

Prayer Guide For Penn State

VISION:

Many of the believers in this region have a specific vision to see God double the amount of Christ followers in Central PA by 2030. Penn State is at the heart of Central PA; to see such a dramatic demographic shift in Central PA, tens of thousands of students would need to come to Christ. We are fasting because we believe that as we come together as one body and pray, we will see God pour out His Spirit like we have never seen before. We are contending for a revival in the Church, in which the presence of God comes and refreshes His bride. We are contending for an awakening of the lost, in which thousands of students are drawn in to become followers of Jesus. We are contending for a new missions movement sent out from this campus to reach the ends of the Earth with the gospel. We are contending for God to change history in our generation. If God has done it before, He can do it again.

Duncan Campbell speaking on the Hebrides Revival, "The presence of God is the supreme characteristic of a God-sent revival. Of the hundreds who found Jesus Christ during this time, fully 75 percent were saved before they came near a meeting, or heard a sermon by myself or any other minister in the parish. The power of God was moving in an operation that the fear of God gripped the souls of men before they ever reached the meetings."

Tommy Tenney: "I will never be content merely to see the glory of God flow down the beautiful carpeted aisles of our churches. I want to see it flow down Main Street in an uncontrollable, unstoppable flood of glory that carries along everything in its path. I want His glory to invade the malls, grocery stores, health spas, and the bars across town. I want to hear unchurched people say that they had to abandon an expensive entrée at their favorite restaurant to follow the dripping trail of God's glory to a church somewhere and demand, 'Somebody tell me what to do!'"

PRAYER TOPICS/

Holiness/Repentance in the Church

Every great move of God throughout history has been preceded by deep repentance. Scottish revivalist Duncan Campbell of the Hebrides Revival said that "A God-sent Revival must ever be related to holiness." One morning in 1970 at Asbury College at a routine chapel service scheduled for 50 minutes the Holy Spirit fell upon the meeting. Students and faculty members began to publicly confess their sins and finding people they had wronged to ask for forgiveness. The meeting ended up lasting for over 7 days straight, and continued intermittently for weeks. The revival ended up spreading across America as strangers came to worship at Asbury and small teams from the College travelled and shared testimonies from the revival. Revival comes when the Body of Christ becomes zealous to remove everything that hinders God's work in their lives.

Scripture to Pray:

2 Chronicles 6:16b-7:11 (NIV)

Spend a few minutes in private confessing personal sins to God and asking for His forgiveness. Pray that the Body of Christ would walk in purity and holiness. Pray specifically that God would break the strongholds of sexual sin in the Church.

Unity in the Church

God's heart for the Church is that we will be one. Believers are a small minority on this campus; the only way that we can have a big impact is to work together with the same heart and with a love for one another. In the 1980's and early 1990's Cali, Colombia was known as one of the drug capitals of the world.

The cartels largely controlled the city. There was virtually no cooperation between the churches. However, a pastor named Julio Ruibal began to attempt to gather pastors and their congregations together to pray together for the city. They united their congregations in large stadium gatherings with tens of thousands of believers praying through the night for the city. In the subsequent months, homicides began to decline and many of the drug lords began to be arrested. Ruibal was senselessly murdered by professional assassins in 1996. In response, however, the pastors of the city began to unite together to an even larger degree and up to 200 pastors covenanted together in unity. At one all-night prayer gathering, so many people showed up to pray that 15,000 people had to be turned away, and they began to pray in the streets. Soon there was an even greater reduction in crime and the cartels were largely eradicated from the city.

Scripture to Pray

John 17:20-23

Pray for specific campus ministries by name. Pray for them to be fruitful and to produce strong disciples of Jesus. Pray for campus ministry staff, that they will be strengthened and filled with God's Spirit. Pray for Common Ground (Common Ground is a coalition of Christian ministries on campus), pray that God would make them one and continue to add other campus ministries to the group. Ask that God will continue to raise up a united movement of prayer and worship on the campus. Pray for life-long Christ centered friendships and relationships to increase in different ministries.

Students Released into their Calling

Many students come to Penn State with little vision of what they want to do with their lives. The vast array of choices seems overwhelming, and many are afraid of picking the wrong path. God created each of us with a specific purpose and a calling for our lives. In the late 1700's William Wilberforce was a young man involved with politics in Great Britain when he became a born-again Christian. When Jesus got a hold of his life he received a deep passion to "promote Christianity and Christian ethics in private and public life." He began to be grieved over every type of injustice in society, including the horrors of the slave trade. He stated in his journal in 1787 that "God Almighty has set before me two great objects, the suppression of the Slave Trade and the Reformation of Manners [moral values]". Out of this sense of calling, Wilberforce campaigned for the abolition of the British slave trade for twenty years before it was finally abolished in 1807. God wants to give us a deep sense of calling and destiny in our lives, to see things around us change for the glory of God.

