



PRAYING FOR AND WITH OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Sponsored by College Union, Upper Room Ministries®, The General Board of Higher Education & Ministry, The Foundation for Evangelism, with special thanks to United Methodist Communications

Pray 40 Coordinators: Creighton Alexander and Ashlee Alley
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Pray 40: Praying For and With our College Students
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INTRO

THIS FALL, WE INVITE YOU to join us in praying for the next generation of Christian leaders as they head to college and university campuses. The season of prayer extends from August 23 to October 1, 2010. We have a twofold purpose: (1.) to call the church to pray for college students and (2.) to help college students learn to pray. While we will pray specific prayers for a 40-day time period, this block of time is not simply a period when we say our prayers and wish our students the best; it is time we expressly set aside to pray for a group of people who so desperately need our prayers. The “40” comes from Isaiah 40 to “prepare the way of the Lord.” In this chapter of scripture, God calls the people to hope from despair, to understanding from futility, and to strength from weariness. This is our prayer for the generation of college students who populate campuses around the world . . . that they would come to trust in the one, true God and be strengthened to run the race that is before them.

AUTHORS

The prayers have been written by bishops, authors, pastors, and other leaders. Collectively, they express a heart for God to inspire, challenge, and transform the lives of college campuses and individual students. As you pray the prayers offered by these Christians, may you hear God calling you to minister to future leaders who may not yet profess the name of Christ.

SPECIAL THANKS

PRAY 40 is happening because of the support and effort of others who are passionate about reaching this generation of college students. We are grateful for the collaboration and partnership among College Union, Upper Room Ministries®, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, The Foundation for Evangelism, with special thanks to United Methodist Communications. We also want to thank the authors for lending their voices to this project. We are once again indebted to Barbara Bowser of The Foundation for Evangelism for the work on the PRAY 40 Web site. A student and a former student helped with some of the details as well: Molly Komlofske and Nicole Guthrie—thank you for all of your help. Finally, we want to thank Dr. Tom Albin, Dean of The Upper Room Chapel, for championing this project and believing in us.

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DAY 1 ~ AUGUST 23, MORNING

READ: Isaiah 40

PRAY:

Comforter and shepherd of your people.

Creator and sustainer of all we see.

You are without equal—there is no one like you.

In this season of prayer, we cry out for you to reveal who you are:

Constant.

Everlasting.

Powerful.

Kind.

Unshakeable.

Tireless.

Our words fail. Yours endure.

Our understanding falls short. Yours fills the universe.

Our plans survive for a season. Yours shape time and history.

Our hearts grow weary. Yours beats wildly for your children.

So we wait for you.

We take courage that our situations and needs are not hidden from you.

We ask you to remind us of who you are and the promises you have spoken.

We confess that apart from you, any task we put our hands to is done in vain.

We rest in the tension that the Infinite works through our limits.

We long for you to revive and strengthen us for the journey ahead.

During this season of intercession, may our hearts and voices prepare the way for you to encounter this generation of college students. Remove every obstacle that would hinder the gospel of Jesus Christ being proclaimed to these young people. Do not rest until our campuses and the nations are gathered in your saving arms. Amen.

ACT: Invite a campus pastor and some students to speak to your Sunday school class or small group about the opportunities and obstacles they face on their campus. Then as a group, partner with them to address one of those obstacles over the next school year.

Creighton Alexander served twelve years in campus ministry on three campuses: SMU, KU & UMKC. He serves as the coeditor for *College Union* and as the Director of Refresh Conference, a winter training event for campus pastors. Partnering with Griffith Coaching, he is developing a Boot Camp to empower and encourage new campus pastors. He and his wife, Nikki, have three children and live in Overland Park, Kansas.

DAY 1 ~ AUGUST 23, NOON

READ: Genesis 7:11-24

PRAY: O GREAT LOVE, let us re-member the story of Noah's ark—a life boat in the midst of great hardship and destruction. Through 40 days of flood, 150 days of isolation, and all manner of trials and tribulations, Noah's life boat delivered its inhabitants to safety and abundant new life in You.

O GREAT LOVE, on college campuses from New York to California, young adults yearn for the security of Noah's ark—a vessel of sacred voyage—a life boat of deliverance from anxiety, confusion, fear, cultural seduction, and depression. From North Dakota to the Gulf Coast our young people seek wise sages to guide them along the age-old passage called coming-of-age.

O GREAT LOVE, like all sacred passages, coming-of-age is a grueling voyage—a baptism with death before new life. Young travelers are tossed to and fro on raging seas of question and doubt. Independence comes at the price of their innocence.

O GREAT LOVE, let us build up our Wesley foundations and campus ministries to encourage, guide, and nurture our young people—let us be for them life boats—Noah's Ark. Let us strengthen Your campus churches to be the calm in the midst of turbulent university waters.

O GREAT LOVE, let our faith move us to action like Noah—to build seaworthy vessels for the coming deluge. As colleges and universities raise up national and international thinkers and leaders, let us equip those thinkers and leaders to pursue a passion for justice, to live lives of meaning and purpose, and to be disciplined citizens with high moral values and a sense of personal integrity.

O GREAT LOVE, in the image of the first ark, we pray that each campus ministry might be a wildly diverse animal house carrying every color of Your promising bow. Guide us, Great Love, to deliver young adults to lead us forward in faithful discipleship of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. AMEN

ACT: Be an Advocate for campus ministry—help make campus ministry one of the top three priorities in your church and annual conference through prayer, sharing of gifts and talents, and financial giving.

Rev. Tarah Trueblood, Executive Director & Campus Pastor at the Wesley House & Campus Center at University of California, Berkeley.

DAY 1 ~ AUGUST 23, EVENING

READ: Psalm 63

PRAY: O Lord my Creator and Redeemer,
you are my Rock, in whom I take refuge.

Amidst the busyness of life,
the flurry of activity that is the college campus,
be the Rock that grounds me in the knowledge that you are there.
Give me the wisdom to see you in the beauty of the day,
to feel your hand in the opportunities that life brings me.

Be the Rock that humbles me,
that recalls to my mind
that there is a world beyond my world,
that urges me toward right relationship
with all who may cross my path.

Be the Rock in me that strengthens,
that gives me the courage
to act when action is needed,
that endures through the rough times
though I may feel worn to the bone.

Be the Rock that is my beacon,
my guide through toils and snares
on the twisting path of life,
my example of love and peace
that I strive to reach.

Lord, help me remember that
there is no Rock like our God.

ACT: Pick a time each day (or several times a day) when you be consistent in praying these prayers for the next 39 days. Schedule it as a “rock” in your day and commit to faithfully lifting up campus ministry in prayer.

Cassie Bath is a sophomore at the University of California, Berkeley and is involved with the Wesley House & Campus Center.

DAY 2 ~ AUGUST 24, MORNING

READ: Psalm 63:1-5 and Daniel 1

PRAY: Almighty God, thank you for giving us wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Thank you for creating us with the intellectual capacity to think, speak, and process information. Thank you for providing the resources to attend college through scholarships, grants, and financial aid. Thank you for blessing parents and guardians with the income to help their children and loved ones attain a higher education. Lord, we are grateful and we bless your wonderful name.

Eternal God, we confess your word over our college students. In Jesus' name, we declare that they have the mind of Christ; therefore, they will think, learn, and perform like Christ. As they trust completely in you, like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, we pray that they will excel academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Holy Spirit, we ask that you fill them with wisdom, ability, and expertise like you did for Bezalel and Oholiab and others that you commissioned to do your work. We pray that your favor and blessing surround them like a shield and protect them during this matriculation period.

Holy Spirit, help our college students to stay focused and disciplined. Keep them encouraged and hopeful. Remind them that you are their strong tower and they can always come to you for strength, peace, and assurance. For those who have not received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, Holy Spirit, touch their hearts to look to Christ as their life source. Let them know how much you love them and want them to become a part of your kingdom.

Gracious God, forgive those students who have not been diligent in their studies. Forgive those students who are partying too much instead of studying. Forgive those who do not appreciate the sacrifices their parents and loved ones are making in order to provide them with a promising future.

Almighty God, your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations. Lord, you are king! You are robed in majesty and armed with strength. The world stands firm and cannot be shaken. Lord, your throne has stood from time immemorial. You are from the everlasting past. In Jesus' name. Amen.

ACT: Ask the Holy Spirit to show you names or faces of people that you may need to forgive. Then say aloud, "I forgive [name of person(s)]." Now trust the Lord to heal any wounds in your soul caused by unforgiveness.

Suzette Caldwell is the associate pastor for Windsor Village United Methodist Church. She also serves as the chair of the Board of Directors for the Kingdom Builders' Prayer Institute, a nonprofit community-based organization that prays for the Houston metropolitan area and teaches people how to pray.

DAY 2 ~ AUGUST 24, NOON

READ: Romans 12:1-2

PRAY: Father God, I come before you and lift up the students on our campuses that offer their bodies up in worship to anything but you. They lift them up in worship to the opposite sex or success in the American Dream. Lord I pray that you open their eyes and hearts so that they will see and understand just what you have done for them. Transform their life in such a way that they do worship you in all that they do and say. Lord, I lift up those students that do worship you with their lives. I ask that you give them a full measure of your power, grace and mercy as they live for you. I pray that you perfect them in love. May they encounter the world in such a way that you are glorified and the world believes.

Lord, give them a passion for your word. Let it permeate all that they do. Let them seek you in all that they do so that they are transformed into a new person and they will think as you think. Lord, give them strength to not copy the behavior and customs of the world. Help them have the strength to not believe the temptations that urge them to believe something that is not true about you, themselves, or others. Help them see you as you are...themselves as you see them...others as you have created them.

Lord, help them know what you desire for them. I pray that your desires for their lives become their desires for their own life. Your will is good and pleasing and perfect. Help us all to understand that.

Lord, may countless students worship you in all that they do this year...may it be a year of worship.

Amen.

ACT: What area of your life could you intentionally make an “act of worship” today? Pray for God’s guidance as you discern a way that God is leading you to worship him in all that you do.

Al Martin – Director of the Wesley Foundation at Texas Tech. Having spent time at Texas Tech in the early 90’s, Al Martin is glad to be in ministry there now. He has a wife, Jodie, and three children Maddux, Maddison, and Mason. He has a heart for those that never step into churches or campus ministries because he never did while he was there, and is very familiar with how hopeless that journey can be. He can be reached at al@ttuwesley.org.

DAY 2 ~ AUGUST 24, EVENING

READ: James 3:4-6

PRAY: Father God, may we be aware of what comes from our mouths today. Allow us to hear what we are saying about ourselves, this world and others. Father, convict us of the things we say that only create death. We want to use our mouths only for Your glory. God, just as this passage says the body is steered by the tongue, may you steer our tongue. May it only bless You and others. May we listen to what you would have us say instead of speaking words that are not of you.

As we speak today, Father, may we think about if it brings about life or death. Let your fruit of self-control come upon us in every aspect of our lives, but specifically today in the words we use. May we stop slander of other believers or members of our family. Lord, we know that words and speaking are gifts. Let us use this gift to further the kingdom and honor You.

Father, thank you for Your son, Jesus. Amen.

ACT: Today, think before you speak. Ask yourself before every conversation what the Lord would have you say. Listen to His voice, especially in controversial or problematic conversations. Invite Him to guide your tongue to bring Him glory.

Michelle Matijevich is a student at Texas Tech University and is involved in the Wesley Foundation there.

DAY 3 ~ AUGUST 25, MORNING

READ: Romans 12:12 and John 15:15

PRAY: Loving Lord, you have given us the gift of family. So often the response of your people to that gift is “thanks a lot.” We confess there are moments when we think of our families, both biological and ecclesial, as anything but a gift. Yet you call us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Help us to receive the gift of family with thankful hearts.

Help us to renew the covenants of love that bind our families and friendships together in Christ. We pray today that you would enter into the spaces where we gather as family: enter into our pews, enter into our dorms, enter into our homes, enter into our cafeterias, enter into our lives. Transform and renew the ways we hold hands, hug one another, and encourage one another. We thank you for placing us next to one another. You have made us your family—your friends—and in so doing made us the family and friends of one another. We praise you for giving us one another. Amen.

ACT:

1. Write a note to one of your friends. Share with them the ways that they encourage you because of their Christian witness.
2. Write a note to someone in your family. Share with them the ways that they encourage you in their Christian witness. If you do not have a Christian family member, share with a family member why you are grateful for them and thank God for them in your prayers.

Justin Coleman is preacher and lead pastor of Gethsemane United Methodist Church as well as Executive Pastor at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas. He leads an innovative multisite ministry at one of the largest UM churches in the country.

DAY 3 ~ AUGUST 25, NOON

READ: I John 1:1-3

PRAY: Loving and Life-Giving God, open our minds and hearts to experience Your Word in a new way. As your creative Life flows through us, fill us with the actions and words to reveal Your Love to others.

O God, it moves us to remember there are so many who have never felt the depth of Your love, never experienced the power of Your healing, and do not know the joy that comes with the fellowship of Your Holy Spirit.

We pray especially for the young adults filling our campuses this fall. May we reveal Your Word of Life to them in ways so powerful it transforms individual lives, entire campuses, and Your whole church.

In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

ACT: Today, intentionally identify two creative ways to communicate God's love to young adults. This might include a new metaphor for understanding, fresh language, or a powerful action. Pray that we might continue to find relevant ways of communicating God's amazing power and generous love to a new generation.

Jennie Edwards, Illinois State University Wesley Foundation, Director

DAY 3 ~ AUGUST 25, EVENING

READ: Philippians 4:6

PRAY: Thank You God, for the young adults everywhere. Thank You for campus ministries and the way You have used them in my life and in the lives of my friends and peers. For the pastors and adults You have sent to lead, and for those You sent to follow, we give thanks. By simply being surrounded with young adults we know the stress and anxiety they feel on a day-to-day, week-to-week basis. We pray that You may have a guiding, comforting, and fatherly hand over them while they transition into the next phases in their lives. We pray for knowledge and peace while continuously learning how to reach as many young adults as You see fit. We also pray for this generation to know the love that comes from knowing You, and that they may see the hope that the future brings when centered around You.

We pray all of these things in Your name, Amen.

ACT: To get the students in the seats, we'd better have some spectacular advertising. The way a young adult hears about anything is a big part of whether he or she attends. Through a friend, on a T-shirt, on campus, and radio commercials are all fairly simple ways to attract this generation to the church. Just be sure to advertise with techniques that relate directly to this particular age group.

Roxy Twaddle is the director of prayer at the ISU Wesley Foundation in Normal, Illinois.

DAY 4 ~ AUGUST 26, MORNING

READ: James 1:5

PRAY: O God, we know how important wisdom is. We desperately see the need of it in our world, in our relationships, and in our personal lives.

Thank you so much for our colleges and institutions of advanced learning that are dedicated to preparing our young people for life.

We pray earnestly for teachers and administrators. We pray that they would recognize the huge opportunity and responsibility they have for shaping the thinking of future generations. We pray that professors and administrators will use the latest methodologies for teaching and communicate effectively with young people.

We pray for students who eagerly seek to learn. Much wisdom is gained in the classroom, yet many of the things we learn about life are gained through campus life. We pray that young people will surround themselves with the kind of friends and colleagues who will inspire, encourage, and hold them accountable.

Our prayer is that this learning process for college will be something that is both fun and challenging. We pray that you will help your people be willing to seek your wisdom which oftentimes invites us to step out of the boat and walk on the water. May our thinking never become a blind commitment to the way things have always been done. We pray that you will place visions and dreams in the minds of young people so that your ministry might be accomplished in the future.

We pray that college will be an exciting time of gaining wisdom that will be understood as only the foundational step toward continued learning throughout life. We pray that young people will focus on what your purpose is for their lives and seek the kind of wisdom that will help them fulfill that purpose.

May we be reminded by the biblical writer James that you desire to give your wisdom and to give it generously. Amen.

ACT: Write down two things you have learned recently from God. Also write down two areas where you are seeking God's wisdom.

John Ed Mathison retired in June 2008, after thirty-six years as senior minister of Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. He and his wife, Lynn, have three daughters and one son. They are also the proud grandparents of eight grandsons and two granddaughters.

DAY 4 ~ AUGUST 26, NOON

READ: John 19:26-27

PRAY: Great God of love, we come to you full of hope and wonder at the ways you stir in our lives. We come in praise and gratitude for the ways you create community among us. We come with hearts open to hear your word, to encounter your people – old and young and somewhere in between, and to do your work in this world.

God of infinite connections, your desire for us to be in loving relationship overwhelms us. Just as you seek relationship with every single person through Christ's love and grace, you nudge us toward relationship with each other. John tells us that in his dying act Jesus helped his family and friends strengthen their relationships, introducing his mother Mary and his beloved disciple to the new, supportive connection of mother and son. Jesus encouraged his disciples to take care of each other, to offer genuine hospitality, and to rely on others when needed. Enliven the faith of college students, campus ministers, and supporters that we might likewise offer your love and grace to one another.

God of unhindered grace, as we – students, friends, parents, pastors, leaders, seekers – grow closer to you, we grow closer to one another as your children. We pray that your Spirit would move in and through our relationships and communities. Remind us that young adults are not simply the church of the future but are members of the Body of Christ today. Open the church to the passion and energy of college students. Inspire the church to support its United Methodist campus ministries with prayer, presence, gifts and service. Empower the ministries on college campuses to offer abundant opportunities to experience and share your love.

Through the strength and peace of Christ, we pray. Amen.

ACT: How can your relationships enrich a campus ministry near you?

How can you help make connections that will help sustain young adults as they live through huge transitions from high school to college, home to school?

Help youth going off to college find and connect with the Wesley Foundation or other campus ministry at their school. Call the campus minister to let them know that youth from your church are headed their way. Pray for the communities of faith that support students on campus.

Rev. Beth Bostrom serves as Director/Chaplain for the Wesley Foundation at the University of Miami. After one year, she is still getting used to the sub-tropical environment and is constantly stunned by the number of fruit trees in the yard at Wesley. Beth loves a meandering roadtrip, a lively street festival, and a sunny afternoon on playground swings. She lives in Coral Gables, FL with her brother Shannon and at least one orange cat named George.

DAY 4 ~ AUGUST 26, EVENING

READ: Matthew 7:21-23

PRAY: Holy Father, my prayer is that you would teach us how to believe more in your Son, Jesus Christ. I ask that you would guide us, with your Spirit, as to how believing in Jesus applies to our everyday lives as students, employees, friends, siblings, sons, daughters, husbands and wives. Help us to write it in our hearts and minds forever that there is no good deed, no mission work, no repentance, no church culture, no community group, no denomination or anything else that we may do that can adopt us into a loving eternal relationship with you.

It is the life, death, and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, on which we stand and fall. Our hope is Jesus; if he lives, then so do we.

Help us to place our trust solely in Him, when it is so natural for us to try and do good things in order to gain your favor. And help us to stand in all seasons of life upon the historical work of the Gospel rather than our temperamental emotions.

May the good works we do then, be rooted in our conviction of faith, humility, and a deep and loving appreciation of the grace we have been shown! Teach us more of the inward holiness Christ called us to in His sermon on the mount. We recognize that it is beyond our capacity to attain, but hold that with you, all things are possible.

And use us, in our spiritual poverty, to exemplify your power to save and change the Christian's heart. In this, may our Christian light shine brightly and our lives be salted with a taste of your holiness.

It is by the name and character and salvation of Jesus Christ I pray, Amen.

ACT: The call to action here is said best by Christ himself just a few lines earlier in this same sermon:

"Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things (his Spirit and his holiness) to those who ask him!"

The call here is to pray persistently and continuously for God's help and goodness in leading a Christian life, with a joyful and grateful confidence that he liberally and lovingly gives good things to his children. The call is also to uphold the Gospel of grace regularly, recognizing the strong propensity of the human nature to, in an act of complete defiance to the work of Jesus, try and justify a blessed relationship to God by personal good works.

