



**2017  
NEW YEAR  
PRAYER GUIDE**

Dear Pray-er,

Thank you for joining with over 200 people to bring in the new year with a day of prayer. From midnight December 31st to midnight January 1st many will be going to God in prayer. We will be taking a lot of time to tell him thank you for all He has done this last year. We will also be looking ahead at the year to come asking him to continue to work, to touch our hearts, to touch our church and our communities. This prayer guide is intended to help guide you in your time of prayer. You probably won't be able to pray all the way through this guide in an hour, but feel free to use it multiple times throughout the day or even the week! I am excited that together we will spend hundreds of hours in prayer as we go into 2017.

In fact, it's my hope that this becomes a document that gives us guidance in prayer and action throughout the year. The prayer requests at the end of this handout are for the whole year, not just for a day or even a week. And as you will notice, throughout this handout suggestions are given to not only pray but to find ways to be someone's answer to prayer, to be Christmas!

There is no way that you could follow through on all these suggestions in a day or even a week. But that doesn't mean we can't persevere and work our way through all the suggestions in the course of a month or even a year. Part of the stress and sometimes disappointment of Christmas comes when we try to cram a year's worth of giving and serving into one season of a few days or weeks.

This last year, I have thought often and been convicted frequently about the place of prayer at Calvary and in my own life. Almost two decades ago, God gave me a most clear sense of direction for our life at Calvary by leading me to three verses, John 14:12-14.

***I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.***

Over the years as Calvary experienced an incredible amount of growth, prayer has always been an important part of the process. But over the course of the last 2-3 years as God has convicted me that our faith must grow. I know that we are not where we need to be as a praying church; that our faith can grow, that our asking can enlarge, and that we have not seen the Son bring all the fame to the Father that he dreams of bringing.

One of the major pushes we made in prayer this last year was to encourage you to pray through Ephesians 3:14-21 for people at Calvary and in your circle. As you work your way through this prayer guide, I will encourage you to keep going back to that book. Ephesians gives us an architectural blueprint for the church without walls and it can give shape to our prayers again this year.

There are three main sections to this prayer guide. The first section is **Thanksgiving**. The second section is **Inward Inspection**. The final section is **Intercession**. However you decide to use this guide, it's my prayer that you find the time of great value!

Sincerely His!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Dan". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Pastor Dan".

## SECTION I: THANKSGIVING

### Read Ephesians 1:1-23

I love the beginning of Paul's letter to his friends at Ephesus...

*How we praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we belong to Christ. Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the wonderful kindness he has poured out on us...*

*Ephesians 1:3-6 (NLT)*

Paul goes on in the rest of the chapter and details some of those incredible blessings.

- He purchased our freedom.
- He has forgiven our failures.
- He has adopted us into his family.
- He has given us access to his Holy Spirit.
- He has given us a future to live for, a people to live with, and a power to live by.

God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing and has poured out his wonderful kindness upon us. The reality is that this year has been a somewhat difficult year economically, relationally, and for some people even spiritually. It has been difficult for individuals and even in some ways for us corporately as a church. Yet in the midst of all that has taken place, as we look back we see profound signs of the blessings and the overwhelming kindness of God. Too often we forget to say thank you.


A significant portion of your time working through this guide will be simply saying thank you to God for what He has been doing and for who He has been doing it through. On the coming pages you will catch a glimpse of some of the **God-stories** from this last year and you will be encouraged to add your own. And again recorded here are just SOME of what God has given us and done through us in 2016. You have done so much more that only God knows about. Spend time looking through the “**Year in Review**” and as you do, tell God thank you. Space is provided for you to make notes and add your own God-stories.


