia First SDA Church Irmo SDA Group

5. Steve Bietz

Pastor
**Lexington SDA Church
Thomasville SDA Church
Staley SDA Group**

6. Elvera Blake

Associate Pastor
Fletcher SDA Church

7. Ivan Blake

Lead Pastor
Fletcher SDA Church



Seventh-day Adventist pastors are burning out at an alarming rate! As Christians, we should feel deep agony over this fact, especially since the main reason for it appears to be . . . us! The very Christians who comprise the congregations of pastors who are rapidly dropping out of ministry are most often the cause for it. God has not called us to criticize or damage our pastors. He has called us to love them (1 Cor. 13:1-13), to be submissive to their leadership (Heb. 13:17), and to pray for them (1 Tim. 2:1-2). The Father has called our pastors, and has ordained them to be our shepherds (Acts 20:28).

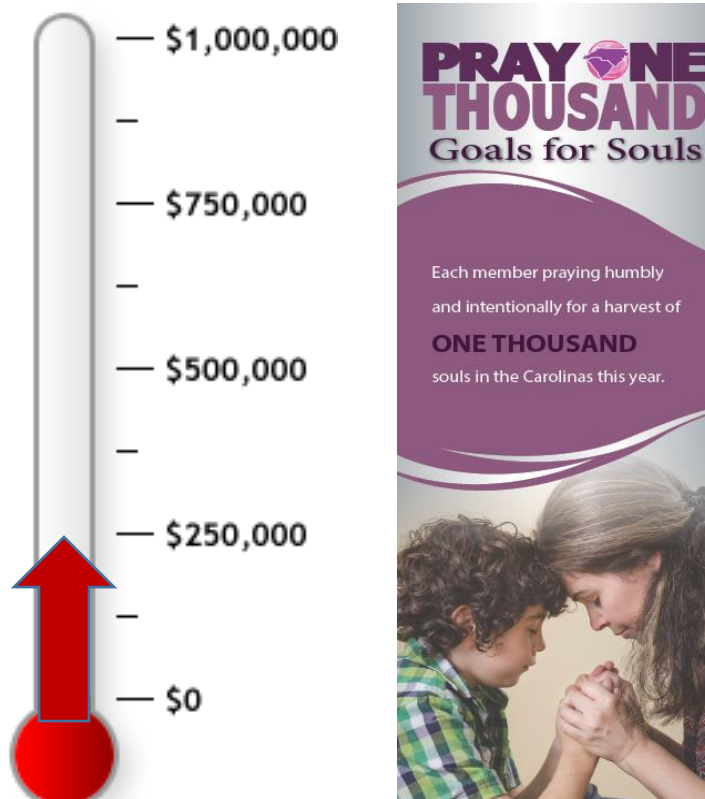
How can you pray effectively for your pastor and his family? The first thing that is needed is to make a commitment to pray for them daily. If your pastor knew that you, your family, and others were praying for him (or her) each day . . . can you imagine what an encouragement that would be? Would their hearts be lifted if they knew that they could share a need or a concern with your family, and you would take it to the Lord on their behalf? You know it would!

Often our pastors and their families feel very alone even in the midst of their churches. Often, they don't have close friends in the congregation to whom they can go with burdens. They may feel that they can't share needs because they, of all people, should have everything running smoothly. In truth, the pastor's family is just like yours. They struggle with similar issues and problems. They desperately need others to come alongside of them and commit to fervent, continuous prayer so that the enemy won't have the opportunity to do damage. Your pastor's ministry will only be as effective as the prayer that fuels it. If you want a joyful, Spirit-filled shepherd, who confidently leads his congregation into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, and demonstrates a passion for revival and for reaching the lost, then you must pray for him, and for his family!

4. PRAYING FOR **761** MORE CAROLINA ADVENTISTS WHO ARE WILLING TO COMMIT TO OUR MILLION DOLLAR EVANGELISM INITIATIVE!

We can do it!! I know we can! By God's grace, I believe with all my heart that we have at least 1,000 Seventh-day Adventists in the Carolina Conference who truly believe that Jesus is coming againsoon and very soon! ~~1,000~~ 999 (**Count me in!**) Adventists who are willing to dedicate at least \$1,000 every year for evangelism till Jesus returns. For those who have such a passionate conviction, we invite you to prayerfully consider investing in the mission Jesus has entrusted to each of us –

TO SEEK AND SAVE THE LOST!



In our GOALS FOR SOULS initiative of reaching 1000 precious lives with the beautiful message that God has blessed this church family, join me in praying that we will continue to have the resources needed to reach our goal of at least ONE MILLION DOLLARS that can be invested in the ministry of evangelism.

We are still waiting for the final numbers to come in from our big months of May and June which will carry us through the great season of evangelism giving from our 2017 Camp Meeting at Lake Junaluska.

Some of our pastors are still working with their church boards to put together their specific evangelism and outreach plans for this year. However, most of them were submitted by the first day of our camp meeting. Please pray for these plans as we labor for the Lord and the lives we seek to reach for His kingdom.