David Sargent is a senior at the University of Miami majoring in music. He serves as a student leader within the UM Wesley Foundation, working mostly with worship music and Bible studies.

DAY 5 ~ AUGUST 27, MORNING

READ: Psalm 25:4

PRAY: Gracious God, we thank you that you have revealed yourself to us in the person of Jesus and in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. We offer to you honor and glory and praise for the specific ways that you have made yourself known to each of us. For some odd and strange reason you choose to be in relationship with us, and for that we give you thanks.

We ask your forgiveness for those times in our lives that we have fallen short of your will. Forgive us when we have known your ways and refused to follow. For those times when we have not been receptive to the paths that you would have had us walk down, and for those times when we have hidden from you just as Adam and Eve did in the garden of Eden, we ask that you would have mercy on us.

God, we pray especially for those who are new to the college experience this fall. We ask that you would help these students to know your ways. In the midst of whatever they are studying academically, use these years to teach them your paths. Mold, shape, and form these people into who you would have them to be. Help them to see the calling that you have placed upon each and every one of their lives.

All-knowing God, you are aware of the struggles that come with trying to reach college students. We ask for your guidance and direction. We plead that you would be with all churches, Wesley Foundations, and United Methodist related institutions that are involved with campus ministry, asking that you would give them wisdom as they seek to find fruitful ways to reach college students. Help us to make college ministry a priority. Allow us to give it the time, energy, money, and resources that it deserves in your kingdom work. We ask that you use Pray 40 as an opportunity for all of us to discern the role that you would have us play in making your ways known and teaching your paths to the college students in our communities. We pray all this in the name of our Teacher, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ACT: Think of someone you know who is involved with campus ministry and college life—a student, professor, church employee, or someone else. Offer to take them out to lunch or buy them coffee. Tell them that you want to learn more about what God is doing in the hearts and lives of college students. Ask God to use this encounter to teach you ways that you might be a part of what God is doing in campus ministry.

Jimmy Cooper currently serves as the associate pastor at Morning Star Church in O'Fallon, Missouri. He is a graduate of Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri, and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary on the campus of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He and his wife, Erin, live with their son, Noah, in Wentzville, Missouri.

DAY 5 ~ AUGUST 27, NOON

READ: Psalm 127:1

PRAY: Father God, we come before you to intercede for your work on the college campuses across this nation. We lift up to you every campus ministry within the Methodist connection. We ask that you would give each campus minister a new vision for the work to which you have called them. Give each one a new confidence that as you have called them, you will establish them. Give each one a new awareness that apart from you they can do nothing. Give each one a new grace to pray and seek a new anointing for this upcoming season.

God, we ask that you would build each campus ministry into everything you would have it be. Take from us the pressure to build. We confess you are the Builder, and we are but shepherds of what you build. Give us the grace to shepherd and feed and disciple well those you entrust to us.

Lord, we ask that each week you would draw into each ministry every student you would have us minister to. We don't ask for those who can be better reached by others. But we do ask for the ones you have positioned us to reach. We ask for a new season of fruitfulness to come upon the campus ministries throughout our connection. We ask for the harvest – for all of the harvest with which we can be trusted.

Above all, whether it's through ourselves or others, we ask that your kingdom come and the name of Jesus be made great on the college campuses across this nation – this year more than ever before.

It's in Jesus' name and for His sake we make these prayers. Amen.

ACT: In prayer before the Lord, repent of the image of seeing yourself as a builder. Many of us will have to do this regularly. He is the Builder. See yourself as but a shepherd; one who feeds and cares for all those the Lord gives; as one who is simply called to be faithful. Trying to build brings pressure. Shepherding, however, plays into the very strengths that enabled most of us to hear the Lord's calling in the first place.

Bob Beckwith is the Campus Pastor at the UGA Wesley.

DAY 5 ~ AUGUST 27, EVENING

READ: 2 Corinthians 6:1-3

PRAY: Lord, we pray that students, leaders and staff members involved in and serving in campus ministries around the nation would experience a greater revelation of Your grace today. May their eyes be opened to see the riches of Your grace that You have lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding (Eph. 1:7-8). As far as the east is from the west, so far have You removed our transgressions from us (Psalm 103:12). Take this knowledge from their heads to their hearts today, overwhelming them with the power of Your forgiveness and mercy. Lift off any condemnation and shame that they are carrying, and open their ears to hear Your voice of truth. May they take this revelation of Your grace and freely give the grace they have received to others. By the power of Your Spirit, enable them to consider their lives worth nothing, if only they may finish the race and complete the task that You have given them—"the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace" (Acts 20:24). We urge them through our intercession not to receive Your grace in vain but to know that *now* is the day of Your favor, *now* is the day of Your salvation (2 Cor. 6:1-3). This world is so hungry for grace, Lord. May their campuses be radically changed as they testify to and extravagantly dispense Your grace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

ACT: Be a recipient of and giver of God's grace in extravagant ways today.

Tara Dunn is a student at the University of Georgia. She is the Director of Prayer at the UGA Wesley Foundation.

DAY 6 ~ AUGUST 28, MORNING

READ: Luke 11:1-13

PRAY: Jesus, teach me to pray. I am tired of pretend prayers, church prayers, and all forms of religion that come from a sense of guilt, fear, or obligation. I want to be real.

Jesus, teach me to pray. You did it for the first disciples. You can do it for me—can't you? You promised you would. And I am going to show up every day for the next 40 days, place my life in your presence and wait—wait for you—wait for you to keep your promise.

In the waiting, please be with me. I believe you are real; help my unbelief. Hold me, surround me, lift me, humble me. Jesus, you are alive, and you promised to be with anyone who called on your name. I am calling now.

In these moments, speak to me any way you want—in the silence, in the sounds around me, in the music (real or imagined), in the scripture, in the newspaper, in a text message, in an email. Lord Jesus, I am listening. Please say something.

OMG! There are thoughts entering my mind, new thoughts, inward promptings. Is that you Jesus? Do you want me to pray for the things coming to me now—these things? Can I trust what is coming to me? Do you want me to pray these things? OK, I will because you promised. I asked. And you are answering. (This is _____.) [What words go here to describe what is going on in your heart and mind and prayer right now?] Amen.

ACT: Be still for three minutes and lift in prayer to God every thought, every person, every situation, every nation that comes into your mind. John and Charles Wesley taught the first Methodist people that “God does nothing apart from prayer.” Whatever the Holy Spirit is bringing into your mind in these three minutes are the very things God wants pray for. Your prayer is participation in the very heart and work of God. [pause] After prayer, is there anything else the Spirit is leading you to do?

Tom Albin is a native Kansan. He served on the theological faculties of Boston University and the University of Dubuque before joining the staff of the General Board of Discipleship in 1999. He is currently the Dean of Upper Room Ministries and Ecumenical Relations. Tom and Maryle have three daughters (all married) and five grandchildren.

DAY 6 ~ AUGUST 28, NOON

READ: 1 John 4:11-12

PRAY: God of love, we thank you for your radical love that moves us to respond by pouring out our love on one another.

We pray that the students on our campuses will know this love. Heal their brokenness, redeem their value in life and give them the assurance that they are your beloved children. Create a sanctuary within our campus ministries that they may know and experience your life-giving love, and bring them to a place of healing and wholeness through the power of your Spirit.

As your love is proclaimed over them, Lord, help the students on our campuses to then respond by loving one another. Help them to be creative in loving, give them compassion for the unlovable, and a heart for loving those who don't know you. As the Body of Christ on the campus, let them make you visible and real to those who are wondering where you might be.

ACT: Find ways to "shock" the campus with acts of love, like helping incoming students move in to their new homes or find their classrooms during the first week of class, all because you love them.

Joseph Nader is the Director and Campus Minister of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Texas at Arlington, a husband to an amazing wife, Mary Kathryn, and doting father of two, Lydia and J.J. Find out more about the UTA Wesley at www.utawesley.org.

DAY 6 ~ AUGUST 28, EVENING

READ: Luke 9:57-62

PRAY: Holy and Living God, we come before you as your humbled servants. We are seeking direction in our lives, Lord. Show us Your way, Your truth, and Your light. We give ourselves to You - everything we are and everything that we are not. Mold us into a vessel that would be pleasing in Your sight, oh God, our Creator.

Set our hearts ablaze. Fill us with a passion and a desire for You, God; let it spread like a wild fire on our campuses. Help us to shine Your love and goodness to all the people that we meet. But Lord, as they look at us, let them see You. Let them be surrounded and overwhelmed with Your presence so they have a yearning to know You more.

We lift up our hands and our voices and we praise You! For You are our God! You are the Rock in which we find strength. And nothing is impossible for You!

We will live our lives for You all of our days. Lead us and we will follow. And everywhere we go, we will share Your message and Your love. Let everything that we say and do give You all the praise and glory. Amen.

ACT: Take time to pray with a listening spirit and have intentional worship that is focused on our passion and desire for God to spread throughout our specific campuses.

John Beckling is a graduate student at The University of Texas, Arlington. He has a passion for Student Ministries and is actively involved in the Wesley Foundation on the UTA campus, and in his local church, Epworth United Methodist Church.

DAY 7 ~ AUGUST 29, MORNING

READ: Romans 8:38-39

PRAY: God of Love, how filled we are with joy whenever we remember the truth of these words. Thank you for loving us so much that you sent your Son not only to reveal completely to us your true nature, but also to provide us direct access to you now and forever.

Even though we have experienced your transforming love through your son Jesus Christ, there are times when we feel separated from you and your love. Thank you for these words of assurance that nothing can truly separate us from your love. Inspire and empower us to share this message of love and fulfillment to those students who may have never truly known you and your love and to those who have lost their connection to you.

Fill us with your spirit and wisdom as we seek to lead others to experience your transforming love. Thank you for giving us all that we need to experience true joy and peace. In the name of the one who came to give us abundant life. Amen.

ACT: Following the leading of the Spirit, invite one or more students to discuss with you these two verses of scripture. Ask them how your campus ministry can help more students to understand and believe these words.

Jack Ewing is the executive director of the Foundation for Evangelism, an organization that provides grants to develop leaders for the United Methodist Church. He has served as president of two United Methodist institutions of higher education: Mount Union College and Dakota Wesleyan University.

DAY 7 ~ AUGUST 29, NOON

READ: 2 Corinthians 4

PRAY: Heavenly Father, as we pray together, we come seeking you. The weight of the ministry you have entrusted us with can be overwhelming. We are broken and delicate vessels carrying an extraordinary message.

Forgive us when we focus on the tasks of ministry instead of our relationship with you; which is the treasure we carry.

We are not asking you to remove us from the challenges of ministry, but desire that you would cleanse us from the bitterness, the cynicism, the frustration and the despair that we allow to fill our lives. Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit that we might persevere and that our perseverance would glorify you.

Forgive us for pursuing ministry under our own strength prompted by our own motivations. Cleanse us from our selfish desires, and fill us with your love and grace. May we be so filled that your love compels all that we do.

Forgive us for seeing only the circumstances around us. Give us eyes to see that which we hope for and that you have promised. Remind us to live with the understanding that you have more invested in the ministry we are a part of, in the people we are reaching out to and caring for, than we do.

In the name of Jesus, who gave us this ministry of reconciliation. Amen.

ACT: In the midst of all the challenges of ministry, spend intentional time making a list of areas and people in your ministry where you see God at work. Give God thanks for His active presence on your campus.

Todd Craig is an Associate Pastor at Asbury United Methodist Church in Tulsa, OK.

DAY 7 ~ AUGUST 29, EVENING

READ: Psalm 67

PRAY: Father, be gracious to me as I live an imperfect life. As my weaknesses are expressed through my actions, use them to grow me and reveal to me the true weight of your love.

Father, bless me, not so that I might receive Your blessing for myself, but that through it Your face might be shown to those around me. Glorify Your name among all the people I will meet today by simply satisfying me with You. Be gracious to me when I search other places for hope and joy, for they will not bring it. But continually teach me Your truths, that I might invest all I have in You and see the depth of what You have for me.

Father, guide me today to walk with Your blessings and Your grace in mind. Keep these things constantly on my heart. Glorify Yourself in me, and translate that through my life so that others might see the reality of who You are, and the glory of what You offer us in Christ.

I love You, Papa. Amen.

ACT: We must first love Christ in our hearts before anything else will happen. Be it evangelism, witnessing, encouragement, or rebuke, nothing is to the glory of God's grace until we're worshiping in our hearts.

Stephen Pittman is a 20-year-old Microbiology/Pre-med major at the University of Oklahoma. He is involved in ministry with the fraternity Sigma Phi Epsilon and helps lead worship with Campus Crusade for Christ. He hopes to someday pursue overseas mission-work through the medium of medicine.

DAY 8 ~ AUGUST 30, MORNING

READ: Psalm 139:1-14

PRAY: Gracious God of all creation, help us reflect today upon what it means to be known by you. We engage in endless activities to prove ourselves smart, industrious, creative, and achievement-oriented so we may be deemed worthy by the culture. We judge others by how well they meet our own standards of measurement. In the midst of all this, we have forgotten that our ultimate purpose is to live into what you have created each of us to be.

We pray for our students as they are in such a formative time of their lives. They are seeking your will, as so many influences seek to tell them who they are apart from you. Holy One, remind them that they are indeed "fearfully and wonderfully made" by you. You are fully aware of their struggles and their very being. Keep us all mindful of your consistent presence. There is no place or position in our lives that is beyond your reach. We are so very thankful that you never leave us alone. Let us always celebrate every good gift you offer lavishly as we continue to discern the next steps on our journey of faith. Amen.

ACT: Take time today to affirm the gifts you see in someone. Be a vessel of God's presence in his or her life.

Bridgette Young is an ordained elder of the North Georgia Conference. After eleven years of serving with students as a campus minister and as a chaplain, she was appointed in July 2009 as the Assistant General Secretary for Campus Ministry at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Her passion and calling is to minister for and with those on college and university campuses.

DAY 8 ~ AUGUST 30, NOON

READ: Exodus 32

PRAY: Lord God, we confess that our world has become a place that says one thing but does another. We confess that we have not done enough to remedy this sinful way of living amongst our young people.

Just as the Israelites continually professed one thing and lived something completely different, we recognize that this is happening all over our college campuses. Our college students are proclaiming a faith and yet falling prey to pornography, alcoholism, gambling addiction, credit card debt, promiscuity, and many other barriers that keep them from experiencing your abundance to the fullest.

Help our young people learn to know what a truly authentic faith looks like when lived out. Help them to know what a life filled and led by the Holy Spirit can be.

Be with all of our leaders working in campus ministries across our country. Equip them to preach a Gospel message that not only confronts our sinful way of living, but also provides hope and an escape from a life marred by sin. Soften the hearts and wills of all those students who might hear this message and allow them to be open to your transforming grace.

We pray that this message of hope and grace would begin to transform the lives of thousands of college students. We ask that through the preaching of the Gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit, you would begin to bring about your Kingdom on each one of our college campuses and use that work to not just change the lives of our young people, but to change the United Methodist Church and the world at large.

ACT:

Commit to praying daily for one college student in your life, that he/she would have a more authentic faith

Daniel Dennison is beginning his 3rd year as campus minister at the University of Oklahoma Wesley Foundation in Norman, OK. He is a graduate of OU and received his call to ministry while involved at the Wesley Foundation. He is married to his beautiful wife, Mindy, and has a one year old daughter, Ruthie.

DAY 8 ~ AUGUST 30, EVENING

READ: Colossians 4:2-4

PRAY: Holy and loving God, we yearn for the day when everyone on our campus will know your glory. We confess that we have not taken the time to build relationships and share your love with classmates and friends.

We pray that you would give us opportunities and confidence. We know that we cannot change hearts on our own, but we can shine the light that leads others to you.

We pray as Paul did when he was imprisoned, that we would be given the chance to spread your gospel of love to the world. We pray that this would be our only desire.

Father, we ask that you would give us courage to make an impact on our campus--to leave the shelter of our ministries and do your work among the people. Give us creativity to find new ways to reach out to our fellow students and give us hope so we may never forget that we do all of this for your glory.

In Christ's holy and blessed name we pray, Amen.

ACT: Commit to developing a new relationship with a young adult with whom you are currently only mildly acquainted.

Jeff Hinton is an active student at the Wesley Foundation at OU in Norman. He is a Religious Studies junior and is beginning the candidacy process for ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church.

DAY 9 ~ AUGUST 31, MORNING

READ: Titus 3:3-8

PRAY: Lord Jesus Christ, I give thanks to you for your love and mercy that call me to yourself. When I was foolish, disobedient, walking astray, and pursuing unholy desires, you sought me out like a lost sheep. Where I have hated my neighbor, you have shown me reconciling love. And your saving grace has been poured out on me not because of my own merit, but solely through the love you show toward me. Because of you, I have been called through the waters of baptism to be made pure and given a home in your church. By your Holy Spirit, I have been reborn and made an heir of life eternal.

Forgive me, I pray my blessed Savior, for the ways I have continued to fail you and my neighbor. Help me to know that inward holiness of heart, so that all my outward actions might be holy as well. Fill me with your love that I might be remade fully in your own image. Bring me faithfully to the day of full salvation.

And finally, Lord Jesus, may all thanks and praise be unto you, who reign together with the Father and the Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

ACT: We have all been shown great mercy by the grace of Jesus Christ. Carry the words of this prayer with you over the coming day. Seek out someone you know who is suffering, and share the love Jesus has given you with that person. Be a bearer of the Holy Spirit to one who is in trouble.

Andrew C. Thompson is a United Methodist minister who blogs at www.genxrising.com.

DAY 9 ~ AUGUST 31, NOON

READ: Acts 8:26-39

PRAY: Gracious God, we thank you for the life we have in you. We thank you that you lead us, guide us, and empower us through the grace of the Holy Spirit, to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Lord, as we read this text, we are once again reminded of your power to transform—of how you have transformed us. We are also humbled by Philip. As we serve on college and university campuses, will you make us more like Philip? Will you help us to be increasingly sensitive to your leading? Will you help us to meet people where they are and then empower us to share the good news of Jesus?

God, we recognize that this is also a passage about communal embrace. Will you help us, as we participate in the work of your Holy Spirit, to connect students to the larger Christian community? Will you help us not neglect the means of your grace? Lord, our desire is that those around us find relationship with you. May our students rejoice as the Ethiopian because they have made a connection with you.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, help us to serve as Philip, reliant on your presence and responsive to your grace. Amen.

ACT: Walk across your campus today and ask God where he is at work. Ask how you can be a part of it and be sensitive to God's leading.

Lucas Endicott recently began his position as Campus Pastor at Central Methodist University in Fayette, Missouri. Before coming to Central Methodist, Lucas completed graduate work at Princeton Theological Seminary and Regent College in Vancouver, BC. In 2009, Lucas worked for the General Board of Global Ministries in New York City, where he trained young adult missionaries.

DAY 9 ~ AUGUST 31, EVENING

READ: 2 Tim 1:7

PRAY: Dear Lord, please give me a spirit of boldness as I encounter the challenges of college life that you have set before me.

Give me the power to be a beacon to those who know your love and grace, as well as to those who do not yet know the blessings you bestow upon your people daily. Empower me, and those around me, to receive the blessings of the Spirit, and your mercy.

Help me to utilize the love that you have given me to care for those around me. Please be present during the times when love for one another may be difficult.

Aid me to find self-control to manage my time between school assignments and other pursuits; help me to organize my responsibilities.

Dear Lord, allow me to be a guide to those who need encouragement, the shelter of your love, and the ability to find self-control during the stress of college life.

Amen.

ACT: Find someone who you can encourage. Pray with them and help them find strength.