When you finish telling God thank you, conclude by reading Ephesians 1:15-19. As you read Paul’s prayer in these verses, allow yourself to look forward in hopeful thanksgiving. After you have told God thanks for what he has done...let Paul’s prayer lead you to say thanks for what He is still going to do! And please know that like Paul, *I can’t stop thanking God for you!*

*Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for Christians everywhere, I have never stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the wonderful future he has promised to those he has called. I want you to realize what a rich and glorious inheritance he has given to his people. I pray that you will begin to understand the incredible greatness of his power for us who believe in him.*  
*Ephesians 1:15-19 (NLT)*

## YEAR IN REVIEW SAYING THANKS TO GOD FOR 2016


### THANK YOU GOD FOR WAYS YOU CONNECTED US IN COMMUNITY

 For 44 people baptized, and 20 children dedicated!

 Even though we went through a transitional period this last year, God has continued to bring many new people to our church family. This fall we are averaging over 1200 people at Calvary every weekend. Over 1500 people call Calvary their home and this Christmas Eve was one of our largest ever.

*Do you know any newcomers to Calvary?  
Write one name down and invite them to lunch.*

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 We have 41 LifeGroups with almost 500 people connected, and this year at Harvest Fields 50 people spent a month in a triad getting to know two other people as they walked through the gospel of John. I've heard so many good God-stories coming out of our LifeGroups.

*List four people you have a relationship with that you can thank God for. Send them a letter sharing what you are thankful for.*

1.

2.

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☪ Beyond that, we thank God for a host of other ministry teams that help us build community at Calvary, like the Barnabas Team, the Ushers and Greeters, the Car-Parkers, and the Helps Line. (Close to 50 different people are involved in our Helps-Line. This team serves by meeting the practical needs of people at Calvary.)

☪ Approximately 65 people came to the ThirdPlace Barn Dance, their biggest event of the year! 70+ new grad students were met and welcomed at the Grad Student Orientation Fair. 12 new people joined the Midtown worship team. One of the people impacted said, *"ThirdPlace had a great impact in my life. I found friends and a community that I could relate with. I really appreciate all the good conversations and group activities we had done during the year."*

☪ We also thank God for the people he draws from all over the world to join us in worship and Kingdom work. I never cease to be enriched by our interaction with the international community that is a part of our congregation. If you have not taken the time to get to know people from our international community, you are missing out on a great treasure!

☪ We also thank God for the university community He has brought to our church family. On any given Sunday during the school year you will find around 300 Penn State students at Calvary. An e-mail ministry sends updates and notes of encouragement several times a month to a list of 800+ students. We definitely see God at work in our college students; so many of them have gotten involved in ministry at Calvary and they bring many friends seeking Jesus. Listen to some of the responses of students who have found a home at Calvary.


*Although we have never met, I wanted to thank you and everyone at Calvary for the wonderful experience that it was to worship there with your congregation.*

*... (I came to Calvary) my senior year when I finally began to realize that something was missing in my life and in my faith without taking part in weekly worship. Calvary is an extremely friendly place that really reaches out to students to give them a refuge and a place to reconnect spiritually while in the midst of all the changes that come with the territory of college... and I just wanted to let you know I appreciated it and needed it.*

*Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you and Calvary do for us Penn State students. You never put a price on the time that you invest in us college kids. That is something that is noticed and appreciated. I cannot tell you how great it has been to wake up Sunday morning and be excited about going to church.*

*Make a commitment to get to know one international student or family at Calvary or in our community this year.*

## **THANK YOU GOD FOR HELPING US CONNECT PEOPLE TO CHRIST**

 First take a moment to tell God thank you for all the people who made a first time decision for Christ through the people and ministry of Calvary. From women at Centre County Jail (25), to students in Xstream (20), to Calvary Kids at Easter (12), to students on campus after our unity service (20), to people connecting in LifeGroups and other ministries, to people indicating a decision during our gatherings – well over 100 people made first time decisions to follow Christ this year!



☪ Calvary Kid Care has 43 children enrolled which means that we are connecting with 39 families through this ministry. We have the opportunity to expose the littlest children of God to His Word and to show the love of Jesus to them and their families each and every day. Over 100 people were at our Kid Care Family Thanksgiving meal this year and at least 50 people came to see the children perform in the annual Christmas program!