So how is it that I've come up with the above number of 761? As of the end of April, we have raised \$238,877 for evangelism in 2017. That's almost 239 giving units in Carolina of \$1,000 each! So we are praying for least 761 more generous hearts before the end of the year. Our April totals indicate a 6.4% increase in support for evangelism — over \$14,000 in funds than what we had at this same time last year. Praise the Lord!!

Let's do something amazing in Carolina for Jesus this year and every year till we see His face and hear His



voice resoundingly say – “*Well done, good and faithful Carolinians!*” **Let’s pray for an amazing victory for evangelism in 2017!** One Million Evangelism Dollars and One Thousand Priceless Souls for Christ’s Kingdom in the Carolinas! **Oh what glory that will be for HIM!**

5. REMEMBERING AND KEEPING IN FOCUS OUR 2020 VISION

We continue our second cycle of repeating and remembering our seven-fold 2020 vision, and how the Lord has been guiding us in our quest to accomplish these goals that we have asked for Heaven’s blessing. This month we focus on our second vision of those seven.

VISION III: ORGANIZE HOUSES OF PRAYER ACROSS THE CAROLINAS

PRAY AND COMMIT to develop a plan in which every church building of the Carolina Conference will be a church of HOPE (Houses of Prayer Everywhere). This must include specific, publicized times in which our church sanctuaries may be accessed by:

- Members of the church individually and collaboratively united in Prayer
- Youth and Young Adult Prayer Bands
- Individual and groups from the community with specific needs

The primary function of this strategy is to realize our source of power by seeking the Lord in personal prayer and by reflecting on His Word.



This third visionary goal is to pray and commit to creating a climate in which every church in the Carolina Conference becomes known in the community that they serve as a house of prayer. It’s my heartfelt desire that we become more intentional in times of prayer. I was in the Muslim country of Turkey 5 years ago. Although I don’t advocate their belief system, I believe we have a much better example from them in terms of established and regular times for prayer. We see that evidenced in the scriptures through the consecrated life and standard that Daniel set for us.

1. Our first focus must be how we can encourage members of our churches to be united both individually and collectively to be very intentional and passionate in our prayer life.
2. Our second focus must be to provide and promote a time and place where our Youth and Young Adults can engage in earnest and heartfelt Prayer Bands. When they discover the amazing power of prayer in their personal lives, their hearts will be connected to Christ and drawn to remain faithful to His church.
3. Our third focus is one which we envision our churches reaching out to the communities we serve with specific times for individuals and groups with specific needs. Several years ago, when I was a student at Newbold College in England, we didn’t have a church or chapel where I could go and spend some time alone with God. I was so grateful to the Anglican Church just across the street that had specific times in which the church was opened to individuals to come in, sit in silent reverence and talk to God in prayer. Those times were very precious in the relationship I formed with my Heavenly Father. Two years ago, I

was honored to be invited to the Spartanburg Church as they hosted an event for their community leaders on the National Day of Prayer. One state official said that that was the first time he had ever set foot in an Adventist Church and indicated that it would certainly not be the last.

The primary function of this strategy is to realize that our greatest source of power is by seeking the Lord in personal prayer and by listening to His voice as we reflect on His Word. In Jesus final words to His disciples before returning home to His Father as recorded in Acts 1:8 – prayer will be the power behind our being effective witnesses for Christ to the people whose lives we touch each day.

HOPE – is an acronym for Houses of Prayer

Everywhere. Here in the Carolinas, it's our desire to join in a partnership initiative with the North American Division to experience what we all long to see in our lifetime – the outpouring of the Latter Rain across the vast territory of North America.

Let's cherish the appeal and the assurance of Psalm 100, verses 4 & 5 – *“Enter into His gates with Thanksgiving and into His courts with Praise; Be thankful unto Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting. And His truth endureth to all generations.”*

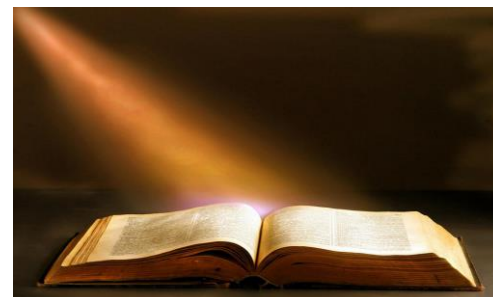


“Success in any line demands a definite aim. He who would achieve true success in life must keep steadily in view the aim worthy of his endeavor... The heaven-appointed purpose of giving the gospel to the world in this generation is the noblest that can appeal to any human being. It opens a field of effort to everyone whose heart Christ has touched.”