Samantha Gross is a senior at Central Methodist University in Fayette, Missouri, and is originally from Rogersville, MO. She was the 2009-2010 recipient of the Hern Award for Excellence in Religious Studies and plans to attend seminary upon completion of her undergraduate degree.

DAY 10 ~ SEPTEMBER 1, MORNING

READ: Matthew 11:1

PRAY: Lord Jesus, you gathered twelve disciples around you and taught them many things about the kingdom of God. You not only spoke the truth to them, you embodied the truth in your life and in your death. After your resurrection and Ascension they in turn went out and taught the truths of the kingdom in word and in deed by the power of your Holy Spirit.

We thank you for those faithful disciples who teach our campus ministers and all those in ministry to our young people. By their life and teaching their Christian legacy lives on in their students who are now in campus ministry. And now we bring before you those currently in such ministry, as they forge a legacy for the future that will give glory to you, our Lord Jesus. Give them your wisdom in counsel, your guidance in decisions, and your strength to endure the long hours of ministry.

And we lift our college students to you. In a world filled with all kinds of teaching competing for our children's allegiance, guard them with your truth and give them the same spirit that led those first disciples in faithfulness and courage, strength and virtue. May they attend to Bible study, prayer, and works of service that will keep them strong in their faith and in ministry to the world.

We lift our prayer in your wonderful name, O Jesus, our Teacher, our Lord, and our Savior. Amen.

ACT: This week think of an individual who has mentored you in your faith. Call, write, or e-mail that person telling her or him how much your faith walk has been strengthened by his or her influence.

Allan R. Bevere is the pastor at First United Methodist Church in Cambridge, Ohio, and a Professional Fellow in Theology at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio. Allan has also spent several years in youth ministry and has led mission groups along with youth to Haiti, Puerto Rico, and Cuba. He is married to Carol, and they have four children.

DAY 10 ~ SEPTEMBER 1, NOON

READ: Isaiah 65: 1, 2, 17, 18

PRAY: Precious Lord, on this, your day, we find ourselves once again caught between the images painted in your Scripture. We know we are an obstinate people who walk in ways that are not good and find ourselves pursuing our own imaginations. Yet we are also people who count on your promise to create something very new, and we rejoice. Lord, we pray for our campuses and students as they find themselves living between. Living in a very self absorbed culture, so many need to know that you are seeking them and will create something very new in them. Lord, we pray for our Campus ministries and Churches that find themselves caught between as well. We develop programs and ministry to reach out and are filled with creative ideas. But guard us from “pursuing our own imagination,” instead of living our lives rooted in you. Our students, faculty and staff yearn, as all your creation does, for that new day and that passing away. Yet we, the Church and campus ministries, struggle to incarnate it.

We ask you to forgive us for being the obstinate people we are. May our hearts be like yours. May our laughter break forth and our tears flow, as we live closer and closer to your heart and view your creation through eyes that only you can give us. May that be true across our campuses as well, as students are filled with your joy and your tears.

Additionally, we struggle to remain faithful in anticipation of the new you will do and bring. Pardon our resistance to what you desire to do on our campuses. Bring a new day and life to our campuses. Transform our students, transform our campuses and transform our world!

In Jesus Name, Amen.

ACT: Meet with a student today and discuss the scripture. Ask them to share their experience and ideas on our self absorbed culture and how God may be reaching out on their campus. If God is doing a new thing, how may we be sensitive to the spirit and see what God is doing? Invest an hour today on a college campus. Go, watch, visit and see what is happening.

David Goolsby, Campus Pastor of Auburn University

DAY 10 ~ SEPTEMBER 1, EVENING

READ: 1 John 5:9-12

PRAY: Father, you are good and holy. We thank you Lord for your testimony that you have placed in our hearts, and for guiding us into the truth Holy Spirit.

Lord, we pray for college students across the world and for the many excitements, fears, opportunities, relationships, and emotions that they are experiencing. Father, may our churches and campus ministries embody the love and life we have in Christ and shine for all to see. For those who are afraid, may we speak peace and give love. For those who feel alone, may we be present and inviting. For those who seek to grow in Christ, may we sharpen and challenge them. For those who do not believe, may we speak love and truth into their lives. Almighty Father, we ask that you would surround each individual student's circumstances and struggles, speaking the words of life into their hearts and families. Holy Spirit, we ask for you to work in power on behalf of all students of all nations, and may we stay in step with you as your Kingdom comes. We thank you that your Word is on our lips and in our hearts, and may we always embody the testimony of life in Christ through all the we do - - both in word and in deed. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

ACT: Spend some time with people who believe in something different from Christianity. Genuinely love them and get to know them, and see what kinds of conversations develop around faith.

Stephen Fincher is senior, social work major at Auburn University.

DAY 11 ~ SEPTEMBER 2, MORNING

READ: Isaiah 43:15-21

PRAY: O God, we sometimes find ourselves in dry places. We are tempted to become depressed and discouraged by the deserts that are in our lives. O Lord, we confess that when our spirits are in a dry place, we sometimes feel like you are a million miles away. Forgive us for questioning our experience and the call you have placed on our lives. Revive us today. Enable us to come to the place where we are enveloped by your presence and our souls experience unspeakable joy.

We declare that you are doing a new thing in our lives! We refuse to dwell on former things. We will not be held hostage by our past. As we accept your forgiveness and live by your grace, we will forget the wrongs that paralyze us with guilt and despair. Empower us with the desire to live out what we say we believe.

Thank you God for ushering in a newness, a freedom, a freshness, and a new beginning in our lives. By the power of your Holy Spirit, birth new things in us and reveal destiny and purpose for our lives. Bless every student, teacher and member of this learning community to see the road in the wilderness that leads to new life. Help us be mindful of every opportunity to share the good news with everyone we meet. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

ACT: Thank God for forgiveness today and declare a specific expectation for your future.

Junius Dotson is senior pastor of Saint Mark United Methodist Church in Wichita, Kansas. He offers strategies to the unique challenges and opportunities confronting every generation. He is married to Christina, and they are the parents of two children: Wesley and Janelle.

DAY 11 ~ SEPTEMBER 2, NOON

READ: Matthew 13:9, Ephesians 3.20-21

PRAY: O Lord of the Harvest, we praise you and we thank you for your faithfulness in planting good seeds in the fertile soil of college students. We ask you to sow seeds in abundance on our college campuses and to cultivate your word planted in the lives of students so that the good seed of your word will sprout and grow and bear much fruit. We ask you – by your power at work in our campus ministries and in our students – to accomplish abundantly far more than we can ask or imagine!

O God, our request is urgent and passionate because we know that not only good seeds grow in the fertile soil of our college students – but *whatever is planted* grows and bears its fruit. So we ask you to raise up faithful sowers to scatter the good seed of your word to every corner of our campuses, and into the heart of every college student. By the power and presence of your Spirit, protect our students and block every enemy from sowing bad seeds into the soil of their lives. Grow our students to be deeply rooted in the grace and truth of Jesus. In your mercy, tend to those places in their lives where thorns and weeds thrive.

We trust you for a harvest beyond our wildest dreams! In the name of Jesus, we ask this for the sake of our college students and for the honor of your name. Amen!

ACT: Be the sower you just prayed for God to raise up, by planting good seed in the soil of a student. You might share a verse of Scripture with a student, give an encouraging word, or pray for a particular college student you know.

Hugh Griffith, Campus Pastor of Mississippi State

DAY 11 ~ SEPTEMBER 2, EVENING

READ: Psalm 73:25-28 in The Message, John 4:13,14 NASB

PRAY: Almighty God, we praise you for your nourishing hand that supplies us with life! Without it, coming before you now would be impossible. Father, like the Samaritan woman at the well, shower us with your living water that you promise. Quench our thirst for you and your salvation. We call on your name to make your presence known on our college campuses in a magnificent, undeniable way.

Move our hearts to only want you. Be our strength and portion forever. How refreshing you are to us! Papa, we know what happens to those who do not follow and believe in you, so equip us to become your servants to spread your Good News. We pray that you would shower your grace and blessing over all who are involved in campus ministries. Make our campus ministries shining lights on our campuses, making your name known to all who are there. Open hearts and ears to hear and believe.

We pray this in the name of our Savior Jesus, and because of his sacrifice, we gain total confidence before your throne, Amen.

ACT: Take time today to make a list of those around you who need to hear the Good News of the Gospel and pray that God would reveal Himself to them through you and your life.

Hunter Upton is a student at Mississippi State University. He can be reached at hru2@msstate.edu

DAY 12 ~ SEPTEMBER 3, MORNING

READ: 1 John 4: 7-19

PRAY: Gracious God, each new day brings new blessings for which we are truly grateful. As we move through the daily routines of our lives, may we be aware of the many ways you are present and blessing us with your love and grace. And as we appreciate and delight in these blessings, remind us that you have blessed us in order to be a blessing to others.

We pray especially this day for all those we will meet and interact with. May we seek your face in every face we encounter. May our words and deeds reflect you and your love for every person, and for all creation. Use us to extend an invitation of new life and joy through your Son, our Savior, Jesus the Christ. It is in his holy name that we pray. Amen.

ACT: To see the Christ in others, to be the Christ for others.

Mary Brooke Casad is executive secretary of The Connectional Table of the United Methodist Church, and a member of Christ UMC, Farmers Branch, Texas, where her husband, Dr. Victor Casad, serves as senior pastor.

DAY 12 ~ SEPTEMBER 3, NOON

READ: Psalm 63:1-4

READ: Gracious and Everlasting God, we take a moment in the middle of a busy day to pause. To stop what we're doing and breathe in your life; to drink of your goodness; to become deeply aware of your presence with us. Your Spirit is at work among us. We can feel you moving and pouring out love all around us. We have witnessed your creating energy at every moment since we woke up. We sit amazed and awed by your continual care for creation and even for us. And as we are still, we hear you calling.

We hear you calling us to repent for the times when we get swept away by programs, budgets, calendars, meetings, sermon writing, planning, marketing, numbers and buildings. You are calling us to remember that we have been called to so much more than all that occupies our time. You are calling us back to Love. Love that creates, sustains, and empowers us to live into our true vocation.

Help us continue through the rest of this day aware of your presence. We are confident that you are at work in the lives of the students, faculty and staff at our schools in ways we cannot know or understand. Help us to be partners in the work you are already up to. You are in charge. We are ready to stop trying to direct things ourselves and let you guide the way forward.

Empower us with your Spirit to breathe good news into the lives of those around us this day. Spark in us creative energy for watching our calling unfold. We feel you calling us to something new, powerful, exciting, and different. And yet, we know that what you are calling us to is actually ancient, simple, meaningful, and true. Cause us to be what you call us to be. Amen.

ACT: Love is God's true meaning and our true vocation. What simple act of love is God calling you to this afternoon? Keep your eyes open for a chance to embody extraordinary love and generosity. Commit to one tangible act of love for your next-door neighbor, a student or a stranger. Write down a few ideas on a post-it note and put it in your pocket. Now go and do. Live Love.

Megan Davidson is the Campus Pastor at the TCU Wesley.

DAY 12 ~ SEPTEMBER 3, EVENING

READ: Mark 4:35-40

PRAY: God, I come to you again in a time of stress and need. As classes are continuing and exams are approaching, many times I lose sight of what is important in my life. I make my days routine with classes and studying pushing you aside. Just as Jesus calmed the stormy seas in Galilee, calm my hectic life. Like the disciples I need to have faith that Jesus will see me through until the end. I need to stop focusing on the everyday and focus on the eternal life in your kingdom. Allow this time to be a time of growth in your faith through the trials of my everyday life.

Let me not forget that every person I encounter, whether words spoken or not that, is an opportunity to shine your light through me. Do not let my own worries or needs detract my ability to show your love. Allow this unique time in college to be a gift in spreading your word through me - not by words but by actions. Let my life reflect all that you are and your will so others may come to know you through me.

As always keep me safe. Amen.

ACT: Take time at the beginning of the day or the end of the previous day to center yourself and list down your priorities for the day leaving room for God and prayer.

Courtney Thompson is a Senior, Nutrition major at Texas Christian University.

DAY 13 ~ SEPTEMBER 4, MORNING

READ: Matthew 6:5-15

PRAY: God of heaven and earth, we pray for your kingdom to come, for your will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. This week teach us to see our vocations and occupations as woven into your work in the world. For students here at this university, and for professors and staff, we pray that together we will understand more fully the stewardship of our lives in the callings you have given us. Since this is our place of primary service, give us the wisdom and courage and grace to learn to learn for your glory, in service to you and the world. But we also pray for those whose labor forms our common life in this city, the nation, and the world, for those who serve the marketplace of ideas and commerce, for those whose creative gifts nourish us all, for those who long for employment that satisfies their souls and serves you. For each one we pray, asking for your great mercy. Give us eyes to see that our work is holy to you, O Lord, even as our worship this day is holy to you. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

ACT: As you gather this week in your campus fellowship or congregation, pray for the vocations which are yours as students, and for the lives that will be yours in the future. Talk through why it is that prayer for studies, for insight into the various disciplines of the university, seems off-the-radar of Christian ministry. For some reasons, perhaps complex, we do not see our work as “spiritual,” and therefore what we should pray for, or what we should talk about when we gather to be “Christians” together. But if Jesus is Lord of every square inch of the whole of reality, then he is as interested in biology and economics as he is in anything else. So make the stuff of your lives the “stuff” of your ministry together, praying the prayer of Jesus, even as you live it. As you plan your life together for the semester or year, include times when you listen to each other’s questions about the challenge of connecting faith to your disciplines. Perhaps plan some weeks where you will hear from each other; perhaps someone can read from a paper for a class. Or have a thoughtful graduate student speak about his or her work, and the ways that their faith shapes their questions and answers. Or bring a professor in from your university or somewhere else who sees life and learning in more seamless ways, who “thinks christianly” about vocations in general and his or her vocation in particular.

Dr. Steven Garber is the director of The Washington Institute and author of *The Fabric of Faithfulness*.

DAY 13 ~ SEPTEMBER 4, NOON

READ: 1 Corinthians 4:1

PRAY: Tremendous & Mysterious God,

you inaugurate the mission of salvation
in the life and presence of the Eternal Word,

Jesus Christ,

who carries your gospel to us:

redemption,

justice,

liberation,

wholeness,

perfection,

reconciliation,

justification,

more than we can ask or imagine.

And wondrously and inexplicably and unreservedly
you have named us as graceful co-workers on this mission.

Think of us in this way—

and make us so to live by the strength of your Spirit
that others might think this of us as well—
completely devoted to the service and employment of Christ
that even I might willingly offer all I have and am
to serve you, as and where you choose.

Make us worthy stewards of the mysteries of faith,
the storehouse of treasures old and new
the darkness we haven't yet penetrated,
the paradoxes and tensions and unresolved things
which shake even me, and lay claim upon me,
and whisper, "God is not through with you yet...."

Glorious and Blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

may I truly discover that you are mine and I am yours, world without end.

Amen. Amen.

Josh Hale is an ordained elder in the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. He serves as the campus minister with the Wesley Student Center at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. Josh thinks out loud at <http://expatminister.org> and on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/expatminister>.

DAY 13 ~ SEPTEMBER 4, EVENING

READ: 1 Peter 2:11-12

PRAY: Lord, our prayer is that our lives are completely and unconditionally yours. Give us the capacity to love every being as you have loved us. Allow our faith to grow even stronger as we walk with you and let every word we say glorify you. Lord, we pray that as Christians, we set an example for you everyday in our hearts, minds, soul, and actions. We pray that as you purify our spirits, we come ever closer to you. Lord you are amazing and through you everything is possible. So may you give us the patience to wait for you and not rush into what we as sinners want. Give us the wisdom to hear your voice and not follow our own selfish desires. We know that what you have planned for us is so much greater than what we want for ourselves. Lord, I pray that this becomes the song of our hearts and that every day we strive to serve you even more. Amen.

ACT: Look back over the day...where did you sense God's wisdom in your day? Where would you like to see God's wisdom in your day tomorrow?

Tiffany Tadlock is a student at Lamar University in Beaumont, TX.

DAY 14 ~ SEPTEMBER 5, MORNING

READ: Acts 3:1-8

PRAY: Loving and lavish God, in adoration and praise, in gratitude and wonder, we approach you yet again through the privilege of prayer. We thank you this day, acknowledging your mercy and grace, ever amazed that you freely shower it upon us.

God, your generosity not only declares your goodness, but it proclaims our immense worth and value to you. We are your special creatures, each and every one of us. Often we overlook that. Forgive us when we forget, reminding us that as we have received it, so should we always accord to all your people godly value and divine dignity.

Let us know then, as we seek your pardon, that your everlasting mercy is always a present reality. Guide us, we pray, to believe the faith and the fact that you are indeed faithful and just, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

We solicit your eternal assistance and strength to remember that our wealth is in your gift of health: spiritual and physical, intellectual and emotional. Help us to count our riches, not as the world does, but as citizens of the commonwealth of God, participants in the reign of Almighty God and as heralds of the never-ending grace that belongs solely to you.

Then, Lord, when society's standards entice us, please rescue us from these seductions. Keep us close to you so that we will overcome the enemy, will stand firm in our faith and not be vanquished by that which might enrich us financially but will bankrupt us spiritually.

In everything we surrender ourselves to you. We trust you for our help and health, our love and our lives. We offer all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

ACT: Think of someone you know who is in need of a healing word, a helping presence. Be that for him or her.

Vance P. Ross is the first ever Deputy General Secretary for Connectional Relations and Strategic Initiatives for the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD). A preacher by calling and a pastor by training and trade, Ross seeks always to share the life-changing, liberating, and inclusive love of God-in Jesus, so that disciples of Jesus might have world-changing impact. He is the father of Bryant, Alyssa, and Kristina and the grandfather of Jaylie Alyssa, and Christopher Bryant.

DAY 14 ~ SEPTEMBER 5, NOON

READ: 2 Corinthians 5:16 - 21

PRAY: Father, we pray for college campuses across our nation – that Your Spirit would draw men and women into relationship with the Lord Jesus. We give You thanks for the unbelievable ways many campuses in our country have been used to shape believers and foster ideas which have advanced the kingdom of heaven. So we pray, in this 21st century, for a new generation of collegians to be reconciled to You.

May Your Spirit fill the hearts of believers on the university campus. May the words they speak and the lives they live express the gospel and give witness to the living reality of Christ. In the midst of a noisy culture and a materialistic world we ask for a new movement of God in college communities. Lord, create a movement of students who are gripped by truth and filled with grace. We pray for a movement that is so compelled by the “upside down kingdom” that it will bring transformation in our society and in our world.

We ask for an increasing measure of saltiness on our campuses. As students explore ideas and become equipped with knowledge, we pray for many to come into relationship with Jesus - that they may be reconciled with their Maker and become the righteousness of God. We pray for their callings and ask that You shape them for vocations with meaning and kingdom impact. Grow the humility of believers on the campus, that our witness is aligned with the humble King. During these formative years we do pray that you break the hearts of many students with the things that break the heart of God – that they may be called to be the hands and feet of Jesus across the globe. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

ACT: Pray for an opportunity to share with someone what Christ has been doing in your life. How often have you verbalized your story of how you were reconciled to God through Christ? Do you know someone on a campus whom you can encourage as an ambassador of Christ? Pray for them and look for a tangible way to encourage their witness on the campus.

Rev. Greg Haseloff is Associate Dean of Campus Ministries and Campus Chaplain at Asbury University.

DAY 14 ~ SEPTEMBER 5, EVENING

READ: Matthew 5:13-16

PRAY: Oh Father, grant us hearts to truly see into the midst of this broken world. Help us to see those who are hurting and desperately in need of Your love: People who are hiding behind paper--thin masks, frantically holding their world together and waiting for it to shatter; people who are wounded because of the consequences of sins and crimes that were not their fault; people who are living in the darkness of a fallen world, and people who have no source of light to turn to except the frail human understanding they find within themselves.

