

As Bishop Hammond used to say, “No one plants seed and then prays for crop failure.” While this is true, I believe some are guilty of planting seeds and then failing to pray at all or only asking once. I am reminded of Jesus’s words in Luke 11:1-13. After sharing with the disciples what we call the Lord’s Prayer, He says, *“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. “For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened”* (Luke 11:9-10 NASB95). Without getting deep into the original language, the idea here is to keep on or to consistently ask, seek and knock and one will receive, and find, and the door be opened to them.

In his book, *The Meaning of Prayer*, Harry Emerson Fosdick reminds his readers that there are some things God has left to humanity. He says God has decided there are some works He will not do for humanity and that he will not think for humanity. He went on to say, “Now if God has left some things contingent on man’s working and thinking why may he not have left some things contingent on man’s praying? ...Prayer is one of the three forms of man’s cooperation with God.”

Therefore, we want our fasting and prayer time to be a time where we add to the seeds we have (and will sow) by cooperating with God. We will do this by denying our flesh, offering our requests to God, seeking the Spirit’s will, and responding with additional prayer and obedience. So let us offer our personal requests as well as pray for our partners in ministry.

– Michael Hammond Sr.

INTERNATIONAL

Africa Sunrise Communities (ASC)

In South Sudan, 10 million people – 84% of the country’s population urgently need humanitarian support according to the International Rescue Committee. Additionally, rising food prices, flooding, and nearly one million refugees fleeing the civil war in neighboring Sudan leave many without basic needs. Rising Hope Medical Center (RHMC), one aspect of ministry facilitated by Rev. Jacob Guot and [Africa Sunrise Communities](https://africasunrise.org/) (ASC) in Bor, South Sudan, has been open for 7 ½ months. We first learned of Rev. Guot, who is from Bor, through Pastor Hammond when they were classmates at Asbury Seminary. Faith Covenant donates to and prays regularly for ASC. During this time, we intend to give a more significant gift that will be specifically directed to RHMC. In addition to praying for Rev. Guot, clinic staff, and patients, we are praying for gifts and finances for:

1. Medications
2. An X-Ray machine
3. An Ultrasound machine
4. An Ambulatory Vehicle

Learn more about the work of ASC and RHMC here: <https://africasunrise.org/>

Minister Timothy Bontha, India

Minister Timothy Bontha is an evangelist and he and his wife Swapna serve in small rural villages in India. For the last 10 years they have regularly sent emails and pictures capturing their service and the service of those laboring with them. Regular prayers for them have been our focus. This year their ministry to children has grown from three to six different villages (Pedda Kancharlapalem, Lingamgunta, Alluruvari Palemu, Adavi Palemu, Petru Vari Palemu). Our hope is to send what would be our first financial gift to them. In addition to remembering Minister and Mrs. Bontha we are praying for:

1. A projector for the children's ministry to take to the six villages they serve. A projector is currently shared between the children's ministry and the Bible training center which hinders its availability. Their desire is to have a dedicated projector for children's ministry.
2. Food or money for food for the 20 ministers who receive no income for their service but travel weekly to rural villages to teach and visit the sick. Also, protection and healing from heat stroke these men regularly experience or are susceptible to.
3. A simple structure where worship can be held.
4. A permanent structure for the Bible Training Center, and lodging and food provisions for those meeting there.

NATIONAL**Gerald Brooks Ministries (GBM) Plano, TX**

Dr. Gerald Brooks is the founding pastor of Grace Church in Plano, TX where their goal is to make the Kingdom of Heaven bigger and the Kingdom of God better in its ministry. He is a leadership mentor who is passionate about developing the next generation of leaders. Dr. Brooks does this through his own pastors and leaders roundtables, his books and podcast, through the North Texas Leadership Conference (NTLC) sponsored by Grace Church, and through teaching at various leadership conferences around the world. Pastor Brooks is a member of John Maxwell's Equip Board of Directors. Our relationship with Pastor Gerald started back in the late 90's when we hosted a roundtable, and from that connection a lasting friendship developed between he, Bishop Hammond, and later Pastor Hammond. Faith Covenant regularly prays for GBM and supports the ministry by investing thousands for pastors and leaders to be resourced and to attend NTLC.

We intend to give a significant gift to GBM at NTLC 2026 to sponsor pastors and leaders, while supporting the ministry's efforts to equip and resource Christian leaders. We are praying for:

1. Wisdom, strength, and new opportunities for Dr. Brooks and his team.
2. Revelation, growth, and support for the pastors and leaders at the events where Dr. Brooks ministers
3. More individuals and organizations supporting their work through prayers and financial support.

Learn more about GBM here: <https://geraldbrooksministries.com/>

LOCAL/REGIONAL**Community Council of St. Charles County**

Community Council brings people, organizations, and resources together to strengthen the human services system across St. Charles, Lincoln, and Warren Counties. Its mission in doing so is to build a stronger, healthier, and more compassionate community. As the backbone organization for the Tri-County Continuum of Care (COC), the Council coordinates efforts across all three counties to prevent and end homelessness. Through United Way 211, Coordinated Entry, and partnerships with more than 100 agencies, the Council helps people quickly connect with the housing resources and support they need.

Pastor Michael began collaborating with the Council to meet the need of individuals and families in St. Charles, Lincoln, and Warren Counties in 2010. FCM joined and began supporting the Council a few years later. While in seminary Pastor Michael chaired the COC's Tri-County Emergency Weather Response's Leadership Committee. A couple of years ago FCM chose to increase its financial support of the Council and became a Community Champion Partner. As the Council extends itself to greater lengths to serve in a time where resources are scarce and it prepares for its largest event of the year, the Community Services Summit we are praying for:

1. The filling of open positions on the Council's staff and board of directors.
2. The success of the upcoming Community Services Summit
3. Additional money and resources to meet increased demand for housing and homelessness services.
4. Encouragement and refreshment for those attending the Council's November COC Meeting, which FCM has the opportunity to host again this year.

Learn more about the Community Council of St. Charles here:

<https://www.communitycouncilstc.org/>