

BEYOND \_\_\_\_\_  
THE BUILDING ▶  
\_\_\_\_\_ FORWARD IN FAITH

***Prayer &  
Devotional  
Guide***



# BEYOND THE BUILDING

FORWARD IN FAITH

*Dear Hazelwood Family of God:*

*We are about to embark on a spiritual, life-changing journey that should prove to be a blessing for all involved. We believe that the Prayer and Devotional Guide you hold in your hand is the most important element of our journey. When God's people set aside time to pray and seek His will, God promises to answer their prayers.*

*The devotions and prayers in this booklet are designed to assist you in your daily quiet time with God. As you and your family pause to spend time together in God's Word and in prayer, you will be drawn closer to each other and to God.*

*It has often been said that the longest journey still begins with one step. Growing in Christ is not an event. It is a lifelong process. Jesus said, "Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men," (Matthew 4:19). Following and living for Jesus is a journey of discipleship that we believe is a 24/7 lifestyle. A lifestyle of living for Jesus may appear intimidating at first, but the good news is that we have been given everything we need for spiritual growth and a life devoted in service to Him. God truly loves you and has a plan for your life now and for eternity. The starting point of this journey begins with the very basics of the Christian faith: Prayer, Bible Study, and the Holy Spirit.*

*As you invest your time with the Lord in personal prayer, worship and devotion, our prayer is that your faith will grow as you become part of our Capital Campaign. Our campaign is not just about raising money. It is a spiritual exercise in stretching our faith and learning to rely on God's sovereign power.*

*We know that God is going to bless you for your commitment to His Son Jesus Christ and your willingness to step out in faith and become a "living sacrifice" for Him.*

*– HCC Campaign Leadership Team, Ministers and Elders*

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Time spent in prayer will yield more than that given to work. Prayer alone gives work its worth and its success. Prayer opens the way for God Himself to do His work in us and through us. Let our chief work as God's messengers be intercession; in it we secure the presence and power of God to go with us.

- *Andrew Murray*

“Prayer can no more be divorced from worship than life can be divorced from breathing. If we follow his impulse, the Holy Spirit will always lead us to pray. When we allow Him to work freely, he will always bring the Church to extensive praying. Conversely, when the Spirit is absent, we will find excuses not to pray. We may say, “God understands. He knows I love him. But I’m tired...I’m so busy...It’s just not convenient now.” When the Spirit is absent, our excuses always seem right, but in the presence of the Spirit our excuses fade away.”

- *R. T. Kendall*

“Jesus Christ carries on intercession for us in heaven; the Holy Spirit carries on intercession in us on earth; and we the saints have to carry on intercession for all men.”

- *Oswald Chambers*

The Bible says that God has given us everything needed for living life on Earth according to His will. “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness” – 2 Peter 1:3.

His divine power not only includes prayer and the Bible, but the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit. Who is the Holy Spirit?

### **The Promise.**

John 14:16-17: *“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”*

We believe the Bible is clear about praying to God. We can pray for anything but it has to be God's will. How do we know what God's will is?

We ask the Holy Spirit what God's will is. As we just read, as Christians and baptized believers we have received the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38-39). We then pray His will in the name of Jesus who returns it to God.

A good idea would be to START our prayers with praise to God and thank Him for His promise to hear and answer all our prayers. God does not lie. If we attempt great things in His name, we should expect great things.

James 5:16 – *“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”*

Matthew 21:22 – *“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”*

Mark 11:24 – *“Therefore I tell you whatever you ask for in prayer believe that you have received it and it will be yours.”*

### **Daily Prayer Reminders:**

1. Pray that our church will continue to seek God's will first throughout every step of the campaign, and that He will go before us and order our steps.
2. Pray that God's purpose in this campaign for our town, region, nation, and world will be accomplished, and that He will be glorified.
3. Pray that God will prompt those in our church, in our community, and even outside our community to give sacrificially, above and beyond regular giving.

4. Pray that God will not only provide for our needs, but that He will bless us exceedingly, abundantly above all we could ask or imagine.
5. Pray that God will give wisdom and guidance to our leaders, and that He will empower and strengthen them to lead well through this endeavor.
6. Pray that Hazelwood Christian Church will be a light for Christ that grows brighter in reach and intensity throughout the coming years.
7. Pray specifically how God will lead you and your family to give.
8. Pray that more people will discover Jesus and their place in His story as a result of ***Beyond the Building; Forward in Faith.***

### **Suggested things to pray for:**

**R** – Reach - Reach out to each other and to the unchurched in our community and the world.

Verse: Romans 15:7 – *“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”*

**E** – Encourage – Encouraging one another to grow in faith and in love.

Verse: I Thessalonians 5:11 – *“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”*

**S** – Serve – Serve God by serving others.

Verse: I Peter 4:10 – *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”*

**T** – Transform – Opening ourselves to change as God transforms each of us.

Verse: Romans 12:2 – *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”*

**O** – Offer – Offer to others that which is unique to Hazelwood Christian Church. Offer opportunities to share, learn, and grow in faith.

Verse: Romans 12:1 - *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

**R** – Reveal – Proclaim (reveal) God’s love, learn for ourselves and share His Word with those who have not yet heard the Good News.

Verse: I Kings 18:37 – *“Answer me, O Lord, answer me so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God and that You are turning their hearts back again.”*

**E** – Embrace – Gladly receive and accept others who do not yet know a church family is waiting to embrace them.

Verse: Psalm 91:4 – *“He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge.”*

1. Pray for an open heaven over Hazelwood.
2. Pray for the Pastors and elders.
3. Pray for the Worship and intercession to arise
4. Pray for our youth.
5. Pray for wise stewardship of finances.
6. Pray for passion for the lost.