Grant us grace to become disciples to these people, because they do not know the Name of the Lord; the saving grace of Christ. When Satan buffets, the only strength they find within themselves is not strong enough to outlast the storm.

You have called us to be light in the midst of a dark world; to shine Christ's love into the uttermost depths of human despair. And you have placed us as employees and students at colleges and universities where the Name of the Lord is honored and praised, where we are trained up and called out to minister to this dying world in the glorious Name of Christ. Do not let our faith grow weak. Do not let our testimony waver. Fill us up and send us out into the darkness so that we may make disciples of Christ wherever we go, whatever we do. Make us fierce, loyal advocates of the Gospel. And, in doing so, help us to shine the dazzling love of Christ into the center of a dark and desperate world.

In Jesus' Name, Amen!

ACT: As students at Christian colleges and universities, it is so easy for us to close ourselves off from the world and live solely in our own Christian subcultures. As wonderful as this may seem, it is not what the Word of God commands. We are called to be the light of the world, a witness to all people and all nations. This is not just a call to minister in other countries, but in the very same neighborhoods and communities that our Christian schools are located in. By simply being active in the communities around us through community service or outreach events, we truly do carry out the great commandment and share the love of Christ to a lost and hurting generation.

Sarah Finehout is going to be a junior at Asbury University. She is from Creston, IA.

DAY 15 ~ SEPTEMBER 6, MORNING

READ: Mark 1:35

PRAY: Dear God of early morning places and holy silent spaces, I'm not even out the door yet today, and already the life's noise inundates me. It's not even 10:00 a.m. yet, and already there are text messages I have to return, Tweets I have to read, Facebook entries I have to face, and even old-fashioned e-mails to which I must reply. It's amazing how much of sound is now "heard" through the eyes!

I also have to confess, Lord God, that I'm bracing for the barrage of voices that will wash over me all day long. The voices of professors demand that I listen for the knowledge I will need for good grades and life skills. The voices in the bookstore remind me what I need to buy or what I need to pay in order to keep up. The voices of family and friends and my fraternity or sorority keep asking me for time and attention beyond the classroom. There are voices in the student union recruiting me for this cause or that movement. My iPod playlists race through the ear buds into my brain. I need a compass just to navigate my way through this forest of voices!

So, when will I hear you today? Where will I hear you today? How will I hear you today? Because the one voice that gives orders and meaning to all the other voices is yours.

Lord God, remove me long enough from the noise of this day to listen to you. Create a quiet place where I can go for the sole purpose of communicating with you. And then, create a quiet place in me where I can go for the "soul purpose" of waiting upon your voice.

For I would be silent and waiting in the name of Jesus. Amen.

ACT: Find a spot on campus to designate as your personal Mark 1:35 spot—a library carrel, a table in the student union, a park bench on the mall. Reserve that place for the "soul purpose" of listening to God. Every time you sit there, make that your "deserted place" for ten to fifteen minutes when you ask, "God, what do you want me to hear from you today, and how do you want me to hear it?"

Charles Anderson is pastor of University United Methodist Church, San Antonio, Texas.

DAY 15 ~ SEPTEMBER 6, NOON

READ: Psalm 100

PRAY: Holy and Gracious God, your mercies are new to us every morning. Help us to see, feel and know your presence. As we work in the trenches of this wonderfully crazy thing called campus ministry, give us courage to grasp and ignite your vision on our campuses, strength to not only preach your Gospel to students but to also live it, and the tenacity to continue to walk the walk and speak a prophetic word, even when things get tough.

Lord Jesus who walks with us and calls us friend, may we not only hear but feel down deeply to our toes both your immense love, and your cry for justice. May we and our students not only feel the deep and abiding grace that you fill in us, but may we trust and cling to that grace even in the midst of situations and challenges that we may not understand. Give us ever present reminders that we don't walk this journey alone, that you are going before us, behind us, and beside us each step of the way.

Tug at the hearts of students and young adults that they hear your ever present calling in their lives. That they may know that they have been both fearfully and wonderfully made and that they don't have to have everything all figured out right now. Give them the community of faith and commitment to wrestle with the intricacies of life and the foundation and hope to know that you are God and you are good.

We are yours, Holy Spirit. May all that we do, whether it be rejoicing in praise, crying out in grief, providing a listening ear, or offering a cup of cold water, be with your spirit moving, empowering, guiding, and leading us. May this generation be a beacon that shines your light for all the world to see and know the awesome God we serve.

In Jesus Holy and Precious Name. Amen.

ACT: Walk the quad or around your campus and pray for both those that you pass by, those that are part of your ministry, those that are lost and hurting, the faculty, staff and administrators of your school, etc. Be intentional in this time and the Holy Spirit's leading as prayers open before you.

Rev. Narcie Jeter is the Director and United Methodist Campus Minister at the Winthrop University Wesley Foundation and the Worship Leader for The Journey at St. John's UMC. She is married to Mike and they have two children – Enoch (3) and Evy (almost 2). You can read her blog at www.narciejeter.wordpress.com or reach her at winthropwesley@gmail.com.

DAY 15 ~ SEPTEMBER 6, EVENING

READ: Isaiah 41:10

PRAY: Gracious God, we thank you and we praise you for your endless love, mercy, and grace. We pray that you will pour out your love so that we may share it with those on our campuses and in our communities. We ask for your guidance as we try to better serve and love each other. Help us to be kind and show compassion to all of those we encounter. May our actions and our words bring you glory.

We know that college is a time of new and exciting opportunities. We pray for your guidance in all of the twists and turns we encounter on our journey. We know that you know the challenges we all face day in and day out, and we pray for understanding and strength to help us overcome every obstacle.

Lord, we thank you for the young men and women throughout our ministries who have felt a stirring in their heart, a call to something great and new. Let us uplift them in prayers of peace and strength. Let us support and encourage them to love and serve. Give us the courage to see new leadership through these students and let us be awakened by the difference they make in this world.

In Christ's holy name we pray, Amen.

ACT: Intentionally think about some of the young adults that you work with and in what ways they might be called to ministry. Give them an encouraging word or a gentle nudge as they think about this calling and vocation.

Megan D. Augustine is in her first year as a Master of Divinity student at Duke Divinity School. After the completion of her Master of Divinity Degree, Megan hopes to serve in a campus ministry or young adult ministry setting. She can be reached at megan.augustine@duke.edu.

DAY 16 ~ SEPTEMBER 7, MORNING

READ: Psalm 104:24-25 and Matthew 6:28

PRAY: Eternal and loving God, we give you thanks and praise for creation. It is beautiful and mysterious and powerful and wonderful. Mountains and valleys, rivers and oceans, prairies and plains, deserts and swamps, sun and stars are all your gifts. Deer and ants, elephants and penguins, fish and hummingbirds, dragonflies and frogs exist through your creative energy.

Thank you for creating us to live in harmony with all that you have made. We confess our failure to do so. Help us to live gently in this wondrous world, caring for creation. By the mighty wind of your Holy Spirit, move once more upon the waters, giving us capacity to care for creation, whether repairing the gushing of oil in the deep sea or cleaning beaches or saving pelicans.

Help us never to call the violence of wind or water or quaking earth your work or your justice. Instead, give us humility and love to serve in the path of destruction, trusting without fear your help in time of trouble and need.

We do in this moment consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air. We pray that you will give us wonder, wisdom and will to be faithful stewards of everything you have given in this universe to grace our lives. Through Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks and praise to you, mighty God, three-in-one. Amen.

ACT: Embrace a new habit that cares for creation.

Hope Morgan Ward was elected a bishop of the United Methodist Church and appointed to Mississippi in 2004. Before coming to Mississippi, Ward was superintendent of the Raleigh District in the North Carolina Annual Conference. The Wards have deep roots in eastern North Carolina; they also count the world as their home.

DAY 16 ~ SEPTEMBER 7, NOON

READ: Micah 6:8

PRAY: Holy and loving God,

Be with all of your children as they seek to find your direction for their lives. We know you have created us in your image and called it good. We know that you long for us to be fully who you have created us to be. And yet, so many people, groups, and systems call us to be something else.

We are pulled by requirements in the classroom, office, and organizations we choose and some we do not choose. Our friends, family, and acquaintances require our time, love, and energy. And yet, what it is that you require, O Lord, “but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with (you).” (Micah 6:8)

May we remember to put your requirement first in our lives so that all else will follow you. Teach us to live in community and to speak for those whose voices are hindered. Call us to live a life of love and kindness instead of an existence of anger and judgment. And may we always remember that we do not know everything. May our humility come from an understanding that you are beyond our grasp and yet intimately a part of our lives. Let us find joy in the mystery and comfort in your presence, as we grow into the people you yearn for us to be.

In your holy name we pray, Amen.

ACT: Live out justice, kindness, and humility today. Lift your voice or get your hands dirty for a cause close to your heart. Be kind to someone, especially those who are left out, by saying hello or offering a smile and a hand to someone you may not know. Check your mind for judgment thoughts and realize that humility means leaving the judgment up to God.

Rev. Jennifer Long is an Elder in the Oklahoma Conference. After being a part of a new church plant in Illinois she returned home to Oklahoma and served in the local church until 2005 when she was appointed to Oklahoma City University as the Director of Religious Life and Chaplain. Jennifer is married to her husband, Jason Bush, and they celebrate the joy of their daughter, Rylee Long-Bush.

DAY 16 ~ SEPTEMBER 7, EVENING

READ: James 1:27

PRAY: Gracious and merciful God, we give all honor and praise to you. We thank you for we know that you are with us in times of sorrow and times of happiness. You are with us in times of study and times of relaxation--God, you are with us in everything we do. As we live our lives in our campuses and communities we ask that you would help us to remember that we are called to be like children to inherit Your kingdom. May we be able to be like children through our ministries and our studies. Let us hurt like children do; let us laugh like children do, and let us explore like children do. May we never get so focused on the "rights and wrongs" of ministry that we miss the point of community and relationship. May we never get so focused on spreading Christianity that we forget to actually feed the hungry. And may we never get so focused on the community that we forget our loved ones and ourselves. We pray this so that we can minister to our campuses, our communities, and ourselves daily so that we may spread the Word through our actions and not through our words alone.

All honor and glory is yours alone, Amen.

ACT: Find a way to feed the hungry today.

Fernando Rivera is a senior religion major at Oklahoma City University. He loves music and playing with his band, the Barefoot Travelers. Fernando has felt a call to ministry and looks forward to seminary after he graduates from OCU.

DAY 17 ~ SEPTEMBER 8, MORNING

READ: Colossians 2:2-3

PRAY: Loving God, we pray for campus ministries all across this nation. We ask you to transform groups into communities and communities into tabernacles of your spirit. We pray for college students to get a taste of what it means to be "encouraged in heart" and "united in love," like never before. We ask you to establish ordinary communities who radiate supernatural grace.

We pray for an awakening of Christians who have fallen asleep. Draw them into the full riches of complete understanding and reveal to them the mystery. Make these campus ministries to be places of irresistible refuge. Create altars where your voice can be heard and kindle relationships that inspire obedience. Pour out your spirit on these communities and make them your mercy on campus; belonging for the dislocated, security for the insecure, joy for the depressed, deliverance for the addicted, purpose for the aimless and power for the weak.

Finally, we pray for deep-hearted encouragement for campus ministers. Give them a living vision and an undying patience. Give them a hunger for your word and a thirst for your spirit. Yes, Lord, establish the work of their hands.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ACT: Write a brief note of encouragement to your campus minister relating what he or she has meant to your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to inspire you with words that will resonate deep support within the heart of the reader.

John David (J. D.) Walt serves as Dean of Chapel at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. He has a wide-ranging ministry with campus ministers/ministries in the areas of worship and spiritual formation. J. D. and Tiffani (both ordained in UMC) have four children, a dog, twelve rabbits and counting. Email: jd.walt@asburyseminary.edu. Twitter: @jdwalt. Web: www.jdwalt.com.

DAY 17 ~ SEPTEMBER 8, NOON

READ: missing

PRAY:

As we walk...help us.

As we walk around our campuses and churches,
give us eyes to see
and ears to hear
the needs of our communities.

Help us to respond to these needs in real
and responsible ways--ways that
point beyond ourselves to the God we love and serve.

As we walk on our spiritual journeys,
give us time and spaces to ask questions,
to seek understanding in and through our faith;
through scripture, reason, experience and church tradition.

Help us to recognize how you are leading us
through words of counsel from people we meet along the journey
and through the actions of pastors, friends, campus ministers, parents, and chaplains

As we walk together in our faith
as a church community, as the whole, and campus ministry as a part,
give us the patience and willingness to listen to your voice.

Help us to hear it in unlikely places
and to be surprised by where your Spirit is already at work.

Let us ask this day, and every day:

“God, what are you up to today, and how can I/we help?”

In the grace and peace of Jesus Christ our Savior,
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever. Amen

ACT: Sometime this fall, take a prayer walk on your local campus. Invite God to speak to you as you pray silently through campus.

DAY 17 ~ SEPTEMBER 8, EVENING

READ: Psalm 19:14

PRAY: Father God, we thank you for bringing us to such an important phase in our lives. We celebrate our role as college students and those involved in ministry. We praise you for the works of your hands bringing us new life every morning. We pray wisdom and insight for our brothers and sisters whom you have called to lead and help guide us. At a time when we are impressionable, we rely on your guidance through individuals in our lives. We cry out to you. May you bless us with words of encouragement. Give us words to build one other up and not break one another down; give us words to strengthen our relationships with others and with you, and help us not to push people who are unlike us away. May you purify our hearts so we can see you more clearly. Give us clean hands and a renewed spirit as we begin a new school year. Clear the clutter from our minds and hearts. Let us rest on your truth and rely on your teachings. Cleanse our thoughts so we think positively about our peers and leaders. We pray for our peers on campus and those around the globe. Strengthen us, equip us, lead us forward for your purpose. All these in your name, Amen.

ACT: Make it your goal to speak words that build others up and please God today.

Helen Hill is a senior at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia and Discipleship Team Leader at the Emory Wesley Fellowship.

DAY 18 ~ SEPTEMBER 9, MORNING

READ: Psalm 86:11

PRAY: We thank you, Lord, for our minds. We can contemplate the magnificent works of creation, pondering gigantic galaxies strewn across the heavens. We can observe and study the tiniest creatures on the earth. With our minds, we are able to remember episodes of history.

We can analyze and solve problems that will bring health and happiness to others.

We pray for teachers, from kindly women and men who train tiny tots to learned professors who challenge the brightest brains, helping them become doctors and nurses, dentists and business leaders, engineers, ministers, and scholars.

We are grateful for students. Help them to learn about our world so they can serve. Teach them the godly paths of righteousness. Remind us all that integrity is more important than factual data. As Jesus taught, let our “yes be yes and our no be no.” Help us remember that sexual integrity is the key to a sacred and satisfying family life. Show us how to be kind to fellow students—and to all our neighbors.

Sensitize us to human need: a world impoverished with hunger, saturated with disease, floundering in ignorance. May we gain knowledge and skill to “serve the present age.”

In your name. Amen.

ACT: Find teachers, active or retired, and thank them for their important work.

Dick Wilke served as a pastor in Kansas for thirty years, as United Methodist bishop in Arkansas for twelve years, and now as bishop-in-residence at Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas. With his wife, Julia, he formed and wrote the Disciple Bible Study series. His latest book is *The Tie That Binds*.

DAY 18 ~ SEPTEMBER 9, NOON

READ: Romans 15:5-6

PRAY: Lord God, we are thankful for this new season of ministry. We pray the one Spirit will unite our hearts and minds as we seek to serve you through our campuses.

Lord, we also pray that we would create ministries that endure. May we not get swept away in trending fads, but base our ministries on your faithfulness, trustworthiness, and love.

And Lord, as we receive daily grace and encouragement from your Spirit, may we also encourage those with whom we minister. May we not get so caught up in the work of ministry that we fail to be ministers to one another.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ACT: Build community within your ministry today by intentionally speaking words of encouragement to students and fellow ministers.

D. Merricks is the Campus Pastor at the Wesley Foundation of Macon.

DAY 18 ~ SEPTEMBER 9, EVENING

READ: 1 Samuel 3:10

PRAY: Dear God, we surrender all of our mind, body, heart and soul to you, and pray that you help us keep our eyes focused on you. Sometimes our lives can become crazy busy as the year progresses, and we can lose sight of you and your daily plan for our life and ministry. We pray that you remind us to stop what we are doing and to listen to you. We pray that you help us make time everyday to be with you and read your Word. We love you God! We are listening! We are ready to serve you! Please come fill us today with your love, grace and mercy, so that you may overflow through us onto everyone around us. Make us willing to step out of the boat, beyond our comfort zone and follow after you God. Just as your servant David in 2 Samuel said, "I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes." We want to become more undignified than ever before in serving you God! We know that we are a peculiar people. We love you God, and we want to be willing to do everything you require of us to do here on Earth. Sometimes fear may take over, and we pray that during those times, you remind us that we serve a mighty and powerful God who has promised to never leave nor forsake us. You have also told us that we may find peace in knowing you have already overcome the world, so that in you we can also overcome this world. Speak to us God! Your servants are listening! We love you so much and thank you for all the blessings you have already given us! In Jesus name we pray. Amen!

ACT: Listen intently to the Spirit today; be prepared to do something "undignified" for the Lord - especially if you fear to do so at first.

Gabriella Law is a Junior at Mercer University in Macon, GA.

DAY 19 ~ SEPTEMBER 10, MORNING

READ: 2 Kings 22:1-23:3

PRAY: Faithful God, we come to you with questions, while trusting you with them. We know questions can be good and transformational. Marinating in your questions can give us fresh insight and help us chart our course.

God, be in our time of discernment as we ask who we are, whose we are, how we are to relate to others, what we are to do with our lives, and when and where we are to act in your name.

As we lean into your wisdom, may our questions as individuals and as a connectional system with a deep yearning for ministries related to young people, stretch us and move us forward.

We call upon your Holy Spirit to reveal gaps in our knowledge. May our answers, solutions and goals come from time spent with you in prayer and devotion. Let us not find resolution simply to avoid conflict. We need the conscience-forming struggles of our quarter-lives that we might become who you dream us to be, O God.

No matter our station in life, Lord, you have given us a glimpse of the world's needs. Today, let us claim authority in your name and power that we might respond out of the wisdom and strength you give us.

Creator God, we recognize that our lives matter. So, as the world presents us with crucial issues, may we respond boldly. May our wisdom and experience contribute to your dream for the world and us. Amen.

ACT: May we never shrink from the questions of our lives and connection, but embrace the God-given questions through prayer and study.

Karen Hayden is Director of Pastoral Excellence for the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church.

DAY 19 ~ SEPTEMBER 10, NOON

READ: Acts 3:1-10

PRAY: Great and precious Lord of all, you alone are our source of strength and peace. You produce growth and spiritual fruit in our lives and in the lives of our students. What a great privilege it is to represent you to so many young leaders for your kingdom and your church. We can never thank you enough for the joy that comes into our lives from being used by you. The privilege of knowing the Savior of world and the incredible benefits of walking with you, provide our sustenance. Enable us, Lord, to press on when circumstances discourage us and frustrate our plans to reach your young people. Give us the power of your Spirit to meet your eternal and loving purposes in our campus ministries.

Help us to provide a place of nurture and empowerment for all those you are calling to be your disciples. Let their hearts be tuned to you, craving truth and life in a university atmosphere of disbelief. Help them to separate the culture that screams so loudly to them, from your voice, which calls out with saving love and concern for their souls. Teach them the power of your Spirit which has called and changed generations before them.

O Lord, so many of our students come to us wounded and broken. Let us be your healing hands to this generation. May our lives remind them always of your loving touch and your desire to make them whole. Help us to share ourselves with each new class of students. Even as our hearts are saddened as those we love move on, fill us with love for our new student friends.