Scripture to Pray

Colossians 1:9-10

Pray and ask God to show and speak to you about direction for your life. Pray that believers on campus would have a vision for their lives that they can pursue with passion during their time here at Penn State.

Passion for God's Kingdom

When God created us with a specific calling and destiny He did not intend that He would serve our purposes; He intended that we would serve His purposes. He intended that our calling would be subservient to the larger picture of His Kingdom coming to earth as it is in Heaven. Hobby Lobby is a \$3 billion arts and crafts chain owned by David Green.

David Green insists that God is in reality the true owner. As of 2012, he was the largest individual donor to evangelical causes in America. Hobby Lobby takes half of their total pretax earning and donates them to a number of evangelical ministries. Individually, FORBES estimated Green's lifetime giving at upwards of \$500 million. When describing his mission in life, Green says, "I want to know that I have affected people for eternity. I believe I am. I believe once someone knows Christ as their personal savior, I've affected eternity. I matter 10 billion years for now." God wants all of our pursuit of success to be part of the greater pursuit of seeking God's kingdom.

Scripture to Pray

Matthew 6:33

Pray that God would give you a passion for His glory. If there is specific area of injustice in the Earth that you feel like God has called you to reach, share with a neighbor and pray regarding that area. Pray that God would specifically give you a passion for people to come to know Jesus.

Encounter God's Love and His Presence in the Church

It seems that in the American Church we often have inexhaustible knowledge about God, but a lack of a living encounter with His Presence. We often know intellectually and theologically that He loves us yet have little conviction of it in our heart. In the early 90's Heidi Baker was a burnt-out missionary in Mozambique. She had an orphanage of 300 children and had recently been evicted from their property by the government. She had also become sick with tuberculosis and pneumonia. She soon heard about meetings in Toronto where the Spirit of God was rejuvenating people and she decided to go. There she had a powerful, life-changing encounter with the presence of God where she also healed physically and went back to Mozambique with fresh vision for her life. Since that time Heidi Baker's ministry has planted more than 5000 churches in Mozambique and has taken care of thousands of orphans. Experiencing God's presence and encountering His love for you can radically change the course of your life.

Scripture to Pray

Ephesians 3:17b-19

Pray that every believer on the campus will be radically encounter God's love. Pray that our worship gatherings would be marked by the presence of God's Spirit. Pray that they will be touched by God's presence so deeply, that it causes them to walk with a deep confidence. Pray that others would feel God's love through the Church.

Power of God's Spirit on the Church

Before Jesus ascended into Heaven and gave His followers the Great Commission, he promised them that the power of the Spirit would come upon them. He never intended that we would lead people to Jesus based on our own gifts, talents, intellect, or ability to persuade. He promised us that the Spirit would fill us, give us boldness, and confirm the truth of the message we share. In the 1940's T.L. Osborn and his wife went to be missionaries in India. They attempted to lead Muslims to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ but found ministry to be very difficult. In attempting to convince Muslims of the truths of Christianity, they found that the people would simply argue with them from the Qu'ran. They had no idea how to convince the people of the truth of the Bible. Less than a year later they decided to come home. As time went on, Osborn began to be convinced that what he really needed was a greater empowerment of the Spirit, to testify to the truth of the gospel. He began to fast and pray and soon went to conduct an evangelical crusade in Jamaica.

In 13 weeks he saw 135 people who were deaf and mute healed, 90 blind people receive their sight, and hundreds of cripples began to walk. Osborn went on to preach the gospel to millions in 70 countries and planted thousands of churches out of his crusades. He had meetings with over 100,000 people in attendance at once. God wants to empower us with Spirit in the proclamation of the gospel.

Scripture to Pray

1 Corinthians 2:4

Pray for the power of God's Spirit to rest upon believers. Pray that we would have boldness to share the gospel and that God would confirm the truth of what we're saying to people's hearts. Pray for God to pour out all of the gifts of the Spirit and that we would be supernaturally empowered.

Salvation of Many Students

One of the main emphases that God wants us to have in our lives and in our prayers is that people would come to know Jesus. As we pray, the Holy Spirit begins to work to remove every barrier that keeps people from believing the gospel and following Jesus with all of their hearts. God can move on entire regions so that the multitudes all begin to start coming to Jesus. In the 1960's the counterculture movement began to captivate the youth of America. Hippies descended on San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district to engage in a lifestyle of drugs, sexual experimentation, and Eastern spirituality. However, in the midst of this, small minorities of Christians began reaching the hippies for Christ. Multiplied testimonies came out of drug-users who had visions of Jesus during LSD trips and subsequently became Christians. One church in Costa Mesa, California at the height of the Jesus movement saw well over 8,000 baptisms in a 2 year period and over 20,000 conversions to the Christian faith, primarily of hippies. Some estimate that there were hundreds of thousands of conversions to Christianity during the Jesus movement in the 1970's. Thousands of congregations all across America can trace their roots to this movement, and the Jesus movement was largely the birthplace of modern worship music. God can take places that seem the darkest and most hardened, and out of it bring thousands of people to himself.