Education, Page 262

6. SATURATED WITH THE WORD

As a *President's Prayer Partner*, we again invite you to truly be a people of the Word. As Seventh-day Adventists we embrace 28 Fundamental truths that are based on the Bible alone. During the coming months, we will focus on four passages of scripture each month that are foundational to each of our fundamental beliefs. Here's our sixth and seventh set of 4 memory passages for each of the months of June and July for this year to coincide with our sixth and seventh fundamental belief as Adventists. **Let's place His Word prayerfully in our hearts each day of this month.**



I carry a set of these passages with me in my car and repeat them aloud as I drive from place to place. My goal is to prayerfully say one verse at least five times a day for a week, thus embracing the promise of God's Word – *“Thy Word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against Thee.”* Psalm 119:11 Repeat these passages over and over till they become a part of your very being. Of course, you can always choose to do more. Prayerfully consider how you can saturate your soul and make His Word a part of your heart every day.

FUNDAMENTAL BELIEF # 6: Creation [FOR JUNE, 2017]

God has revealed in Scripture the authentic and historical account of His creative activity. He created the universe, and in a recent six-day creation the Lord made “the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them” and rested on the seventh day. Thus He established the Sabbath as a perpetual memorial of the work He performed and completed during six literal days that together with the Sabbath constituted the same unit of time that we call a week today. The first man and woman were made in the image of God as the crowning work of Creation, given dominion over the world, and charged with responsibility to care for it. When the world was finished it was “very good,” declaring the glory of God.

- A. Exodus 20:8-11 (NKJV) -***“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”*
- B. Psalm 19:1-4 (NKJV) -***“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. ²Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. ³There is no speech nor language where there voice is not heard. ⁴Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.”*
- C. Colossians 1:16 (NKJV) -***“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”*
- D. Hebrews 11:3 (NKJV) -***“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”*

FUNDAMENTAL BELIEF # 7: The Nature of Humanity [FOR JULY, 2017]

Man and woman were made in the image of God with individuality, the power and freedom to think and to do. Though created free beings, each is an indivisible unity of body, mind, and spirit, dependent upon God for life and breath and all else. When our first parents disobeyed God, they denied their dependence upon Him and fell from their high position. The image of God in them was marred and they became subject to death. Their descendants share this fallen nature and its consequences. They are born with weaknesses and tendencies to evil. But God in Christ reconciled the world to Himself and by His Spirit restores in penitent mortals the image of their Maker. Created for the glory of God, they are called to love Him and one another, and to care for their environment.

- A. Genesis 1: 26-27 (NKJV)** -*“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”*
- B. Psalms 1:3-5 (NKJV)** -*“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, ⁴ What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? ⁵For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor.”*
- C. Romans 5:17 (NIV)** -*“For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!.”*
- D. I Thessalonians 5:23-24 (NIV)** -*“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.”*

7. GOD’S LEADERS IN THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE & JULY:





Be part of God’s praying church across North America for the leaders who guide God’s work in the following territories:

North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists		John Freedman, President
a. June 4 – 10	Alaska Conference	Kevin Miller, President
b. June 11 – 17	Idaho Conference	David Prest, Jr., President
	Montana Conference	Merlin Knowles, President
c. June 18 – 24	Oregon Conference	Dan Linrud, President
d. June 25 – July 1	Upper Columbia Conference	Paul Hoover, President
e. July 2 – July 8	Washington Conference	Doug Bing, President

Photos of each of these leaders is provided on the next page for your reference

				
John Freeman	Kevin Miller	David Prest, Jr.	Merlin Knowles	Dan Linrud

	
Paul Hoover	Doug Bing

Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists		Ricardo Graham, President
a. July 9 – 15	Arizona Conference	Ed Keys, President
b. July 16 – 22	Central California Conference	Ramiro Cano, President
c. July 23 – 29	Hawaii Conference	Ralph S. Watts, President
	Guam-Micronesia Mission	Ken Norton, President
d. July 30 – August 5	Nevada-Utah Conference	Leon Brown, Sr., President

			
Ricardo Graham	Ed Keys	Ramiro Cano	Ralph S. Watts

	
Ken Norton	Leon Brown, Sr.

You are Invited to Join!

Every Monday evening from 7 to 8 PM

Circle Carolina in Prayer

Simply call 712-770-4010

Enter code 205023# when prompted

**SHARE THIS INVITATION TO BE A
CAROLINA 10,000 PRESIDENT'S PRAYER PARTNER**

REGISTRATION OPTIONS:

- **ONLINE:** www.carolinasda.org – at the bottom of the page in the “Welcome from the President” section.
- **CALL:** 704-596-3200; Extension 5743
- **EMAIL:** bcrofford@carolinasda.org

SPECIAL NOTE: As you may have noted, this issue of the President's Prayer Partners is combined for both the months of June and July since I will be on an overseas trip with the Southern Union Presidents' Council during most of July. Thank you for your partnership in prayer for the items highlighted in this issue...but especially for your prayers for me personally. There are days when I have to remember that the weight of the responsibilities I carry are sustained by those who graciously uplift me before the Lord in prayer. For these prayers, I am forever grateful.

***Pastor Leslie D. Louis,
President - Your servant leader for the Lord***