*List some of people you have prayed for and perhaps with whom you have even had gospel conversations. Ask God to bring them to faith this year.*

☪ God continues to do amazing things through those at Calvary who are ministering in the Centre County jail. Not only do more girls sign up to meet with Shelby weekly than she is able to meet with one-on-one in a day, but they received favor for more people to come in and volunteer, and to give even better gifts than last Christmas. They even allowed Shelby and three others to go in and paint all the girls' nails for Christmas. In a place with so much hurt and loss, Christ constantly reminds us that He is in relationship with us and that He can be revealed to those who don't know Him through relationship, even if it takes years. This Christmas we dropped off 260 gift bags for the inmates plus a big box of cookies for all the staff. The gifts totaled 624lbs.

☪ 69 women attended Calvary's Heart-to-Heart Bible Study last semester and many more were part of Calvary's Abide Ministry to women. One of those women, whose heart and mind was changed by God through our ministry, said that when she was taught to personalize and pray Scripture, it was a game changer for her prayer life; adding that prayer has become deeper, and more meaningful for her.

Over \$116,000 was given through our Mission's Budget this year. These dollars support, among other things; teachers in Europe, church plants in Myanmar and throughout the midatlantic states, campus ministers at Penn State, Bible translators in Germany, missionaries to Canadian ambassadors from around the world, and an engineer helping missions design hospitals, schools and ministry centers.

In addition when adding the money given for short-term missions, sponsorships of orphanages in the Dominican Republic and Myanmar, local adoptions, CityServe, and so many other local opportunities, close to \$400,000 is going outside of our walls to build up the Kingdom and serve others in need.

Find the name of two people who are going on a mission trip this year, or one of our missionaries. Tell them thank you and make commitment to pray for them.

138 people attended the kick-off of Calvary Penns Valley on Easter Sunday. New people are attending the church every week and we've seen the addition of at least one new committed family per month for the past 5 months... Calvary Penns Valley has brought hope to several hurting people/families in Penns Valley. One of the people touched by this gathering said, *"I was lonely, but Calvary has given me a place to belong and feel connected."* Another lady who has lived in Millheim for several years said, *"The church is the best thing that's happened to Millheim in years."*

In addition to all of that, we supported Pastor Vic and the start of Grace Hills Church from our Grays Woods gathering and are in the process of supporting a daughter church birthing out of our Midtown Gathering. Wellspring Church will be led by Pastor Steve Lutz and 50+ of our own Calvary family! Take time to thank

God for all that he is doing to connect people to Christ through missions at Calvary.

🌀 Over 3,000 sermons were watched online. To be exact, it was 1,943 hours of sermons. 116,604 minutes of sermons watched online! Helping people who don't even go to Calvary... connect to Christ!

## **THANK GOD FOR HELPING US CONNECT TO OUR CALLING IN THE WORLD.**

🌀 Leadership Advance 2016 saw the largest group of participants ever (84 participants and 23 coaches) and a wide range of ages. We had a high school team, college teams, teams in their 20s, 30s, 40s/50s and even a group of retired folks. God impacted many to help them discover their next steps and even next chapters.

🌀 With 100+ people involved in Connections Teams at Harvest Fields, 150+ serving in Calvary Kids, 60+ serving on worship teams, and 25 in Production Arts, about 335 people are serving in some capacity inside the walls--not to mention those serving in various places in the community. That's almost 40% of our average attendance plugged in and serving! We believe that one of the best indicators of commitment is the willingness to serve and we are thankful for those who do!

🌀 In Myanmar we have helped to start a school, the International Calvary Theological Seminary. 70% of the students that graduate from this school go into ministry, many of them going to villages in Myanmar that are unreached. This year our student body grew from 26 to 49.

🌀 In addition, we have partnered with The Timothy Initiative to see 200+ lay people trained to start and pastor a church. In 2017 we will start to see new churches started!

🌀 Thank God for allowing us to make connections with 1500 new students on Penn State's campus during launch week. Several of those students are now connected to Elements and Midtown.

