

PASTORAL CARE

"Make us rejoice for as many days as you have humbled us, for as many years as we have seen adversity." Psalm 90:15

Some of us are a little beat up and bruised. Some of us feel "like butter scraped over too much bread"—worn thin, worn out, washed up. Some of us have lived under the ruthless rule of a ticking clock—busy, hurried, stressed, exhausted. And some of us carry decades of sorrows, the sting of failure, and the scars of spiritual battle. We turn to the Lord and cry out for relief—"let us rejoice for as many days as we have mourned." Praise the Lord, He has already answered our prayer. "Come to me," said Jesus, "all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). From the Good Shepherd to all of us sheep, a promise of restoration, green pastures, quiet waters. What's more, He's given us under-shepherds, pastors who exemplify the gentle kindness of the King. Perhaps even more than most, they suffer with those who grieve, bear the brunt of Satan's onslaught, and struggle to please everyone. We pray today for the godly men who have lain down their lives to serve God and His flock. We pray for their protection, their joy, and their freedom from burdens they were never meant to carry. We lift up their families, that love and faithfulness may reign in their homes. We pray for opportunities to encourage these servants today, and for a deep resolve to stand with them in prayer. Thank you, Father, for the leaders You have appointed in Your church.

RESORT AND LEISURE MINISTRIES

"Let your work be seen by your servants, and your splendor by their children." Psalm 90:16

God's grandeur is on full display, and 85 million tourists flock to Colorado each year to catch a glimpse. The glory of our Creator is evident to any with eyes to see. Pilgrims, who would never consider themselves religious, still count themselves spiritual, and come here in pursuit of something transcendent. Lord, let those who kneel to see a wildflower look up to see the one who made it. Let those who gaze up at waterfalls kneel down to worship You. There is no shortage of Your creativity, whimsy, or splendor on display, but there is a woeful shortage of worship. Open our eyes, Lord, that we may see Your face. Open our hearts, that we may learn to worship. May the things we long for lead us back to You. Place Your children in the path of lost wanderers, and give them boldness to proclaim Your name. Empower your servants, and give them opportunities to speak the truth in love. Lord, may the souvenir of many Colorado visitors be salvation, the unexpected outcome of an encounter with the living God.

PONDEROSA CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER

"Lord—how long? Turn and have compassion on your servants. Satisfy us in the morning with your faithful love so that we may shout with joy and be glad all our days." Psalm 90:13-14

To pause, to take a break from the daily grind and enjoy a quiet retreat is an extraordinary gift. What sweet compassion Jesus has on his servants, that He offers us a light load and living water for our souls! We praise God for a place set apart, where we can take time to remember the every-morning-priority of being satisfied in the rich love of God. We praise God for little glimpses of heaven, a place of endless rest and joy. What a delight, to silence our phones, still our busy schedules, and spend time with dear friends; to make time for laughter and play. What an opportunity, to sing around a campfire under the stars, to simply be glad for the grace of God. We pray for our brothers and sisters in need of such a moment, that God in His kindness will grant them a little refreshing, that the Spirit will use this place to bring His people peace. We pray for Ponderosa, that You will bless this ministry and make them fruitful.

Day
6

Day
7

Day
8

8 - DAY PRAYER GUIDE

COLORADO MISSIONS OFFERING

IN HONOR OF NICY MURPHY

T A K E
E V E R Y
O P P O R T U N I T Y

The Colorado Missions Offering supports eight specific ministry areas that relate to our state-wide strategy to reach Colorado for Christ.



Follow this prayer guide for eight days with specific prayers for each area. May God come in power as we lift up His name and call upon Him to work mightily throughout Colorado!



coloradobaptists.org/cmo

STATE MISSIONS

"Lord, you have been our refuge in every generation. Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity, you are God." Psalm 90:1-2



From every corner of the state, we lift our eyes to the hills, and remember where our help comes from. No one who has stood on Pike's Peak can doubt His size. No one who has watched the sun set over the Sangre de Cristos can deny His beauty. Do we also grasp that our mighty Creator sees us, knows us, loves us individually? Not only the big cities, but the tiny hamlets; not only churches flashy and bright, but wobbly and weak-kneed; not only the rich and famous, but the widow and the orphan—all of us cherished by the Lord. The same God who spoke our mountains into being keeps watch over every one of us, all of our days. He is our refuge and strength, who invites us to rest in Him; our rock and our fortress, who protects and defends us; our powerful, unchanging, awesome God. Taking every opportunity to share Christ in this great state may seem like a huge task, is but a light thing to the Lord. In fact, the greatness of the task gives us an opportunity to entrust to the King what only He can accomplish, and a chance to watch in amazement as He surpasses our wildest imagination. Lord, you have been our refuge in every generation. Be our refuge again today.