Help your ministers, Lord, to remain so faithful and full of your Holy Spirit that our students may see in us a model of a life given to you. Help us to love our families in ways that demonstrate to each student what a Christian family can be.

Great God, call this generation to faithfulness and friendship with you. Let each of us be a part of that great mission.

In Jesus name, Amen.

ACT: Ask God to manifest His desire and ability to heal today in our campus ministries in a way that leaves our campuses in awe.

DAY 19 ~ SEPTEMBER 10, EVENING

READ: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

PRAY: Precious and Holy God,

We thank you for today and for everyday. We praise you for the blessings that you never cease to place in our lives. We are held in silent awe by the beauty of this world, of your beauty.

We pray for your blessings and grace to be bestowed upon campus ministries. Holy Spirit, empower the leaders and ministers and students, giving them strength in times of need, patience in times of difficulty and guidance in times of utter confusion.

Open our ears to your Word and our hearts to your love that we may be filled with the peace that only you can grant. Let your Spirit breathe into us and bring us new life. Give us the confidence to spread to others the joy of your good news, to be ambassadors of Christian love, and be beacons of light in a world that so often seems to fall into darkness.

Please continue to raise up and inspire new and passionate leaders in campus ministries, who working as your hands and feet, may make new disciples of Christ.

Lord, we love you with all our heart. We ask these things in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ACT: Email a college student who you see that God has or is equipping to serve the church and the world.

Kirsten Tesh is a student of biomedical sciences at Texas A&M University, class of 2013. She is an active member of the Texas A&M Wesley Foundation which brings her new joys and blessings every day. She is currently serving as the 2010-2011 Prayer Chair on the student organized TAMU Wesley Council.

DAY 20 ~ SEPTEMBER 11, MORNING

READ: John 12: 39-43

PRAY: Gracious God, you know how I dislike posers! Forgive me, but I have a difficult time with people who fake it. Lord, I struggle to love people who lack authenticity. Forgive me for judging those who are just like the religious leaders who would have followed Jesus but “they loved human praise more than the praise of God.” In all honesty I suppose the reason I dislike posers so much is because I too struggle with living for the praise of people more than pleasing you. God, help me to find my life by being willing to lose it. Help me to put others before my own interest. Lord I believe, please help my unbelief which comes through my posing—saying one thing but doing another.

Rock my world today, God, by showing me the needs of others. One kind word, one gesture of compassion is not too much to ask. I pray today for all the posers—including me, who could live authentic lives for you if we decided to please you above all of us. God, empower me today to live my life for you so that others might see Christ living in me.

Lord, change my campus one poser at a time—let it begin with me. Amen.

ACT: I will commit to doing one or more of the following in the next 24 hours,

- Let me begin by praying for my enemies—only you, Lord, can help me lift up people I don’t like.
- Sign up to serve in a night shelter or soup kitchen
- Attend or start a small-group study on campus
- Buy some basic school supplies for a child or volunteer to tutor
- Do a prayer walk around my campus—praying for others

Charles Kyker is lead pastor at Christ United Methodist Church, Hickory, North Carolina, where the church has four campuses and will soon launch its fifth campus. Charles and Julie have four children and one grandchild. Charles’s passion for people is summed up in Christ Church’s mission statement: “To reach millions of unchurched persons by developing thousands of fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.” www.christnc.com or ckkyker1223@aol.com.

DAY 20 ~ SEPTEMBER 11, NOON

READ: Psalm 139

PRAY: Creator God, Sustainer of Life and the giver of all things good, we come before you this day as servants desiring to do your will. It is you, dear God, who saw fit to fashion us in your very own image. Breathing your breath into us, you have given us true life. Indeed we are fearfully and wonderfully made and marvelous is all of your creation.

We petition you now to be with us, teachers, students, chaplains, campus ministers - all persons engaging in molding and shaping the lives of students, as we embark on yet another academic year. We ask that you would make of us servant leaders, doing and caring one for another.

Oh that we were perfect, that every act, every deed would be exactly in keeping with your will, but you dear God are keenly aware of our imperfections and yet you still love us and desire to use us. You have searched us and you know each of us and still you stay with us. As we strive to be servant leaders, giving our best so that you might be glorified, help us to understand that even in the midst of our failings there is opportunity to learn, grow and become more like you; for it is through our brokenness that we are made whole.

We thank you Creator God for all who are serving in universities and colleges across this country. We thank you for the lives that are going to be touched for the sake of your kingdom, that indeed we might experience a portion of heaven on our campuses nationwide. And we know that all of this is possible for you have promised to be with us always! All this we pray in the matchless name of Jesus. Amen

ACT: Strive daily in all things to give of yourself fully and do your very best as you engage others and undertake the various tasks given you.

Donald E. Brewington has served as the University Chaplain at Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, TX since 1992, where he also serves as adjunct faculty in the Department of Philosophy and Religion. Don is the immediate past President of The National Association of College and University Chaplains (2009-2010) and currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Wesley Foundation at The University of Texas. Don believes that there is joy in walking in God's call, and that University Chaplaincy has truly enriched his life. He can be reached at debrewington@htu.edu.

DAY 20 ~ SEPTEMBER 11, EVENING

READ: 1 John 4:7-21

PRAY: Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your love and the ways You show us how to love one another. We honor You because You gave your Son to us as sign of Your everlasting love. God we ask you to fill our hearts with your love in order to show love to everyone we encounter. Give us a heart of compassion so that we will not prejudge anyone based upon his or her actions, nor appearance, but according to how You see them. Father we request a removal of the fear that may be in our hearts because it hinders anyone from receiving the eternal life you desire for them to have. Reveal to us methods to interact with people in ways that exemplify your love, so that they will ultimately come into a deeper relationship with You. Thank you God for giving us love through Jesus Christ so that we may be more like Him in this community.

In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen!

ACT: Each day attempt to sacrifice something on your agenda in order to serve someone you do not know. For example, unexpectedly pay for a random person's lunch or help a custodian mop a floor.

Marcus Jones has recently graduated from Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, Tx with a degree in Business Management; he will soon start a Master of Divinity degree in the area of Christian Education. He ultimately believes God has called him to pastor, and desires to glorify God and express God's love to all. marcus.jones.hdc@gmail.com

DAY 21 ~ SEPTEMBER 12, MORNING

READ: Mark 11:22-23

PRAY: God of grace and God of power, before the mountains were brought forth from everlasting to everlasting you have been God. We praise you that you made the mountains and you know how to remove the mountains. We know that nothing is impossible for you. Help us to believe your promise that nothing shall be impossible for us as we trust in you. We believe, but help our unbelief.

Give us the wisdom to know how to live with such an incredible gift. Draw us unto yourself so that we might know your heart and your will. Let the same mind that was in Christ, our Lord, be in us. Help us to desire your will and not our own.

Then, Lord, may we be bold as we ask, as we knock and as we seek. Send us forth today as confident believers who expect to see mountains move so that your will might be done. Amen.

ACT: Speak to someone today about your confidence in God to do all things. Ask God to help you see a mountain that needs to be moved and determine to work and pray until it moves!

Al Gwinn is the bishop for the North Carolina Annual Conference. He has pastored rural, town, inner city, and urban congregations, as well as an African-American congregation. He is married to Joyce Hannah Gwinn, a retired coronary care nurse. The Gwinns have two adult daughters and sons-in law, and four grandchildren.

DAY 21 ~ SEPTEMBER 12, NOON

READ: I Corinthians 13:7

PRAY: Dear God, over the past year, many of us have prayed for your work to be done through those persons serving you on college campuses. We do it because we love students, and we love you. Paul tells us that love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. In a time of recession when funding is scarce, on campuses that are sometimes hostile towards Christians, and towards Jesus, love can be difficult. So, we ask for your help.

Help us to love.

Help us to bear the burdens of those students you've called us to minister to, even those who sometimes try our patience, and those who face difficult issues and situations we could never have imagined.

Help us to believe, even in the midst of our doubt, that you can reach to the far corners of our campus if we simply serve you in Jesus name, so that he might be known.

Help us to hope, and know the work we are doing is not a wasted effort, even when we feel unappreciated, and when we can't see any fruit for our labor.

Help us to endure all of the hardships that come with campus ministry for the sake of your kingdom, and for love of the students who will soon be leading our church into the future.

Help us to love our campuses, and to boldly cast new a vision for serving them for the sake of building your kingdom. Amen.

ACT: Campus ministers, find time each day to thank God for the opportunity to serve, and reflect and meditate on the great things God has done through your ministry. Sometimes a quick reflection and prayer can help us better love our students, and be more effective in sharing Christ with our campus!

Rev. Phillip Hernandez is a graduate of Asbury Seminary, and served as director of United Campus Ministry at the South Dakota School of Mines, and associate director of the Auburn Wesley Foundation. He is currently the director of the Wesley Foundation at New Mexico State University.

DAY 21 ~ SEPTEMBER 12, EVENING

READ: Philippians 1:8-11

PRAY: Gracious, heavenly Father, we want to thank you for your continual provision in our lives. We are eternally grateful for all that you do.

Let what Paul wrote in Philippians 1:8-11 become our prayer for each other as we continue to praise you and bring you glory. God, fill us with a desire to love as you love us. It's hard to comprehend your love for us but teach us to abound in it more and more every day, that we may love on others just as your Son has shown us what true love is. God, fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may see your true beauty. Provide us with knowledge, and a depth of insight into your Word so we can see your grace and be caught up in your mercy. As we continue to grow, Jesus, help us to discern what is best in our lives, that we may follow your example. Guide us with the Holy Spirit that we may stay pure and not deviate from the narrow path. Fill us with Your passion, Jesus, that we may go out and spread the good news; help us to not be afraid to step out of our comfort zones. Help us reflect You on the outside, that others may see You shine through us. Let glory and praise be to you, God.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

ACT: Now that we have prayed this prayer, let's go out and love people, dig deep in God's Word, seek accountability and be bold about Christ. Today do a random act of kindness for someone. Don't just limit yourself to just one. Make a difference in someone's life. This will put a smile on someone's face, which will spread to others. Make sure that you spend time with our Father this morning, afternoon or evening. Don't put it off until the last minute. Take the time to learn something new about our LORD and Savior. Use what you have learned and apply it to your daily routine. As the Spirit guides you through the day, rely on the Spirit in every aspect. As you depend on the Spirit your faith will grow and you will be challenged to go share the gospel. Christ will do the work all you have to do is be willing to step out in faith. This is a challenge for all of us but when we do this God will be glorified in every aspect.

Brett McConnell is a senior at New Mexico State University.

DAY 22 ~ SEPTEMBER 13, MORNING

READ: 1 Peter 1:13a

PRAY: Gracious God, whose gift of deliverance not only sets us free from the forces that oppress us with fear but also bestows upon us more than enough to capacity to take the message of freedom to others, grant that we will find great joy in the opportunities offered by our campus. Help us gladly engage our minds in disciplined dedication to you.

We praise you for the treasures of which we are heirs, especially for the recognition that our minds as well as our pious spirits must be engaged in your service. We give you thanks for yearning to know, as well as for the yearning to believe. We give you thanks for the courage to think as well as the courage to pray. We give you thanks for the love that embraces us in a trusting community as well as the love that sends us out into worlds where we are reluctant to trust. We give you thanks for the Spirit that seeks justice for all and extends mercy to all.

With gratitude for these gifts, we pray for the persons whom we will meet this day. Let the things that make us different from one another not make us afraid of one another. Let us be open to learning from the minds of others about ideas that have never found room in our minds. Let us find a foundation in our faith strong enough to make space for those of other faiths. And let us trust you with enough depth enough of faith that our beliefs can offer hospitality to our doubts. Then, in faith that is based more in humility than pride, we will honor you in Christ's name. Amen.

ACT: Today, read one article written from a perspective with which you do not agree and meet one person whose beliefs are different from your own.

William B. Lawrence became the new dean of Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology in 2002. He is currently the chair of the Conference Committee on the Episcopacy of the Baltimore Washington Conference. From 1992 to 1996 he served as director of the General Commission on Religion and Race.

DAY 22 ~ SEPTEMBER 13, NOON

READ: Psalm 121

PRAY: Almighty and merciful God, as we look to hills, quadrangles, Old Main buildings, chapels, student centers, sororities, classrooms and labs, we are reminded that help for our students comes from you.

So we praise you O God for your creating, redeeming, sustaining presence that is always with us and we ask your blessings on all of the students that will be entering and returning to the many colleges and universities across the country.

We ask that you grant students patience, wisdom, guidance and courage as they begin the intellectual journey of critical thinking, testing assumptions, and solving problems. May your amazing grace sustain them during the days of confusion, homesickness and times of temptation. Pour out your Spirit on their lives as they discern how they will live out the many commitments that they have made. And temper their thoughts so that they may never forget your call on their lives for a more excellent way of love, grace and following Jesus.

When they struggle with finances, relationships, family issues, personal sickness, grades, professors, roommates, weight and physical appearance, and issues of purpose, remind them that you are always with them, going out ahead of them to lead them and tarrying behind them to keep them from straying. May students feel your presence hovering above them to protect them and underneath supporting them; and most importantly, may each student feel your Almighty presence walking beside them because of your promise to never leave them. Amen.

ACT: Before you walk through the doorway of your dormitory or a building on campus, pause to ask God's blessing by silently praying these words of God's promise: The LORD will keep my going out and my coming this day and forevermore.

Dr. Quincy D. Brown is the Vice President for Spiritual Life and Church Relations at LaGrange College where he works to bridge the ministries of the church and college together. He is beginning his 14th year serving at LaGrange. Quincy is married to Dionne Moore Brown.

DAY 22 ~ SEPTEMBER 13, EVENING

READ: Philippians 4:4-7

PRAY: Wonderful Creator, Everlasting God-

We rejoice in you today and always! You are our strength, our refuge, our joy. We delight in you and trust in your ways. We want to celebrate your presence with our lives. We hope that our faith is made evident through thoughtful action. May we be tender, accepting and neighborly toward all.

We certainly get distracted by stress and worry, deadlines and expectations, selfishness and pride, but we ask that you would fill our hearts and minds with your abundant love and satisfying peace. We surrender our anxieties with confidence in you, our gracious provider.

When facing the chaos of classes, social lives, extracurricular activities, and all of the in between, we ask for moments of blessed stillness.

Quiet our minds and enable us to focus. Reveal more of your majesty to us this day.

We pray all of these things in the beautiful name of Jesus, Amen.

ACT: Walk around your college campus and find a place of peace - maybe an empty classroom, a vacant bench, or a quiet hallway. Take five minutes to give your burdens over to the Lord and give thanks for all that has and will be provided. Sit for a bit in silence and enjoy the moment.

Kelsey Tinker is a student at LaGrange College

DAY 23 ~ SEPTEMBER 14, MORNING

READ: Hebrews 5:11

PRAY: God of us all, we confess that we are slow to learn. You have blessed us with minds to receive all kinds of information from your abundant world around us. You have come to us in Jesus to show us how to relate to you and to each other in grace, compassion, and justice. You continue to provide us with direction, strength, and support through the presence of the Holy Spirit. You have blessed us, O God, and we give you thanks!

And yet, we too often close our minds, narrow our vision, blind our eyes, and seek only our own way. We turn in upon ourselves, and close ourselves off from you.

O God, open our hearts, our minds, our spirits to your abundant grace. Help us to be true disciples . . . students . . . learners . . . of all your ways. Grant us the joy of grand adventures in trust, as your Spirit opens us to new vistas of life. Today, may we walk with you, with open eyes, open ears, open arms to all your people.

In the spirit of Christ, we pray. Amen.

ACT: Try to be open to God's presence in each person and circumstance you encounter today.

Jim Standiford is senior pastor at First United Methodist Church in San Diego, California.

DAY 23 ~ SEPTEMBER 14, NOON

READ: Matthew 17:20

PRAY: This is a BIG prayer.

This requires more than just reading words on a page.

This requires every mustard-sized grain of faith I've got. And, I can't pray this without a God that is big enough to pray this prayer to.

I won't pray this unless I mean it – unless I am committed to actually do something - with God's help, of course.

This will take guts to pray, and more guts to live. Praying this might COST me something...or EVERYTHING!

I'll sound like a fool...I'll live like one too...

God, SAVE the world, and start with me...

REFORM the Church, and start with me...

INVADE my campus, and start with me...

IGNITE my campus ministry, and start with me...

FILL the hearts of my students, and start with me...

IMMERSE me in all that you are...I'm gonna need you...

Today, I commit my WHOLE heart, mind, body and soul to your kingdom to come on my campus – on earth as it is in heaven. I will live boldly, yet humbly – unafraid of being known for my radical faith in a RADICAL GOD.

I commit to the beautiful and the ugly, to the popular and the forgotten, to the accepted and the rejected, to the ones who make headlines and the ones overlooked – except by Jesus...and me. I'll do whatever it takes for students to know that they are LOVED, that their lives are PRECIOUS, that they were made for MORE.

They might hide from me, just like they hide from YOU...but WE will find them, and WE will love them, and some of them will love US back! We WON'T give up!

And, I pray that a few of them just might become heroes, revolutionaries, history makers, world-changers...SAINTS.

That's my prayer...nothing less will do. God, LET'S DO IT. Amen.

ACT: Eat in the freshmen dining hall every day this week. Sit with students you know and meet their friends. Invite others to join you. Invite them to your next gathering.

Vance Rains is the Campus Pastor of the Florida State Wesley.

DAY 23 ~ SEPTEMBER 14, EVENING

READ: Ephesians 5:8

PRAY: Dear Lord, I thank You that Christians have a presence on college campuses, and I pray that every campus would have its own city on a hill – a group of students and/or professors who can stand up for Christ in the midst of a college culture which tends to be focused on idols of selfish indulgence and vain ambition.

Father, I ask that we, as a Christian community, would not forget where we came from, that we would reach outside of our bubble, outside of where we are comfortable, and get inside the world. Let our separation be clear and evident, as light to darkness, but may we remember that our separation is not a physical one, but a spiritual one. Just as Your Son dined with sinners and treated them with respect and love, help us to do the same. Restore the joy of our salvation, that we would be expedient to spread that joy to the lost. Remind us of the emptiness we had, that we might comfort the lonely. Teach us how we used to think before we grew in the knowledge of You, so that we could share the understanding of those who don't understand.

God, bring to us those who are searching, but also, send us out to them. Let them see in us something that draws them to You. I pray that the culture of the university would change from one characterized by promiscuity and drug use to one of spiritual growth and maturity instead. Use Your people. God, and may Your will be done above all else. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ACT: Sit for a few moments with the lights off (but don't fall asleep!). Think about how darkness clouds out our perspective and prevents us from being who God has called us to be. Turn on a light, light a candle, or turn on your cell phone and see how the light dispels the darkness. Make that your prayer—to live as a light in the darkness.

Josh Raucci is a senior at Florida State University.

DAY 24 ~ SEPTEMBER 15, MORNING

READ: John 16:14

PRAY: Dear Holy Spirit, we are so thankful that you love to reveal Jesus Christ to people so that they might find Jesus as savior, yield their entire life to him, and glorify Jesus in all their living. Thank you for the words in John 16:14 where Jesus says, “He [the Holy Spirit] will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

O precious Lord Jesus, as we pour out our hearts to you today, we ask that students across this land would receive the ministry of the Holy Spirit who reveals you as the truth and Lord and Master of all things. You are the Son of the living God, transcendent and yet humble enough to live in our hearts. We cry out to you to come and touch each and every student across this land, that they may receive the beauty, the wonder and the power of Jesus Christ, our beloved Lord.

We pray for hearts to be open to receive the truth of Jesus Christ in these days of great uncertainty and unrest. Open the windows of heaven and pour out on these young people the power of God that will radically change lives and desires. May their dreams of the future be molded by your hands.