🌀 Over 1,000 CityServe volunteers completed 170 projects. Five churches worked together to plan the weekend.

🌀 During Out of the Cold, Calvary provided an estimated 140 "nights of stay" to our local homeless friends! An average of 10-12 guests were provided shelter and a warm meal each night.

🌀 70 bigs and littles, connected to Big Brothers and Big Sisters, ate a Thanksgiving Giving feast at Calvary!

🌀 Thank God for hundreds of Calvary (and City Church) volunteers that have served throughout this year - CityServe, Saturday of Service, Out of the Cold, prison mentoring, CommonPlace, Adopt-a-Family, Christmas in jail, Dinner with Friends, after school tutoring and so much more would not have happened without generous volunteers who are living out their calling to do God's good!

## Part of our Calling is to Reach the Next Generation...

God has continued to pour out blessings, as we go after Penn State Students, middle and high school students all the way down to the little ones in nursery. God continues to put together teams with a passion to reach the next generation.

### Calvary Kids

☪ Thank God for the Calvary Kids Ministry Task force that formed in the spring to evaluate and make plans to renovate Kid's Ministry at Calvary. It moved our mindset from a ministry that focuses on the weekend services to a one that wants to connect and partner with parents to disciple children. We still value and want to have an awesome weekend ministry for kids, but we want it to move beyond the weekend experience into the homes of Calvary families.

☪ 250+ children attend Calvary Kids at our four different gatherings. There have been 165+ leaders involved in Calvary Kids in 2016... this is a HUGE HIGHLIGHT!! The folks who lead/teach/help are amazing people who range in age from retired grandparents down to 6th graders. Some serve 1x a month, but most serve 2x or 4x a month.

*If you have children or youth who have been involved in our kids' ministries or XStream, send a note of thanks to their teacher or youth volunteer. If you do not have kids, ask a gathering pastor for the name of a volunteer. Tell them thanks and pray for them.*

🌀 In August, 90+ leaders attended our "kick off the new year" training!

🌀 Many Calvary Kid leaders are middle school and high school students. This should bring a smile to your face! The youth who serve are wonderful kids who commit to love and serve on children at least 2x a month! Dylan Goss is going into Elementary Ed next year, thanks to the impact volunteering in Calvary Kids has had on his life over the past 4 years.

🌀 At Calvary Harvest Fields, we have a 8-10 elementary aged kids from Calvary Kids who serve alongside their parents 1x a month. This is a wonderful way for kids to serve and connect with the talents that God has given them.

🌀 One of the Calvary Kids highlights was Sports Camp. Four incredible nights where 168 kids were served by 65 volunteers and 10 kids made first time decisions to follow Jesus!



## XStream

🌀 As the calendar pages are turned, we continue to see God at work among the youth of Calvary and the Centre Region. We believe that God desires to move in a powerful way among our teens. We are excited about the possibilities, and continue to pray.

🌀 This year saw a transition in our youth leadership, as Pastor Stacy moved into the Gathering Pastor role, and Jake Nold, Ali Bruce, and Kristen Lawton formed a team to lead our XStream

ministry. They have primarily been responsible for overall leadership and the hands-on ministry for our Harvest Fields and Midtown gatherings. We are very thankful for the volunteer teams that lead at Penns Valley and Tyrone and help at Harvest Fields and Midtown. They are an amazing team.

☪ God continues to bring youth groups together through Metro Worship.

☪ Thank God for the 33 who attended the summer IMPACT festival. This is the summer camp. Several of those who came were fairly new to Calvary. This year's camp was amazing as students came together to pray for each other, share together, cry with each other, and grow in relationship with God and each other. They saw healing take place in student's lives and built up a great sense of community in Christ.

☪ Thank God for the 51 students who attended Destination Unknown, and the 16 baptized in the ponds at Harvest Fields! And the 74 who came to the Christmas party. God continues to draw new students and new leaders.

☪ We thank God for the students and the leaders.