DISASTER RELIEF

"You end their lives; they sleep. They are like grass that grows in the morning—in the morning it sprouts and grows; by evening it withers and dries up. ...For all our days ebb away under your wrath; we end our years like a sigh. Our lives last seventy years or, if we are strong, eighty years. Even the best of them are struggle and sorrow; indeed, they pass quickly and we fly away." Psalm 90:5-6, 9-10



The God of the heights is also the God of the valley. As He is present on the mountaintop, He likewise walks with us through fog, drought, darkness, and "the shadow of death." We live in a fallen Eden, longing for restoration, longing for home. What good news, then, that this world is not our home—that we were made for more! Those of us who have been strengthened by the sweetness of Christ's presence in the valley have a unique gift to give our neighbor when disaster strikes. "Here," we say, extending a hand, "what our good Father has given me I give to you." Our darkest days can be redeemed by the ripple effect of His comfort; an opportunity to share His love is hidden behind every catastrophe. We pray that the Lord will help us see those opportunities, and to take them. Turn our sorrows into joy, Lord, and our joy into healing for broken communities. May the God of all comfort multiply the kindness He has lavished on us and use our most difficult moments to bring the gospel to a dying world.

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS

"Teach us to number our days carefully..." Psalm 90:12a

From the big-picture dreams we have for our world to the nitty-gritty details of ministry on specific streets, it's a relief to know that our sovereign God is in control. He is Lord over the generations, and Lord over the month of September. He is Lord over the things that go smoothly, and Lord over all of the interruptions. All our days were written in His book before one



of them came to be. And yet to us He gives the opportunity to steward them. How will I use the next thirty minutes? Will they slide by, forgotten, or echo down through eternity? In the most practical decisions we make—budgeting and event-planning and emailing galore—we desperately need the vision, discernment, and priorities of the King. If this is the day that the Lord has made, what, exactly, does He want me to do with it? Father, we ask for help in surrendering our schedule, for help remembering that each day is a gift. Help us to have eternal priorities—love, unity in the Body of Christ, a passion for your glory. We recognize that we are not promised tomorrow, and we ask for the grace to seize the opportunities you give us today.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CAMPUS: GATEWAY SEMINARY

"...so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts." Psalm 90:12b



If God has existed for all of eternity past, if He is Creator of a million million galaxies, the source of all wisdom and the perfect pinnacle of all holiness, then it would surely take countless lifetimes to begin to understand Him. And so Jesus has appointed for each of us the task of a lifetime—to love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength—to bend our days to the challenge of knowing Him more. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; we can never be wise who haven't learned to stand in awe. We take seriously the imperative of loving God with all of our mind, and undertake to do the hard work of study and reflection. Thanks be to God for appointing for us teachers, those who have devoted their lives to this work, who can share with us the fruit of their wisdom. We pray that Gateway would raise up shepherd leaders for our congregations, who love the Word of God as they love a great feast, and who commit their lives to press on to know the Lord. We pray for humility and grace to flood us as we stand together in amazement at the foot of the cross. And we pray that knowing Christ would be regarded by us all not as a luxury, but the great priority and passion of our lives. Help us to take every opportunity to know and love You more.

COLORADO CHURCH PLANTING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

"Let the favor of the Lord our God be on us; establish for us the work of our hands—establish the work of our hands!" Psalm 90:17



The task is huge, the fields are white for harvest. All around us are the walking wounded, desperate for hope, and the apathetic, aimlessly wishing for joy. Immigrants throng into our cities, praying for a fresh start, but wholly ignorant of the God who answers prayer. Tourists stream up the highway, eager to have their souls stirred, hungry for adventure. The desire of so many restless hearts can only be met in Jesus. Every person that we pass is beloved by God, and every conversation presents an opportunity. Lord, we pray for a great salvation, for revival that spreads like a forest fire. We want to see outposts of the gospel in every community, signposts pointing to the Way. We long to see joyful, passionate disciples of You, fully devoted to the glory of God. We know our best work will fail unless You establish it; we cannot plant a single church or raise up even one leader apart from Your help. May Your favor, Your grace, and Your Spirit infuse all that we do. Give us stout faith, deep love, and eyes to see as You do. "Let the favor of the Lord our God be on us; establish for us the work of our hands—establish the work of our hands!"