We pray in faith believing, with thanksgiving, in Jesus Christ’s powerful name. Amen.

ACT: Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to stay in the spirit of prayer and supplication all day long for the young people of America.

Margaret Therkelson is an author and speaker on the prayer life. She speaks out of a rich heritage of prayer from her parsonage home. Her speaking engagements have taken her across the country and abroad. She continues to lead a large interdenominational prayer group for over thirty years and enjoys her work as a spiritual director to many.

DAY 24 ~ SEPTEMBER 15, NOON

READ: Psalm 63:1-11

PRAY: Gracious and all satisfying God, we know that your love is better than life and that when our hearts rest in you we discover a meal that satisfies like no other. Yet, we confess to you that we find ourselves drinking and eating that which does not satisfy and spending our lives pursuing that which will not matter for all of eternity. Forgive us and purge us of that which has brought us false satisfaction and temporary pleasure. And so, we pray that the students on our campuses will grow so hungry and thirsty for you that every other love will become bland in comparison to the bounty we discover at your table. May the students on our campuses be so nourished by your truth and grace that they will forsake pursuing empty idols in a desert where we only find mirages of your presence and promises. May we never stop singing in your presence. May we always cling to you. May we always remember you even in the watches of the night. God, raise up a generation that earnestly seeks you in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

In Jesus Name, Amen.

ACT: Refrain or fast from doing something in your normal schedule today so that you can take time to seek God through prayer and the study of God's Word.

Andy Roberts is the Director of the Southern Methodist University Wesley Foundation

DAY 24 ~ SEPTEMBER 15, EVENING

READ: 1 Thessalonians 5:23

PRAY: My Most Holy and Sanctifying God, I cry out to you God in distress. I cry out to you in sorrow for those who have not yet experienced the fullness of your glory. So great in number are those college students who need to seek you out; so dire is their need for your divine touch and yet they do not perceive it themselves. My Lord and Master, may a powerful stirring of your Spirit intoxicate the campuses of your world; may we have a desire to seek you not only in pattern or routine, but with a wholeness of heart, soul, strength, and mind. May we burn with such a desire to become more and more like you God that all that what we once were may become ashes and that all we shall become may be a powerful reflection of you. I cry out to you my most awesome and loving God that a desire for holiness may arise amongst us all who call, and will call you God. I cry out for Christians who will not sit idly in pew or chair as sin overtakes this world, but for Christians that desire inward holiness and a true spreading of your Gospel. Our God, help us to be more like you so that we can love as you do, weep when you do, and be holy as you are.

ACT: Take a walk around your campus or community and try to see with the eyes of Christ... let your heart break as His does.

Robert Perales, 2nd Year Student at Perkins School of Theology, SMU, Dallas, Texas.

DAY 25 ~ SEPTEMBER 16, MORNING

READ: 2 Chronicles 16:9

PRAY: Lord Jesus, faithful witness and blessed Savior, you alone are worthy of worship from this generation!

Lord, we want to be people whose hearts are fully committed to you. So that as your eyes search this earth, you will find a generation with clean hands and pure hearts, who have not lifted our souls up to idols. Lord, give us undivided hearts, so that we can learn how to live in this world but not of it.

Lord, because you alone are worthy to be adored, we ask that you would mark this generation of university students to be ones that your eyes find “fully committed to you” so that you might strengthen them. As they seek you, they can know you more, and as they know you more, they can cry out on behalf of their friends on campus. Set them apart so they glorify you Lord Jesus, and help them abide in you alone as the world screams for their attention.

Lord Jesus, we so desire another Great Awakening in our nation—starting with university students as in the past, so that the name of Jesus would be made known above every other name in our nation, and in the nations of the earth! Amen.

ACT: Take some time to read 2 Chronicles 16:9 and set your heart to be one who God sees while searching the earth. Ask the Holy Spirit to mold you even more today to be one “fully committed” to God (the Hebrew here implies “friendly” toward God).

Dana Hernandez spent her childhood on the sunny Carolina Coast near Charleston, South Carolina. She has spent the majority of the last eight years of her life, betwixt Holy Spirit globe-trotting expeditions, discipling college students, and mobilizing 24-7 prayer on campuses in Georgia. Along with praying and mobilizing prayer, Dana loves seeing people walk in wholeness and the fullness of Christ.

DAY 25 ~ SEPTEMBER 16, NOON

READ: John 15:9-17

PRAY: Gracious and loving God, we do indeed thank you that your love and peace is beyond our understanding. May we continue to understand more of that love everyday and may we recognize your love and presence on college campuses throughout the world. May we not just know your love for us, but be transformed by your love so that we may love others through our work in campus ministry and as disciples of Jesus Christ.

O God, we know we constantly fall short of being able to love as you have loved us, so we seek forgiveness as we see our ministries in competition with other ministries, as we fight over differences, as we exclude others who are not like us, as we fail to be voices of peace and justice, and as we fail to reach-out to those on our campuses who are hurting and do not know your love. Transform our hearts and minds that we may be able to truly love so much that we would even be willing to lay our lives down for our friends, that we might engage in bold acts of love on our campuses to show the world the love you have shown in Jesus Christ. Amen.

ACT: Participate in a bold and even risky act of Christian love on your campus. Hold a clothing drive for the homeless, organize a peaceful rally on campus advocating for an issue of peace or justice, hand out random notes of love and encouragement to strangers on campus during midterms or finals, or come up with your own idea!

Rev. Rob Rynders is the campus minister at the Wesley Foundation at Arizona State University.

DAY 25 ~ SEPTEMBER 16, EVENING

READ: Luke 4:14-21

PRAY: O God, let Your Spirit flow through us--the students, ministers and campus ministries who seek to do Your work throughout our communities; allow us to reach out to all people.

Enable us, as members in the body of Christ, to bring good news to the poor and freedom to the oppressed. Encourage us to seek Your face in each person we meet. Fill the hearts of each individual in these different ministries with Your love in order to bring peace and justice to those in whom You have found favor. Teach us to serve our brothers and sisters, especially "the least of these." Make us instruments of You so that we may effectively and positively impact the world around us.

We act through the power of Your love and grace, remembering the lessons Christ taught us through His actions. May You guide us as we strive to create ministries that reach out to all people, realizing we are all Your children, regardless of any apparent differences. We thank You for the opportunities you present us with to do Your blessed work, and we ask for Your Spirit to remain with us through our actions.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

ACT: May all campus ministries seek ways to engage in outreach and missions for all of God's children in their communities and in the world. Start a new justice or outreach ministry on your campus; add a new, intentional mission trip or service project to your campus ministry program. Try to address and promote a specific area of missions each year, semester, or even each new month. Do something visible on campus to draw attention to a community or world concern (i.e. Nothing But Nets, Health Kits for Haiti, etc.).

Cara Coleman is a student at the Wesley Foundation at Arizona State University.

DAY 26 ~ SEPTEMBER 17, MORNING

READ: Ephesians 2:13-14

PRAY: Loving and just God, we give thanks that in Christ Jesus you have broken down every dividing wall. From many places, you call us together into one body, in one spirit. From varied histories and diverse experiences, we bring all that we are.

Give each of us your grace, holy God, to delight in the differences among us. Move me toward those who speak their faith in words different from ones I choose. Open my heart to listen to ones whose prayers do not sound like mine. Teach me to see how faith takes others in directions different from mine.

Soften our voices, gentle our spirits, temper our fervor—that we may learn that we do not have all of your wisdom, that we may discover your truth in surprising places.

Never let us lose that passion for all we can be as sisters and brothers in Christ, and shape us that we may live that passion with grace and curiosity.

Especially, great God, pour passion, grace and curiosity upon all those in learning communities, and pour your generous spirit into all who love and support them.

Through Christ who is our peace, in whom we are made one, we pray. Amen.

ACT: Consider beginning a conversation with a sister or brother in Christ whose perspective is very different from yours. A hymn by one of our forefathers in the faith, Charles Wesley, may suggest the spirit with which you start your conversation. See especially “Jesus, Lord, We Look to Thee” (#562 in The United Methodist Hymnal).

Lovett H. Weems Jr. is professor of church leadership and director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC.

DAY 26 ~ SEPTEMBER 17, NOON

READ: Genesis 1

PRAY: God of All Creation, we praise you for who you are and how you reveal your character to us throughout your Word and our lives. We pray you will bring order into chaos throughout our ministries as you did during creation. We pray we will be instruments of order in the lives of the college students as Your Spirit brings life, peace and freedom.

We pray, just as you brought life out of an empty and formless land, that you will bring life in those areas of our campuses that are void, dark and formless. We ask that life will rise up and amazing fruit will grow throughout our campuses and in our lives.

Just as your creation reproduced according to its own kind, we pray that Your Image will radiate from us. We pray, as we plant the seed of the unfathomable Gospel of Christ, much fruit will burst forth that reflects Your Glory and that we will all erupt with life as You do.

We pray as You speak this year, we will be transformed by the power of Your Word and as the world sees the transformation, they will encounter the truth of who You are: You are the one who makes us new and alive.

We pray as your Spirit fills us, we will walk in the power of your Holy Spirit and not gratify the sinful desires of the flesh.

Lastly, God I pray you will breathe your breath of life into all the campus ministers, staff and everyone we encounter this year. MAKE US ALIVE to do your will and to reach our campuses with the love of Christ.

To You be the Glory forever. Amen.

ACT: Take 10-15 minutes and write down 3 areas of your life and/or ministry where the God of creation is needed to bring order into chaos...peace into conflict...freedom from bondage...light into darkness.

What is God calling you to do to participate with Him in these 3 areas? Where do you need to step in to bring peace, order, freedom and light as the Body of Christ in your world?

Scott Wright is the Director of the Louisiana Tech Wesley Foundation.

DAY 26 ~ SEPTEMBER 17, EVENING

READ: Psalm 138

PRAY: Father, I give you thanks!

I praise you because your love never fails!

You are faithful beyond all understanding.

So, Father, hear this prayer like you hear all others.

Give us, campus ministries, the strength that we need.

The strength to live in Christ and remain true to what we proclaim as your church. You have authority over all the earth, over all creation, so let us live in the joy and peace of knowing that you especially have authority over our campuses. You care for your creation and I know that you will guard us; that you will guard our hearts and protect us from Satan's lies. I pray that we live our lives as stewards of your faith. That we, as followers of Christ, would fully step into this ministry. We will need the guidance of your Spirit in order to serve this campus. We need this because we are weak. You breathe life into u...you give us power...you give us love. Without your Spirit, this would be impossible and I thank you every day for that. And I know that your plans for this ministry are amazing.

You've began a work in us and are faithful to complete it. You always love. You remain faithful to what you have created. We know that you won't abandon us, you are our Father. Amen.

ACT: Identify 3 people who need to know the love of God and His strength. Find one way to communicate that truth to those 3 people within the week.

Kevin Perkins just graduated with a degree in Graphic Design from Louisiana Tech University and is currently serving as an intern. He is originally from Pineville, LA.

DAY 27 ~ SEPTEMBER 18, MORNING

READ: Ephesians 3:20

PRAY: Dear God, as we commit ourselves to prayer in expectation of the year ahead, we lift our thoughts to our college students, campus pastors, campus ministries and those who stand in the gap for young people across the globe. We enter into our prayer with the understanding that we have power given to us through you and with that power you will do more than we can imagine. We thank you for your greatness and the power that is at work within us. We pray that you will remind our young people of the power that is within them so they are able to stand for you and your plan. Remind them of their value and worth.

Continue to strengthen and resource our campus ministers, staff, and volunteers. Do exceedingly, abundantly above all they can ask, think or imagine. Give them influence and favor on their campuses so that the love of Christ may flow.

Loving God, we believe in you to move in a new and profound way upon the hearts of students and campus ministers during the coming year. God, guide and sustain them through the joys and challenges that lie ahead.

We know all things are in your hands and we celebrate our relationship with you as we live out our calling.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

ACT: Think of the names of three campus pastors or chaplains, Wesley foundations or college campus ministries, and commit to praying for them for one week.

Olu Brown is the lead pastor of Impact Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

DAY 27 ~ SEPTEMBER 18, NOON

READ: Philemon 1:6

PRAY: Lord Jesus Christ, I pray today, that you would fill the Christian students across this country's campuses with your Spirit of love, compassion, and seeking heart. I pray that you would open our eyes to see our fellow students, faculty, and staff with your eyes and sense what your heart feels for them. As we interact with people today, overwhelm us with the desire that you have for each of these persons to know you and the God who sent you to seek and save those who are lost.

May we be inspired by St. Francis to "share the Gospel and use words when necessary", recognizing how very often words are absolutely necessary in order for others to see and know that we love, share, and care for them because of your love in us and your love for them. Please pour out your perfect love into our hearts in order to drive out the fear of speaking the name of Jesus Christ and speaking of his salvation to our friends.

I pray that today, this week, this year, many students on our campus would come to a place to proclaim with their mouth that Jesus Christ is their Lord and would begin walking in discipleship with him. I pray that many of the Christian students on our campuses would become active in sharing their faith with others around them, so that others will come to know you and that we will understand more fully what we have in our relationship with you. In Christ's saving name I pray.

ACT: My encouragement to you today is to begin/continue praying for your friends who have not proclaimed Christ as their Lord today. Find a way today to serve them, be hospitable to them, and to share with them even one brief way that having Christ in your life has made a difference. Look for the chance to share with them the invitation to place their faith in Christ also.

Rusty Teeter has been the director of the Texas Wesley Foundation in Austin for 12 years. Together with his wife, Cheryl and son, Stephen, Rusty has continued to try to "Keep Austin Weird" by inviting people into the crazy counter-cultural life of following Jesus Christ. Rusty loves sports and taking crazy adventures with Stephen.

DAY 27 ~ SEPTEMBER 18, EVENING

READ: 1 Corinthians 2:13-14

PRAY: Abba, you are so good. You have given us this day and each breath we take. Thank you. You have made us in your image. God, thank you for making us your children, each crafted in your likeness. You have given us your Spirit. And oh, how we need it. Thank you for helping us to walk with you by your Spirit.

We cry out to you, God. We look around us on our campuses and see your children, broken and unfulfilled. We want to reach out, Lord. How do we express truth to those that will not hear? Our words come out like nonsense to them. How do we meet the needs of those who refuse to see their own brokenness? God, only you can do it. We are here to be used as you want, but we need you. Holy Spirit, come down and be a presence in the hearts of your children today. Give us words to say, and give those we meet ears to hear. We need you. We desperately need you. We ask boldly for an encounter with you. God, if those who do not know you were to truly see you, they could not help but love you. If we were to truly know you, we could not help but to fearlessly declare the truth of who you are. Come and overwhelm us with your love, your grace, your presence. Amen.

ACT: Write down the name of one friend who is missing God's truth. What kind of encounter with God do you think they need? Pray for it.

Emily Burnham is a senior Mathematics major at the University of Texas, Austin. Emily has been active at the Texas Wesley for three years and has been a leader in outreach to her Dean Scholar community, leading a women's discipleship group. She will also serve as Prayer Coordinator for the upcoming year.

DAY 28 ~ SEPTEMBER 19, MORNING

READ: 2 Corinthians 5:17

PRAY: Holy and gracious God, you are in the business of making all things new. You love fresh starts and humble hearts. We come to you in prayer for each college student who will step onto campus this fall. May their hearts be full of motivation for knowledge and inspiration to serve others. Renew the heart and mind of each campus minister as they represent you. Be their words, a kind hug, a high-five, or a simple smile. Use our campus leaders to remind students they aren't alone as they navigate the pressures and realities of college life.

Jesus, you make all things new. May your spirit of compassion, grace and high expectations sweep across our campuses. As new groups of discipleship and accountability form, may a desire to passionately know you bring new friends together. We are serious about living your love. Forgive us for the times we fall short of what you desire for us. By your grace and mercy, welcome us back with loving arms.

Holy Spirit, send your power. Open hearts and minds to your presence. We ask that you make us aware of new places of need in and around each campus. Show us a neighborhood, an elementary school, a group of people who need to see this love we profess become real.

Through your power and grace. Amen.

ACT: Get several students together and do a relaxed prayer walk around your closest college campus. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to a need you've never seen before. Pray for ways to involve others in meeting that need.

Jenny Smith is appointed as associate pastor at East Anchorage and Anchor Park United Methodist Church in Anchorage, Alaska. She is a provisional elder in the Pacific Northwest Conference. She blogs at www.jenniferkaysmith.com.

DAY 28 ~ SEPTEMBER 19, NOON

READ: Philemon 1:6

PRAY: Here we are again Lord -another semester winding up at a swifter pace than we realize.

Slow our hearts Lord, that we may love all others and not just those we'd like to.
Slow our minds Lord, that we may pause and reflect on You in the midst of this academic madness.

Slow our souls Lord, may our spirits be infused by Your Spirit to overflowing capacity.
Slow our strength Lord, that we may depend on You each and every moment of the days flying by.

Open our eyes that we may see Your goodness and mercy.

Open our hearts to Your love.

Give us opportunities to bless Your name.

Grant us privilege to share our faith in You.

May we – students, faculty, staff, and community members – be moved by You, O God.
Moved in such a way that Your glory overwhelms the campuses we are a part of.
May we be Your hands and feet, Your eyes and ears, Your presence reaching out to
Those who are lost, who are broken, who are least, who need You most.

Through us may others understand Your compassionate care for them.

Through us may our campuses be stations for Your glory.

Through us may a movement of Your love remain contagious.

Until each campus becomes a beacon of Your glory and goodness.

Amen.

ACT: Ask someone you wouldn't normally speak with if you can pray for him/her today.
Think of other ways to creatively share your faith.

Rev. Beth Tipton is the director of the UVA-Wise Wesley Foundation.

DAY 28 ~ SEPTEMBER 19, EVENING

READ: Matthew 5:14

PRAY: God, let this be a year for you.

Help us rise out of our own fears and worries and live for you.

We are to be your city on a hill on this campus, a light in the lives of the people we encounter every day. We do it for you, and we can't do it without you.

Comfort us when we are scared, smooth away the stress in our hearts. Remind us every so often that you made us wonderfully, and that you love us. Enable us to see the hurt and the need in our community, and to reach out in love to the people who need it. Let us see others as you see them, Lord, as precious children you created, and as strong men and women that you love. Help us to reserve judgment and to meet the needs people actually have, not the needs we think they have. Help us just to be present in each moment and willing to see what you would have us do.

Let your love show in our actions, in our thoughts, and in our words. Light us on fire, God, so people want to see what we're burning for. Let us live passionately, wholly, and fully in you. Thank you for loving us and guiding us. Amen.

ACT: Be a light today. In word, thought or action, show someone how much the God of the universe loves them.

Allie Robinson is a senior majoring in communication studies and foreign studies at UVA-Wise. She currently serves as the President of the UVA-Wise Wesley Foundation, and has enjoyed being a part of the Wesley Fellowship community there since her freshman year. She can be reached at agr2q@uvawise.edu

DAY 29 ~ SEPTEMBER 20, MORNING

READ: John 15:9-12

PRAY: Dear holy and gracious God, here I am calling on you for help. Your commandment is clear. You want me to love others as you love me. I'm not sure that I can follow your commandment today. I don't want to love all of my neighbors. I'll be glad to love the ones that agree with me, who say "thank you" to me, and who appreciate all of my hard work on their behalf. I'm not sure that I can love my neighbors who ignore me, who actively disagree with me, and who tease me about being too Christian.

It's hard to love colleagues who don't believe that my ministry is important enough to be included in the life of this campus, and it's equally hard to love students who enjoy tearing down the faith of those who participate in these ministries. So, God, hear my plea for help. I want to follow your commandment this day. I'm finding it really hard to do so. I want to lash out with anger and hostility. Engage my heart once again with the power of your love so that I may persevere in this ministry with students, faculty, and campus administrators.