*Make a list of five students or kids from the next generation.*

*Make a commitment to pray for them.*

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

## THANK YOU GOD, FOR YOUR PRESENCE IN OUR WORSHIP AND PRAYER LIFE

So many have spoken of their appreciation for worship at Calvary.

*I have found your church very welcoming and I enjoy the teachings by Pastor Dan Nold. And I would like to say "Thank You" to the church. I must also tell you that I had a very emotional touch from Jesus during one of the worship gatherings during a time of prayer. It was awesome!*

*I just want to thank you... the music is great... the worship is all encompassing... the sermon can really hit home. It gives us something to think about and ponder upon. It gives us a wake up call to be more attentive to His voice... an incredible job! I know what it is like to go to a church where the Holy Spirit is not present. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you.*

*...we have been blessed to be able to join you in church over the internet. It's been hard to connect to a church up here, but it's great to know that we are still able to connect and hear His word online. Anyway, just thought I would say hi and encourage you all to keep doing what you're doing. You are making a positive difference in our lives.*

*...wanted you to know that we invited my sister and brother-in-law and two nephews to Calvary for Christmas Eve. When we left my sister was in tears and she grabbed my arm as we were walking to the car and said that it was the first time that she had ever felt that she really "got" Christmas...Thank you!*



*I knew the minute I walked in the door that God was here. I've never seen anything like it. My kids even want to come.*


*I don't know what it is, but something keeps drawing me back here...*


It's amazing to me from week to week how many people give of their time to serve God and Calvary through the weekend worship services.


For me personally the worship has been a tremendous blessing as it has been for many... evidenced by comments like the following:


*God visited us and healed our spirits through the worship. It was awesome! This isn't like any Baptist church I've ever been in, the Spirit is here and ready to burst... I was literally shaking & in tears Sunday, overflowing with thankfulness for Calvary.*

I could go on and on but please take time to say thank you to God for the ways in which he has ministered to us through so many in the area of worship!

 Prayer also continues to be a place where we see God working at Calvary. Our prayer wall got over 100 requests in 2016. A committed core of people are faithful to check those requests and pray for the needs.

 Thank God for those who pray at Calvary. This year we had a number of different calls to prayer. In an extensive call to a week of prayer in February, over 300 people made a commitment to pray one or more hours. In addition, dozens were prayed for through our Isaiah 61 prayer ministry.

 Flood has been one of my monthly highlights. Tell God thank you for the people who come out consistently to pray and for those who lead us in worship during Flood.

 We thank God for all the people at Calvary who pray.

*Did someone take the time to pray for/with you last year?  
Write their name down and pray for them today.*

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## THANK GOD FOR HIS WORK IN GIVING!

☪ God has continued to bless us financially at Calvary, in part because we seek to disciple stewards not just givers. 267 households have taken Financial Peace University since we started and we're expanding to Penns Valley next semester.

☪ God has been good and you have taken to heart the truth that we have been Blessed to be a Blessing! \$6,606,037 was the final 1x1 (two year) total giving (97% of pledged amount). Almost \$250,000 went to missions and \$400,000 went to 1% Offering purposes during those 2 years.

☪ Our giving isn't just financial. We believe that a church without walls builds/rents facilities for the community. Both our facility in Tyrone and the Harvest Fields facility get frequent use by the community. Tyrone had eight activities for the community that saw over 450 people come through their doors. From hoops fest, to movie nights, to leadership appreciation nights, and a thank you dinner for the chamber of commerce, Calvary Tyrone is giving their facility to serve their community. Harvest Fields opens up the playspace to parents with young kids during the week, puts on movie nights, and soon work will start on the next door park.

☪ With all that said, the greatest giving at Calvary has not been in finances but in time and talents. So many have given so unselfishly of their time, talents and energy. Aside from the power of God, our greatest resource is people. We thank God and praise Him for people who give...and the opportunities He gives us to give to people.

## SECTION II: INWARD INSPECTION

### Read Ephesians 4:1-32

Paul starts with a call to live life (have a walk) that is worthy of the life to which God has called us. He describes that life with phrases like...