7. Pray for renewed hope and strength.
8. Pray for faith.
9. Pray for wisdom and discernment.
10. Pray for forgiveness.
11. Pray for our missionaries.

### **Famous Quotes:**

“When you come to God in prayer, you don’t come to give orders. You come to report for duty” – Cori Ten Boom.

George Washington: “It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.”

“The Bible was not written just for information but most importantly for Transformation of the inner person” – Anonymous.

“He who has learned to pray has learned the greatest secret of a holy and happy life” – William Law.

“The time is always right to do the right thing” – Martin Luther King.

“Praying is not just asking; it is listening for God’s orders” – Billy Graham.

“God never takes away something in your life without replacing it with something better” – Billy Graham.

### **Meditation Thoughts:**

Do you really believe that you can do anything through the strength of Christ? When the 12 Hebrews spies were sent out to

investigate the Promised Land, 10 of them returned with this message: “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are” (Numbers 13:31). Two of those spies, however, Joshua and Caleb, returned with this message: “We too have seen the giants in that land, and it’s true – we’re no match for them. But they are no match for God! We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it” (Numbers 13:30 paraphrased). We need not be anxious about anything. Instead, let us present our requests to God, who has promised to always answer our prayers.

Remember that God never expects His people to accomplish anything for which he does not equip them. He has prepared greater blessings for you than you can imagine. Missionary William Carey once said, “Attempt great things for God – expect great things from God.” Let us attempt great things for God and expect great things from Him. Begin your prayer today by expecting God to give you more than you have dreamed. Then remember to thank Him for His all-surpassing goodness and power.

Can you imagine Hazelwood Christian Church reaching our community and the world for Jesus Christ? Can you imagine hundreds of people giving their lives to Christ and growing in their faith? Can you imagine people sacrificing their resources today for the promise of tomorrow, in order to fulfill the Great Commission? GOD CAN! He wants us to introduce as many people to His Son as we possibly can - and He promises to be with us always!

Over the next several days we will be praying to God about our ***Beyond the Building; Forward in Faith*** campaign. God delights in pouring out His abundant blessings on His people, who place their trust in Him. So spend time with God today, asking for His blessings, confessing your weaknesses to Him, and seeking His perfect will with all your heart.

There are thousands of unchurched people throughout our community whom the Lord cares deeply about. You probably know some of them, because they are your neighbors, friends, and

even family members. Our congregation exists for the purposes of bringing them to Christ. How will the Lord use you to reach them?

Verse to Meditate/Memorize: *“I can do everything through Him who gives me strength”* (Philippians 4:13).

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...and surely I will be with you always”* (Matthew 28:19-20).

Here are some of God’s Promises and some things He has asked us to do that you might want to read again as you are praying:

Luke 1:37

I Thessalonians 5:17

Galatians 6:9

John 14:13

I Peter 3:12

Matthew 7:7

James 5:16

I John 5:14-15

Colossians 4:2

Matthew 18:20

Jeremiah 29:13

### **Suggested Prayers:**

God, remind me today that You have called me to work in Your harvest. Place in my heart a desire to see people coming to a life-changing relationship with Jesus. Then give me opportunities to share Your love with someone today. Please help us as a church to remember that we exist for those who don’t know You yet. Amen.

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God, I stand in awe of You! I love You and I thank You that You are prepared to bless me beyond my greatest dreams. May I never doubt what You can do through me. Reveal to me what You have prepared for my church and for me. Help me to be totally surrendered to You, and begin Your greatest work in me today. Amen.

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Lord, help us to be a church that genuinely cares about making disciples. Help us to catch Your vision of reaching the world for Christ. Equip us with the resources we need to be a light in the dark world around us, offering hope and peace through the name of Your Son Jesus. Amen.

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God, thank You for a loving church family and a sense of excitement that is permeating our church through Your Holy Spirit. I know You possess the strength to empower us to do Your will, and I can't wait to see what you will do through us, as we work together for You. Strengthen now my faith, as I relinquish my anxiety, and place this awesome opportunity in Your hands. Amen.

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God, I have faith to believe You exist, even though I have never seen You. I have seen Your love shown to many through the actions of others who follow Christ. Humble me and empower me to be a servant leader, carrying the message of Your love to hurting people both in our fellowship and our community. Help me be generous with my life and my possessions.

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Heavenly Father, impress upon my heart what my part needs to be in fulfilling the vision. You gave Your only Son for me. What can I sacrifice for You? Expand our capacity to give, Lord. Make us aware of needs all around us. Give us creativity to know how to give to others.

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Mighty God, thank You for the worship opportunities that I have with our church. I pray that they will meet the needs of my fellow Christians and myself, as we gather for strength, encouragement, and fellowship together. And I pray that they will be pleasing to You. I also pray that they speak powerfully of You to this community, both as we gather and as we scatter, living lives that are pleasing to You. Amen.

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Heavenly Father, we want to learn to trust you more. Please help us turn from our comfort zones and walk by faith. We want you to build the Kingdom through us. Help us to surrender to your will for our lives.

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Dear Jesus, help us to care about the souls around us as much as you do.

**The Model Prayer –**  
Matthew 6:9-13

“Pray then, in this way:

Our Father who is in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

[For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]