Open my heart so that your love will abide deeply within my innermost being. Help me to engage in ministry today with a sense of joy, of anticipation, and hope. As I pray this prayer, I don't want you to think I'm whining. I really need your help today! Thanks for listening, gracious God. Amen.

ACT: Today, as you encounter people who are hard to love (or like or even appreciate), consider deep within yourself what causes the alienation. Consider "who you are being" that may cause difficult responses from others. Is there anything you might do differently as you encounter these people? If so, change today how you relate to a couple of people and see if their reaction to you changes. If so, consider making permanent changes in how you engage them in the future. Since we can change only ourselves--and not others--work today by changing yourself in relationship to others who are hard to love, as Jesus has commanded us to do.

Karen Greenwaldt is the General Secretary (CEO) of the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church. This international agency serves church leaders around the world to help them create vibrant and vital churches and faith communities. Karen is an ordained elder in the Central Texas Annual Conference. In addition, she's a fabric artist. She and her husband, Russ Harris, live in Nashville, Tennessee. Karen's contact information: kgreenwaldt@gbod.org, 877.899.2780, General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003.

DAY 29 ~ SEPTEMBER 20, NOON

READ: Psalm 139

PRAY: Almighty God and Creator of all things, you know me so very well. You know me better than I even know myself. When it feels like you are very distant, I cling to your promise that you know when I sit and when I rise. I rejoice in the knowledge that you are familiar with all my ways. I celebrate the reality that you are always present and near whenever I am in the world.

You have created me with the potential for greatness because I am wonderfully made. Yet I know that I also have the potential for great failure. The tension between the wonderful and fearful is stretched to the limits in our world today. God, I pray that You lead me towards greatness in your kingdom!

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (verses 23-24).

ACT: God has invested so much love and care in creating each of us. It is time for me to invest my love and care in others. I hope you will strengthen the relationships you have with your family, the people in your church, and the students in your campus ministry.

Rev. Mike Toluba is the campus minister for the United Methodist campus ministry at Kansas State University (K-State Wesley).

DAY 29 ~ SEPTEMBER 20, EVENING

READ: Psalm 37:7-9

PRAY: Dear Lord, our Holy Father, I pray you will help me with patience. It eludes me all too often. I lift myself up to you, for your guidance and power, to bring me the patience I need in all areas of my life. You are the God of all things, and I pray that you will help me to remember why patience is a virtue. Whether it is patience at work, at school or with friends, please help me to remember that all goes according to your plan.

Teach me to wait on your work and your love. Teach me that not everything has to be done right now, but that some things are better left alone for a later time. Your path is always before me, if I take the time to follow it; I pray that I can keep that always in my thoughts.

ACT: Remember that old 'count to ten' trick when you're angry or impatient? Make it a point to actually use it. You'll be surprised how often it really does help.

Sean Tomlinson is a student at Kansas State University and can be reached at sean.r.tomlinson@gmail.com

DAY 30 ~ SEPTEMBER 21, MORNING

READ: Luke 24:13-32

PRAY: Loving God, we take this time to pause and thank you for all you have done, all you continue to do in our day, and all that which we hope you will yet do among students around the world.

As we pray we dare to consider the work of the spirit amongst students in days past; of a hero like John Mott who dreamed of such a wave of mission unleashed from college campuses that the world would be won for Christ in a single generation. We pray your will be done.

As we pray we reflect on the current move of the spirit across our college campuses, of initiatives that are marrying prayer with mission in a way unseen for many generations. We pray your will be done.

As we pray we dream of thousands of young men and women coming to faith in Christ and being trained and sent as mission-minded disciples around the world. We pray your will be done.

But our prayers today are not just for the thousands and for the nations. They are for the faces we see and the hearts we hear. They are for individuals who find themselves in universities and colleges, many for the first time--young men and women with hopes and fears, who will make mistakes and misplace their trust.

Today we pray for each of these: that your will be done in their lives. And as we pray we are reminded of the "hopeless" disciples who chose in despair to walk the seven-mile long road to Emmaus. And we remember with hope that you, Jesus Christ Emmanuel, chose to walk that road with them. At each step you restored and healed, renewing hope and identity. Today Lord Jesus we pray for those on our campuses that "had hoped." We pray restoration, healing and hope for this generation. And Jesus we ask that we would today follow your example in seeking out the hopeless, choosing to walk with them on their long road.

In the wonderful name of Jesus Christ Emmanuel. Amen.

ACT: Real prayer always gives birth to practical engagement. Find practical ways of being "good news to the poor" with our Just24-7 network at www.24-7prayer.com/just24-7.

Pete Greig is one of the founding champions of the 24-7 Prayer movement, the Director of Prayer for Holy Trinity, Brompton in London, and a facilitator for the Campus America initiative.

DAY 30 ~ SEPTEMBER 21, NOON

READ: Proverbs 29:18

PRAY: Almighty and everlasting God, source of wisdom and inspiration,
Be present with those whom you have called to play such a vital role in the lives of our campuses and the renewal and mission of your Church;
to touch the hearts of a new generation of Christ-followers
and to raise up disciples in service to your Kingdom.

Your Word declares, "where there is no vision, the people perish."

We have seen the statistics, the declining numbers, and the World's report of a dying denomination.

And for far too long, it seems that many have been resigned to our demise.

But you are the God of resurrection and rebirth,
who continues to bring life from death,
light from darkness,
and makes all things new.

So, Lord, in your mercy,

give us a vision of all you would have us to be:

a vision not clouded by our own desires,

not blinded by our own ambitions,

not eclipsed by our own egos,

and not limited by our own imaginations.

Give us a vision so bold and a dream so big that it's only hope for fruition is faithfulness to you.

All this we ask, trusting in your guidance and your Amazing Grace. Amen.

ACT: Close your eyes and imagine the one thing that you have been longing to accomplish on your campus that has yet to be accomplished. Summarize it in a word or sentence. Write it on an index card or Post-It note and put in a prominent place in your office. That's your marching orders.

After two appointments in local congregations, Rev. Tim Wright returned to his alma mater at Florida Southern College and has served as the Riley P. and Claire M. Short Chaplain for the last 8 years. Tim is husband to Christi, daddy to Connor and Taylor, and Chap to the students he is blessed to serve.

DAY 30 ~ SEPTEMBER 21, EVENING

READ: Romans 5:20-21

PRAY: Gracious Lord,

Giver of Life and Breath of Worth, we pray in your mercy over our campuses. Help us to wrap our minds around the idea of grace, as embodied in Jesus.

May this overwhelming and dramatic gift become an indispensable part of our lives as we seek your wisdom as leaders on our campuses. May this idea of grace seep into our daily lives as a constant and consistent action that is never ceasing.

Oh Lord,

Help us to appreciate and live in a sense where we can understand that sin didn't and doesn't have a chance in competition with the aggressive forgiveness we call grace.

In this collision, may it not be heard by deaf ears or felt by hardened hearts.

Help us to aim and proclaim to others that you may be known when we experience your unmerited love poured out on our undeserving souls.

As we live our lives on our varied campuses,

may we seek to help those struggling in sin and help them to seek your aggressive forgiveness that you alone promise.

May we recognize that we worship a living and active God that does not just meet us halfway, but right where we stand with an outpouring of love and grace.

With the power of the Holy Spirit, may we receive this love just as we are.

Despite our inability and unwillingness to love and let others love us, may we declare and accept that we know that your aggressive grace and forgiveness overwhelms us unconditionally. Let us be secure in the statement that, when it's sin versus grace, grace wins hands down. May we seek and find our worth in your love, and only in your love that we cannot find in ourselves. Amen.

ACT: Take a moment to think about the collisions that happen on your campus: between the World and the Kingdom, behavior and belief, choices and character... Where could the grace of Christ be seen through you and your ministry to put itself at the point of collision?

Rob Tucker is a senior religion major at Florida Southern College where he is active in the Chapel Praise Band and Greek life. He is the youth director at College Heights United Methodist Church and has begun the candidacy process for ordination.

DAY 31 ~ SEPTEMBER 22, MORNING

READ: Philippians 4:6-7

PRAY: O Lord, our God, who provides, everlasting and eternal God of unending mercy and grace, we come to you today to pray for a Pentecostal outpouring of your holy spirit on our campus ministries, and every leader and student involved in our campus ministries. Anoint and bless and guide and protect them, their families, their ministries, their lives, their relationships and all they do.

Give these servants emotional, physical and spiritual health, strength, and well being. Prosper them and give them financial stability, and give them fulfillment and satisfaction in their ministries and their lives. Deepen and strengthen their faith and trust in you, and help them grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Anoint them as they lead and serve their ministries, in their visioning and dreaming, in their preaching and teaching, in their pastoring and leading, and in their serving and loving, that they may lead and serve their ministries biblically, courageously, faithfully, prophetically, and truthfully, seeking only to please you.

Revive and renew them and give them a common vision for their ministries and their lives, so they may be your people, members of your household, brothers and sisters in Christ, who are biblically-based, faith-sharing, fervently praying, foot-washing, sacrificially-giving, spirit-filled, faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Help them stay committed to the church's mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world to your glory.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our risen, reigning, returning Lord and Savior, master and teacher, high priest and intercessor, mediator and friend. Amen.

ACT: In all your personal encounters today, may you understand yourself as a "Jesus-with-skin-on" person, trusting the indwelling spirit of Christ to guide your actions, your listening, your speaking, and your loving.

Jim Turley is senior vice president and executive director of the Texas Methodist Foundation, Institute for Clergy and Congregational Excellence.

DAY 31 ~ SEPTEMBER 22, NOON

READ: 1 John 3:18-20

PRAY: Lord God,

We thank you and we praise you that each day you present to us a clean slate, a fresh day, and a new opportunity to live in light of your grace. We thank you for the blessings in our lives- especially those that go unnoticed. We also praise you that you are already active within those situations that trouble us and weigh us down. Each day, we face challenges living within the environment of college, whether we're a student or one who ministers to students. We face the pressure to discern our calling, plan our future, live lives of integrity, and humbly serve others within a culture that glorifies individualism and achievement. The reality is that we all stumble at times under the weight of this pressure, but remind us, Lord, that you know everything. May that be comforting rather than intimidating. You know our motivations and desires, our strengths and weaknesses, and the circumstances that we face in each moment because you made us and you are with us. Remind us that while we are responsible for our actions, you know the deepest motivations of our hearts, even when we don't act out of them. When we feel guilty and run down by sin, give us assurance of your grace and forgiveness. Remind us that we do not need to earn your love but rather trust the work you have already done on our behalf in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Overcome our emotions and fill us with a peace that passes all understanding and fills us up to be poured out into the lives of those around us. We ask all of these things in your name. Amen.

ACT: Put a Bible verse that reminds you of God's love for you in a place where you will see it often throughout the week (ex. dry-erase marker on your mirror, post-it at your desk, or a slip of paper on your car's instrument panel). Put the verse into action by loving those you meet on a daily basis on your campus.

Dan Wunderlich is beginning his fourth academic year as the Assistant Pastor/Director at the Gator Wesley Foundation in Gainesville, FL. He is a certified candidate for ministry and is applying for provisional membership in the Florida Conference in October 2010. He can be reached at: dan@gatorwesley.com

DAY 31 ~ SEPTEMBER 22, EVENING

READ: 1 Corinthians 1: 27-28, 2:5

PRAY: God, we give you praise for providing us with fellowship in our faith communities. We thank you for this refuge where we are restored by those who have also chosen the narrow path. Lord, on our campuses, our fields of ministry are full of intellectuals who tell us faith cannot be trusted because it is not logical. God, your ways are beyond the knowledge of man. You humble us by upsetting our expectations as how your will is to be achieved, of how our salvation is reached. We thank for using the lowly things of the world to do your will and for bringing us hope that we do not need to be successful by the world's standards to serve You. Please give us the words by your spirit to defend the faith when challenged by our peers and teachers. Help us remember they are lost and that their resistance is the result of incomplete hearts, so that we may have even greater compassion. Lord, we thank you for showing us the way, overcoming our intellectual tendencies, and we ask that You will protect our own hearts and minds from the confines of logic. May our faith rest always in your power and not on the wisdom of men. In Jesus's name, Amen

ACT: Encourage another classmate or colleague when they are having a difficult day due to the stress of the academic environment.

Rebecca (Becca) is a third-year student at the University of Florida majoring in Health Science and minoring in Spanish. She serves on the Upper Room Staff of the Gator Wesley Foundation, where she has been involved since her first weekend in college. Her hometown church is St. John's UMC in Winter Haven, Florida. Becca's passion in ministry is discipleship through the study of the Word.

DAY 32 ~ SEPTEMBER 23, MORNING

READ: John 15

PRAY: Precious Jesus, source, nurturer, and sustainer of all life, we pray this day for campus ministry and campus ministers throughout our world.

For those who lead and teach, may they be faithful cultivators of fertile minds and hearts. May through the grace of their own relationship with you, faith and courage overflow into the lives of those for whom they care. Remind them and help them remind others that apart from you they can do nothing.

For students, may their roots grow down deep into your love and life so that they may understand how high, how wide and how deep your love is, and so that they may, in addition to growing deep, branch out to others with that love.

For all connected to campus and student ministry, may they be clear that the goal of a life rooted in you is not just knowledge, or just piety, or just service—but a fruitful life in which all who come in contact with them are nourished in the love that finds its source and substance in you.

In the difficult circumstances of our world—indifference, wars, poverty, violent opposition, pandemic crises, brokenness, pain and suffering of indescribable proportions—may they be witnesses who testify about you as those who know you best.

For these people and for the advance of your kingdom, we pray for the fullness of your Holy Spirit to be poured out on them this day.

In the name of Jesus our Savior, we pray. Amen.

ACT: Carry a piece of fruit with you today. Don't eat it; just carry it with you as a tangible reminder of our call as followers to "fruitful lives." Take fifteen minutes at the end of the day to eat the fruit and reflect on opportunities seized or missed today to represent Jesus as one who knows him best.

Bryan Collier was called to ministry while involved as a student in The Wesley Foundation of Mississippi State University. He now is the founding and lead pastor of The Orchard, a United Methodist congregation in Tupelo, Mississippi. He is an elder in the United Methodist Church, and the founder of The Church Planter's School for his annual conference. You can contact him at bryan@theorchard.net.

DAY 32 ~ SEPTEMBER 23, NOON

READ: John 1:12-13; 6:5-15

PRAY: Sovereign God, in Whom we live, move, and have our being, we humbly ask that You cleanse our hearts, renew our spirits, transform our minds, and purify our thoughts and desires.

You, Who created us in Your own image, Who designed us for shalom, and destined us for greatness not measured by what we possess, but by the One who possesses us; not ascertained merely through intellectual discourse, but by actively seeking and receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and LORD; not activated by our wealth, but by our poverty in acknowledging that we need You; not manifested by our efforts, but by Your power given us in the Person of the Holy Spirit; and not born of the flesh, but born of the Spirit of the Living God!

We come to You, O God, like the boy with the five barley loaves and two fish to place our meagerness in Your hands that You, Who is not a respecter of persons, may multiply it the way You multiplied a boy's lunch to feed a crowd of five thousand. Whether we are students, faculty, university staff, or campus ministers, we can place our meager thoughts, hopes, dreams, time, talents, and treasures in Your hands and expect a miracle. Though what we possess seems inadequate, insufficient, and ineffectual, we come as Your children believing that, in Your hands, our little becomes much!

Holy God, manifest Your Kingdom on college campuses, and make campus ministries thriving communities for spiritual formation, vocational discernment, and leadership development. Raise up a generation that entrusts You with their meagerness, like the boy who gave up his lunch, that You may supernaturally multiply it. Loving Father, transform our churches into relevant, inclusive communities—ready, willing, and able to receive young adults as You received the boy! Amen!

ACT: Recall a time when you felt inadequate or lacking and God performed a miracle that altered the expected outcome in your favor. Ask God to make you sensitive to the miracles that He is performing everyday all around you and give thanks! Confess any unbelief, repent, and ask God to increase your faith.

Tara L. Seabrook is the Pastor/Director of the Wesley Foundation at Florida A & M University.

DAY 32 ~ SEPTEMBER 23, EVENING

READ: Acts 1:8

PRAY: Lord God, our Creator, You hold the world in your hands. You are sovereign. There is none like You. We thank you for the great plans You have for us. We pray for your wisdom and guidance as we seek to be your ambassadors on campus. Give us boldness to spread Your good news and make disciples in Your name. Lord, give us a heart like Yours; one that will break for the things that break Your heart. Help us to see and respond to the lonely, distressed, or confused student who needs to know Your promise to never leave them nor forsake them. Grant us compassion for those who may have strayed from the narrow path. Let us always show love in our service to them. Forgive us God for times when we have ignored the pains and cries of others. For times when we thought only of our needs and wants, we seek forgiveness. Holy Spirit, do not only empower us for the moment but sustain us throughout our lives so that we may continue to glorify God in our actions after we leave our college campuses. Lord we pray that we will continually strive to do Your will.

We ask these things in Jesus' name,

Amen.

ACT: How can you be a witness at school, with friends, with family, and with people you don't know? Spend time in prayer seeking guidance from God.

Destiny Tolbert is a student majoring in Religion at Florida A & M University. She serves as a discipleship and mission intern for the Florida A & M Wesley Foundation as well.

DAY 33 ~ SEPTEMBER 24, MORNING

READ: Acts 13:36

PRAY: Lord, your word says that “David . . . served the purpose of God in his own generation” (Acts 13:36). Jesus, we are asking you to raise up a generation of college students across America who are living and serving your purpose in their generation. Lord, raise up a generation of college students who glorifying you by:

- Their worship (WORSHIP)
- Their becoming more like you (DISCIPLESHIP)
- Their fellowshiping in your family (FELLOWSHIP)
- Their using their gifts to serve others (SERVICE)
- Their sharing of their faith (EVANGELISM)

God, bring revival and spiritual awakening to our nation through college students coming into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and then living out their purposes in the power of the holy spirit. Be glorified! Raise up an army of Davids, Lord! Amen.

ACT: With God’s leading, choose one of the five purposes highlighted in the prayer and seek to live in that purpose this week.

Jim Leggett is a Christ-follower and is the husband of Lisa and the father of Smith, Grace, and John David. A chemical engineer nerd by training, Jim is the founding pastor of Grace Fellowship United Methodist Church, a church plant in Katy, Texas. God has given this church a unique emphasis on prayer, including the establishment of the Great Southwest Prayer Center.

DAY 33 ~ SEPTEMBER 24, NOON

READ: Psalm 46:10

PRAY: Gracious and loving God,

Be still? You call us to be still...to know that you are God. Do you know how hard it is to be still? I love you, Lord and long to be present to you. And yet the busyness of life so often crowds you out. Why is it that we find stillness and quiet so difficult? There is so little stillness around us....always going and doing. Demands....expectations...papers to write, books to read, assignments, deadlines...and always noise...in the residence halls, the cafeteria, the classrooms, and the student union.... noise from the cell phones and iPods...always noise.. I know that in the stillness we find you. I know that in the stillness our spirits are renewed as we make room for your spirit to fill us. Thank you for the moments when we do find you in the stillness. O God, help us to desire you more. Grant us the grace to make the space for you. Fill us with your spirit so that we may see as you see and love as you love. Bring wisdom and peace to this frantic world. May we be disciplined enough to remain open to you so that we may be instruments of your love and peace. In the name of Christ, I pray. Amen.

ACT: Develop a regular time and place for meditation or centering prayer in your personal life and on your campuses.

Rev. Betsy Eaves is the Chaplain and Vice-President for Student Development at Centenary College of Louisiana.