- Be humble and gentle.
- Be patient.
- Make allowance for each other's faults.
- Hold to the truth in love.
- Do my part to help others grow so that the whole church can be healthy, growing and full of love.
- Stop lying.
- Don't let anger control you.
- Don't steal, instead give generously to those in need.
- Don't use foul or abusive language.
- Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words and slander.
- Be kind to each other, tenderhearted.
- Forgive one another just as God has in Christ forgiven you.

Looking at your own life, and a few of your key relationships, (some of the key relationships in your life are key simply because they are so difficult) rate yourself in each category on a scale of 1-10. Spend time asking God's forgiveness for specific times you have failed in any of the above areas. Spend time asking him to show you what you need to do to take the next step in any one of the areas.

### **Read Ephesians 5:15-17**

Paul challenges us to wake up and live in such a way that we can redeem the time... or make the most of every moment. What are some moments you hope to seize, some dreams you hope come true in 2017? List them below.

Spend time asking God to give you the wisdom and the courage to seize the moments he brings your way for good.

### **Read Ephesians 5:18-6:9**

Paul describes three important areas of relationship: marriage, family, and work. In each area we are called to live like servants. Where are you functioning most like a servant? Least like a servant?

What one thing could you do in that area to be a better servant? Ask God to help you do that one thing.

## Read Ephesians 6:10-20

Using the metaphor of battle, Paul calls us to persevere, stand strong, don't quit in our life with God. In doing so he lists seven different areas of potential growth for each of us. Circle the area that you think you need to develop this next year. Ask God to give you wisdom to develop a plan for growth in that area.

- Learning to be true and truthful, authentic and sincere.
- Living a righteous life of integrity and character.
- Becoming a person of peace and reconciliation.
- Growing in faith, believing God's promises.
- Growing in understanding of salvation, what in reality has been accomplished for me through Jesus.
- Developing my understanding of the Bible.
- Growing in Prayer.

## SECTION III: INTERCESSION

### Read Ephesians 3:14-21

Paul indicates that God is able to do exceedingly more than we can even imagine and he loves to make God famous (glory) by doing great things through the church. With that in mind pray for the following:

Pray for seven people in your circle of influence, (neighborhood, workplace, school, community organization etc.) who need Jesus Christ. Ask God to lead you to an opportunity to serve and share with them. Will you make a commitment to expend yourself to see at least one of these people receive the gift of Jesus in 2017? Write their names down and spend time praying for them this week and throughout the year. Pray for our neighboring initiative that will start in the Spring of 2017 with the CityChurch sermon series.

Pray for one non-marriage relationship in our church that needs healing. Write down the names of those individuals and pray for them until there is reconciliation. Pray for your marriage and one other at Calvary. Ask God to bring health, healing, growth, and grace to that marriage and yours. Ask God to bless your marriage as much as you can handle and to bless the other marriage twice as much.

Pray that revival would take place amongst our youth. Pray that they, and we, would change our perspective from believing that they are the church of the future to believing that they are the church of today. As you pray for our youth, pray for our Leadership Advance seminar and for all the students who are trying to figure out where God is leading them next year. Write down two specific students to pray for in this regard.

Pray for those hurting emotionally, physically, & spiritually.  
List the people whom God brings to mind.

Pray for unity in the church of State College. List one church in your community and pray for them this year.

Ask God to show you where to serve in 2017, whether it's inside the walls or outside the walls of the church. Where is God calling you to make a difference?

Pray for the finances of our church. Ask God to inspire us and grow us in faith and generosity. Pray that all that is needed for the 1% offering would be given. Pray that we would get our facility debt paid off and begin to invest 50% of all that is given outside of our the walls of our church.

Pray for the facility needs in Penns Valley.

Finally pray that God would develop in our hearts his vision to be a church without walls...

- A church with free access to God and a vibrant prayer life. No walls between us and Christ.
- A church with healthy relationships and a life-giving community. No walls between us and each other.
- A church that is a vital part of our world, serving and loving our neighbors and the people with whom we work and study. No walls between us and the world.