Scripture to Pray

2 Peter 3:9

Pray by name for specific students to come to Christ. Pray for a massive movement, in which thousands of people come to know Jesus at Penn State. Pray for a divine hunger amongst the students for spiritual truth, and for many to get involved with campus ministries and churches.

Faculty/Staff

Students are constantly coming and going from Penn State, but faculty and staff often stay for decades. To see real, consistent, long-term impact on the University we need to see faculty and staff come to know Jesus. In the early 1800's many of the universities in America had an even lower proportion of professors Christians that Penn State does today, despite many of them being founded as seminaries. The typical Harvard student was said to be an atheist and one minister remarked that "the college church was almost extinct." In 1795, Timothy Dwight (grandson of revivalist Jonathan Edwards) became president of Yale and at the time only 10 of 125 students enrolled publicly professed to be Christians. Upon becoming president, he restructured his administration and faculty to hire people who would uphold Christian beliefs. In 1802 Revival began, and one third of the student body of now 230 made professions of faith. The Revival spread to campuses all across America and some of the top universities claimed that half of their total student bodies had become believers. In one year in 1815 at Princeton, out of all the people who become followers of Jesus, half of them became ministries. God can so restructure the administration of the University so that all of the university glorifies the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Scripture to Pray

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Pray that administration, faculty, and staff to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Pray for the curriculum in university to reflect God-honoring principles. Pray for the professors of the specific classes you are taking or other professors you know. Pray for employees who are already Christians to be bold in their faith.

Party Culture

For years, Penn State has had a reputation of being one of the most notorious "party schools" in America. Many people are searching for a pleasure that can never be satisfied by the party culture and really are in search for God. Back in the late 1960's German evangelist Reinhard Bonnke moved to Lesotho as a missionary. In one town he noticed that there were very few young people in church and soon found that many of them were frequent attenders at a local club. One night he went into the club and asked the owner for permission to address the club goers. Astonishingly, the club owner gave Bonnke permission to come back and speak to them. The next weekend at the appointed time the music was turned off and Bonnke addressed everyone in the club giving a simple gospel message. Virtually everyone was captivated by the message and many began to weep. Every single person accepted his invitation to accept Christ. Within a year the club went out of business and became a church, largely attended by the former club goers. When God comes and moves, He shows the world that he is more desirable than any other pleasure on Earth.

Scripture to Pray

Ephesians 5:18

Pray that the campus would break free of the stronghold of the party culture, and a desire for God would prove to be more powerful than anything else. Pray specifically for fraternity and sorority members to come to Jesus. Pray that God would reform the culture of sexual promiscuity.

Missionaries Sent out/International Students coming to faith

Despite having the Great Commission for 2,000 years, vast portions of the world are unreached. The 10/40 window is the area between 10 degrees north and 40 degrees north latitude comprising of North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. 61% of the individuals in this area (3.05 billion people) are unreached, meaning that there are so few followers of Christ among them that outside missionaries are necessary for them to hear the gospel. As people have gone into the most unreached nations in the past, over time God has shifted the demographic of entire continents. Africa used to be considered one of the hardest missionary frontiers. Many missionaries died of illnesses or were martyred in trying to reach the continent. In 1900 Africa was less than 10% Christian. Today the continent is approaching nearly 50% of the continent that identifies as Christian. Many countries like Kenya, Zambia, and Angola had less than 1% of the people identifying as Christians in 1900 and now have over 80% of their country as Christian. When we are faithful in planting seeds, God always brings a harvest in due time.

Scripture to Pray

Matthew 9:37-38

Ask God if He has personally called you to go to be a missionary in a foreign country. Pray that God would send out those who would go to be foreign missionaries, especially in the 10/40 window. Pray for international students to come to faith, and bring the gospel back to their home countries.

People in need of community

Many students here at Penn State are simply longing for a community that they feel like they really belong to. God longs to take the orphans and those that feel like they have no home, and adopt them into His family. The Church is meant to carry an atmosphere of a family. During the Jesus movement, many of the hippies who were converted had run away from home and were sleeping on the streets.

As a result, local ministries began to disciple these new believers by organizing them into communes where they would live together and share their belongings, just like the early church did. Many people were drawn in not primarily because of a desire for faith. Instead they were disillusioned and lonely and wanted to be part of a community and they saw the love that the saints had for each other.

Scripture to Pray

Acts 2:44-47

Pray that those who are longing for community would find a community of believers. Pray that the Church would have such mutual love for each other that attracts others to come be a part of our family.