

JOURNEY TO RENEWAL: PRAYER GUIDE FOR AUGUST

This is the last prayer guide for the summer as we had covenanted together back in May to pray through the summer as a way to keep the Journey to Renewal in our hearts and minds when we are sometimes more scattered. As you keep in contact with your prayer partner this month, be sure and pray for each other as well. If this hasn't been a part of your regular routine to pray for one another, add that to your time together. This month's prayers are focused on the wider community in which we live.

Starting **August 1** pray for the leaders of the community in which you live. Look in your local newspaper or city website for ideas and either print out the names of your community leaders on your computer printer or read an article in the local paper and pray for those featured and those mentioned in the article. Pray for God's blessing as well as God's direction for them. Share your experience with your prayer partner.

Starting **August 8** pray for those in our nation and world who are in the news this week. Watch the news on television or read the newspaper or a news magazine each day and as you are reading, ask for God's help for those about whom you are hearing (on the TV) or reading (in the newspaper). Try praying 'Lord have mercy' after each news story or note a story or two or three that you pray about after the news is over. Either way, increase your awareness of the struggles and needs of the world and pray for the people affected. Pick a different region or nation to pray for each day. Alternatively you could pray for those who don't make the news that often but are affected by the news. If the news story is about Afghanistan, for example, you could pray for the women or children not mentioned in the story but surely affected by what is going on in that country. Share your experience with your prayer partner.

Starting **August 15** spend this week looking for joy! Carry some 3"x5" cards in your pocket or find some other means to keep track of the joy that comes your way. As you go through the day look for signs of God's peace being shared or God's beauty being revealed. Look for signs of God's joy both outside of you and inside you. After collecting all this evidence of joy, pray with thanksgiving for all the joyful blessings sent your way this day. Talk with your prayer partner about your experience this week.

Starting **August 22** read John 6:1-14 and pray for the hungry people of the world. There are many who hunger for food, hunger for healing, hunger for a kind word or act. Pray for those who hunger and ask for help discerning how to meet those needs. Is God nudging you to give a donation to Heifer Project? Or is God asking you to bake some bread and share it with the neighbor next door? Who are the hungry that God is making you aware of and how will you respond to that awareness? Share your experience with your prayer partner.

Starting **August 29** find Matthew 28:16-20 and read the "Great Commission." Read this passage each day this week and pray for the people of all nations. Pray especially for those that God has already placed in those nations, people of the faith communities that are already reaching out to people in need. Pray for their strength and good courage in often physically and emotionally draining circumstances. Pray that their energy and fervor for doing God's work be renewed. Share this experience with your prayer partner.