DAY 33 ~ SEPTEMBER 24, EVENING

READ: 1 Thessalonians 1: 2-10

PRAY: O God, you do reign in each of our hearts as we live out your call to serve and make our presence as disciples for Your work in the world known. I pray that the hearing of this word rests upon our hearts and opens our eyes to the challenge you have set for us. We know we are not perfect, we know we still look to our idols. O God break OUR hearts, crush OUR dreams, ruin OUR lives, so that we may live the life YOU have set forth for us. We are not in control, you are. We give the power to you. Make us vessels for You. Let Your light shine through us so that others may see You! Make us producers of faith, laborers for love, and inspirational leaders for the Church. Just as the Scripture tells us, we are to be the leaders and role models for this world. The road will be marked with suffering. But God, we will suffer just as Your Son did on the cross. We will make ourselves vulnerable. This world was not made for us, but us FOR the world. We are here to save it, and it's time we do it. We will love, we will serve, and we will suffer...all for You God.

Shalom blessings! Amen.

ACT: Through our campus ministry we need to be the reviving group on our campus that welcomes the sinner, and becomes the hands and feet of Jesus. Invite someone who least expects to be invited to join you for Bible study or worship.

Austin Rinehart is a student at Centenary College of Louisiana.

DAY 34 ~ SEPTEMBER 25, MORNING

READ: Isaiah 43:19

PRAY: Gracious and creative Lord, we give you thanks and praise for calling forth leaders in every generation. We thank you for this generation and the unique ways you are at work in our lives and in our world. We sense fresh winds of your grace and truth springing up in new and refreshing ways. We pray that you would give students the ears to hear your call upon their lives. We ask that you would bring circumstances and experiences into their world that would heighten their awareness of the way you have gifted them and the ways you desire to use them to be your ambassadors in their world. We pray for people who would recognize those gifts and call them out in ways that students can hear and respond. We pray that you would inspire these students to dream big dreams, and encourage them with hope and vision beyond their own abilities so they will have to trust you. Protect these students from being numbed by the endless entertainment, distracting technologies, and barrage of options that seek to paralyze or short-circuit their souls and their actions.

Forgive us for worrying more about maintaining our institutions and padding our reputations than pouring our lives into others. Forgive us for grasping at power and attention rather than planting, watering, and nurturing the lives and gifts and leadership abilities of young leaders in our midst. We thank you for young women and men who this day have felt something move in their hearts. We thank you for your still small voice, to which many are hearing and responding.

Attune our hearts and minds that we can all hear you better, follow you more closely, and love you more deeply. We pray that you would move in a mighty way and that we would have the courage to join you in that work in these days. We pray that every student would recognize that they are a unique unrepeatable miracle of your creation and that each one will recognize the special way you are calling them to serve and lead.

For hearing our prayer and for desiring good for us far more than we could ever dream, we give you thanks. Amen.

ACT: Do you see gifts for ministry in a fellow student or college student that you know? Take a few moments and pray for God to reveal their gifts to them. Also, drop them a note of encouragement and share with them some of the gifts that you see in them and how God has used them to minister to you.

Steve Moore works at the M. J. Murdock charitable trust in Vancouver, Washington, and serves the Foundation for Theological Education.

DAY 34 ~ SEPTEMBER 25, NOON

READ: Matthew 4:23-24

PRAY: Lord our community is broken we do not love each other as you have shown us; your people go hungry, are homeless and suffer many afflictions. Through your Son you have called us to be students of a living God who is an all powerful healer. Help us to be the instatement of your healing power. Loving God, there are so many of us in your world that need your healing. Illness, distress, and anguish dominate our whole beings, do not let these afflictions prevent us from knowing your love. Heal us, our Lord, so that we may be instruments of your hope and that the world will know your unwavering love for all creation.

ACT: I will allow God to heal me so that I may be God's healing presence in the lives of others.

Rev. David J. Moreno is the Director of the United Methodist Campus Ministry of the Rio Grande Valley.

DAY 34 ~ SEPTEMBER 25, EVENING

READ: Psalm 111

PRAY: Heavenly Father, we come before you with a grateful heart. We want to thank you for you have done many wonderful works and have been so gracious and merciful to us. Lord you have always provided what is needed, such as food, clothing, and shelter to those who acknowledge that you are the only true living God. Although there are many trials in our lives, you have protected us and seen us through and through. And thank you Father, for you have given us the strength and wisdom to go into the world and praise your Holy Name. Now we ask that you give us the courage and help us to be more compassionate in order to seek out more believers of your Name so that they too can experience your wonderful work Lord. Be with us as we go and make disciples just as you have commanded us to do for it is not easy but with you nothing is impossible. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

ACT: Who did I show God's grace and mercy to today?

Tracey H. Perez is a student in the United Methodist Campus Ministry of the Rio Grande Valley.

DAY 35 ~ SEPTEMBER 26, MORNING

READ: Psalm 51:15

PRAY: O Lord, open my lips, that my mouth shall proclaim . . . “Over the Rainbow, What a Wonderful World, Happily Ever After, Going through Changes, I Can Only Imagine, Live Like We’re Dying, Knockin’ on Heaven’s Door, Tears in Heaven, Love Reign O’er Me, Purple Rain, I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Lookin’ for, I Want to Hold Your Hand, Reach Out I’ll Be There, Amazing Grace, Where the Streets Have No Name, Nessun Dorma, How Deep the Father’s Love for Us, In Christ Alone, Messiah, Let It Be, Unchained Melody, In the Garden, O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing, Intervention, I’ve Been High, 40, The King of Love My Shepherd Is, Claire de Lune, Stardust, God Only Knows, I’ll Fly Away, ’Round Midnight, Someone to Watch Over Me,”

You put a new song in my mouth, always and everywhere. Help me to find those new songs in every generation’s music, and to sing those songs with ravishing lips in a world that slides and slips into ruts and clips. Help me, Lord, to

 sing what I have received;

 receive what you give;

 give all you ask;

 ask what you desire;

 desire all you require.

Amen.

ACT: Be a sound theologian this week. Listen to the Top 100 radio station, or ask if you can listen to your friends’ playlists. Can you hear what the Spirit may be speaking to your soul through these songs?

Leonard Sweet is the E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, and a Visiting Distinguished Professor at George Fox University, Portland, Oregon. He is a member of the West Virginia Annual Conference.

DAY 35 ~ SEPTEMBER 26, NOON

READ: John 15, Matthew 3:13 - 4:1-4

PRAY: **Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on me a sinner.** Father, let my work and worship begin with confession. I have sinned against you. I have sinned against others. I have sinned against myself. You and only you are my refuge. I put before me the suffering of the Cross of Christ for my sins, and I am thankful for your grace and love to me.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on me a saint. Father, we cannot talk about saints without talking about God. You have set me apart to be like Christ to the campus nation. May the students encounter you when they encounter me. I put before me the victory of the Cross of Christ for my sanctification, and I am thankful for your grace and love to me.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on me a son/daughter. Father, my identity must be found in you. Not in my job, or my ministry, or what others say or don't say about the work I do. You call me your beloved, and you say you are well pleased with me. Period. May these be the words of God, that I live on more than bread alone. I put before me the embrace of the Cross of Christ as my adoption as your child, and I am thankful for your grace and love to me.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, give me your peace. Father, may the forgiveness of my sins, the sanctification of my life, and my sonship/daughterhood free me to live in peace, even in the midst of conflict, deadlines, and stress. I put before me the violence of the Cross of Christ that I may know the Prince of Peace, and I am thankful for your grace and love to me.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, abide in me and I will abide in you. Father, the best thing I can do for - and offer to - the students I serve, is my own holiness. May I learn your rhythms of grace, that I may be so lost and found in you that I simply follow you in your plans for this campus, these students, and my family. I put before me the holy Cross of Christ, that I may bear fruit that lasts.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit... Amen.

ACT: Pray this prayer alone, and follow it by saying out loud the Apostle's Creed and praying out loud the Lord's Prayer. Make the sign of the Cross across your forehead. Lead your leadership team in this prayer (with the Creed & Lord's Prayer) and make the sign of the Cross over their foreheads as you say something like, "In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and you are God's beloved. Be filled with his peace, abide in him, and he will abide in you."

DAY 35 ~ SEPTEMBER 26, EVENING

READ: Psalm 43

PRAY: Abba Father, we thank you for every single thing you have blessed us with in this life, Father. Thank for your love, your Son, your blessings, your mercy, your forgiveness, and your guidance.

Lord, today we pray for students on campuses all over the world. We ask that you prepare a way for those you send out to share your Word. We pray that you send forth your light and truth so that your people, servants of your holy kingdom, can use them to show the world your love and glory. Father, may students all around be eager to respond as Isaiah did by shouting, "Here am I. Send me!" May they yearn to spread the Good News. Lift them up as vessels in further expanding your kingdom. Loving God, we ask that you send them out into the nations with your love burning in their hearts, your voice so entirely apparent in their ears, and your powerful words on their tongues. Equip them, lift them up, send them out, so that they can tell the nations all about you, and all that you have done and continue to do.

Lord, may you receive all of the honor and all of the glory. Amen."

ACT: Commit to praying for a college student who is feeling a call to ministry for a certain amount of time (week, month, year, etc.). If you don't know one, email or call a campus minister near you and ask for the name of a student for which to pray. Consider if you can help him or her financially to go on a mission trip.

Kelly Hon is a sophomore at the University of Arkansas.

DAY 36 ~ SEPTEMBER 27, MORNING

READ: Jeremiah 18:3-4

PRAY: Creator and redeemer, we are thankful for the gift of campus ministry and for the opportunity to share your transformational love with students from around the world.

In the midst of their studies and the challenge of recognizing their own faith, you have given us a calling to reach out to these students.

In the midst of discovering their majors and rediscovering the world, you have moved us to walk with them.

In the midst of difficult courses and coping with broken relationships, you have given us compassion to sit with them.

In the midst of the celebration of graduation and finding passion for life, you have stirred us to dance with them.

In each of these places, you have called us to share our lives with those who are in the midst of the greatest transformation of their lives--college and the rise to adulthood.

O God, be with us as we hear and recognize this calling. Ensure that we have the gifts, patience, and persistence to be in this place and in these lives as we bear witness to the one who forms us and transforms us. Amen.

ACT: Take a moment to be with a college student/young adult long enough to listen to their heart and how God is moving them. Write a note of encouragement to them to continue following God's movement in their life and let them know you are there to support them.

Michael McCord is the director of campus ministry resources and training for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church. He is thankful for eight years as a campus minister and the many students who have deepened his faith and changed his life.

DAY 36 ~ SEPTEMBER 27, NOON

READ: Ephesians 2:10, 1 Samuel 16: 1 – 13

PRAY: Lord, we are grateful that you take ordinary people, like ourselves, and allow us to become extraordinary through you. Throughout the scriptures we have read, not about untouchable heroes but about leaders who were willing to step out in faith and guide those around them and future witnesses such as us ourselves.

Thank you for not looking at our human flaws but our innermost spiritual hearts. You truly know your children. Also, forgive us for judging our brothers and sisters when we look at their outward appearance through clothing, wealth, and possessions.

ACT: Look for someone whom you know has been passed over by society due to their outward appearance. Do something for them. Perhaps like Samuel in the scripture above, you could “choose” them for something. Inventory your heart: have you judged persons wrongly due to appearance, income, or status? Have you recognized Godly persons due to the condition of their heart?

Eddie Willis is starting his first year as the Director of the University of Mississippi Wesley Foundation.

DAY 36 ~ SEPTEMBER 27, EVENING

READ: Isaiah 55:8-11

PRAY: Lord I thank you that you think higher and have a better plan for my life than I do. I thank you that like the rain that falls from the heavens and supplies for our physical bodies your word can supply our souls. I thank you that you word like the rain and as the snow has purpose. I pray you would continue to show me my purpose and not allow me to lean to my own understanding. Lord you said your word shall go forth and not return to you void. I pray that if any void dwell in me that you word consume it. That I would take your word and deliver it to your people that it would save souls and bring you glory. Make me like rain give me direction and purpose as I dwell on this world. Amen.

ACT: Ask yourself, "Am I receiving God's word like rain?"

Justin Crosby is a student at the University of Mississippi.

DAY 37 ~ SEPTEMBER 28, MORNING

READ: Luke 7:36-50

PRAY: Lord Jesus, we acknowledge that you are Lord of all things and all people in heaven, on earth, and even below the earth. We especially recognize you as Lord of those that your people, the church, often deem as sinners. First, help us to remember our own sinfulness and that we all have a past. No one is deserving of your grace and mercy, but by your great mercy we are forgiven; we may go and live as the forgiven and redeemed; and we can live in true peace with God and with one another. Lord, have mercy on your church, full of people with a redeemed past, a redeemed present, and a redeemed future.

Remind us that grace and only grace separates us from those in the body of Christ and those outside, and that your love binds us all together. In and through love you pursued us and captured our hearts, and in and through love you are pursuing those who continue to live apart from you.

As we pray, there are many on our campus living apart from you. Sadly, we as the church have often written many of them off. We have neglected them and separated ourselves from them. While you acknowledge that they are unhealthy, you have not rejected them! You are pursuing them just as you pursued us, and you are calling us to be your hands and feet, continuing in your healing work and wonder. Help us to see these individuals not as written off, but merely as the sick waiting in a waiting room, waiting to hear their name, waiting to feel your touch, waiting to receive the redeeming power of the blood of Christ, waiting to hear the words, "You are healed." "You are forgiven." "Go in peace." Amen.

ACT: I challenge us all to affiliate and build relationships with those groups that the church has shunned and rejected to be the healing voice and touch of Christ. Many are waiting for a true love and true relationship that they are not finding in these other groups and way of life they are pursuing. Who are these individuals? What are these groups? They are waiting!

Frank Haynes is Director of Youth, College, and Young Adults of the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church.

DAY 37 ~ SEPTEMBER 28, NOON

READ: 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

PRAY: Abba, we join in Paul's prayer saying that we desire to see you move in our communities and on our campuses in such a way that Jesus is glorified by our deeds that we live out through faith. We thank you God for the chance to be a part of your restoration of all things, so lead us to love our campus with the same grace that was revealed to us on the cross through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

ACT: Identify someone who is not a part of a campus ministry that you have a relationship with. Find time one-on-one to tell them that God has something beautiful for them in their lives and that you want to see it come to full bloom. Then ask them what their hopes for the future are.

Brett Cheek is the Campus Pastor of Ignite Ministries at South Eastern Missouri University.

DAY 37 ~ SEPTEMBER 28, EVENING

READ: 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

PRAY: Father, we lift up those serving you on college campuses, in this country and around the world. We pray that your name would be glorified and that we would be empowered to proclaim who you are to those people who do not yet know you. Holy Spirit convict the hearts of those who have fallen away from you, and live in our heart bringing us closer to Christ Jesus. In His holy name, Amen.

ACT: Spend some time in prayer interceding for 3 different campus ministries in your area.

Mick Keathley, Mass Communication Major, Junior at Southeast Missouri State University

DAY 38 ~ SEPTEMBER 29, MORNING

READ: 2 Corinthians 12:9

PRAY: O crucified and risen Lord, we often unthinkingly assume that to be strong, we have to feel strong. More than we'd like to admit, however, we feel weak, worn down, discouraged, under-resourced and alone in the ministry. Our great visions and holy desires do not produce the fruit that we long to see and we are occasionally tempted to despair. And then we ponder Paul's words: "My grace is sufficient for you."

Your power is made visible in our weakness. No matter how difficult circumstances get, your grace is sufficient and your power is available to accomplish your kingdom's purposes. It is no fun to feel weak, but it is a joy to know that our work does not depend on our strength. You alone are sufficient to the task.

May we learn to trust you implicitly; to practice looking past the surface level of our weakness and find that deep well of your strength. Give us the faith to push through the frustrations and discouragements, which, by your time frame, are but momentary. May we always and ultimately know the sufficiency of your grace for the work to which you have called us. And may our lives thus be filled with joy, praying always in your name and in the power of your Spirit. Amen.

ACT: Take a few minutes and jot notes or write in your journal about some aspect of ministry in which you feel weak and discouraged. Try to tease apart the various aspects of the cause of the feeling and write them down. Then talk to a trusted friend and colleague, share these concerns in a spirit of prayer and promise to practice noticing the power of Christ at work in those situations in which you feel weak, but which exhibit the power of Christ to accomplish his work.

Steve Rankin is the university chaplain at Southern Methodist University. He blogs at steverankin.wordpress.com.

DAY 38 ~ SEPTEMBER 29, NOON

READ: Matthew 5: 13-16

PRAY: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, we come to you today with busy minds, busy bodies and busy hearts. Help us feel the freshness that comes from spending time with you. Allow us to clear our minds of activities, assignments, roommates, and drama.

Breathe your spirit into us and renew our souls to live for you the rest of this day. Use our words and actions to radiate your love. Use our thoughts to motivate us to grow closer to you and live our lives in ministry for you. Use our hearts to love all those we normally love and those that we find it hard to. Fill our souls with hope and courage to spend more time with you and spread your love to others. Let us be a beacon on campus and in our communities.

God, our lives can be confining, always thinking of ourselves and our immediate surroundings. Help us remember those who are around the world, on other campuses, working first-time jobs, and especially those who may not have had the opportunity to attend college.

Give us an opportunity today to make a difference in someone's life. Help us to be able to see clearly the opportunity and be courageous enough to act.

Amen.

ACT: Today, keep your eyes open for a way to make a difference in someone else's life. It could be opening a door, carrying a tray, buying a drink, or lending an ear to someone who needs to talk. Share God's love for all of us with someone on your campus today.

Joy Roberson, Central Texas Conference Staff for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, former staff at SMU Wesley Foundation and currently leading a small group for women at TCU.

DAY 38 ~ SEPTEMBER 29, EVENING

Mark 12:29-31

PRAY: Loving God, you call us to love You entirely with our hearts, minds, souls, and strength and You call us to love our neighbors as ourselves. As Jesus responded to the scribe's question in Mark, we remember how to love you and who else we need to love. As we experience college, some for the first time, and some for the last, we often forget our calling. We live our lives rapidly and we forget to notice Your surrounding beauty. In our attempts to attain perfection, we often forget to notice others around us, and in these same attempts we forget to take care of ourselves.

Lord, as we live as Your Disciples on our campuses, allow us to see You, allow us to see our neighbors, and allow us to see ourselves. We pray that through Your Love, we are empowered to live in Christ's likeness. We want to love and see You through daily prayer and study of scripture. We want to love our neighbors by being in mission daily, just by a simple smile or sign of caring. We want to love ourselves by taking time to not get bogged down in our grades, but by taking time to refresh.

Lord, allow these things to not be just be wants. Fill us with Your Spirit, so that we might act. Keep us in constant community with those on our campuses, so that we might be held accountable to daily prayer and devotion, to being in constant mission, and to taking time for ourselves.

All of this we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us these commandments, Amen.

ACT: Today, may we strive to find or remain in a group that can hold us accountable to daily prayer and devotion, to be in constant mission, and to take time to replenish ourselves.

Ethan Gregory is a freshman at Southern Methodist University, former President of Central Texas Conference Student Leadership Team, and candidate for ordained ministry in the UMC.

DAY 39 ~ SEPTEMBER 30, MORNING

READ: Philippians 1:9-11

PRAY: Lord Jesus, our campuses are filled with young adults who are preparing to live out a promising future and are ready to grasp what lies ahead for them--and we give thanks for them! We are so excited about the great potential they each have in answering your call and fulfilling your purpose in their lives. Thank you that we don't make commitments to love you and to serve you by ourselves, but are part of the group of believers you call your body. We embrace the joint mission you have given us and the unique place each of us has within that mission. We ask that you would provide a dynamic, worshiping campus community to empower and propel these young adults forward in living beyond self-focus and in serving others.

Lord, we also recognize that there are challenges facing them that they have never encountered before. Holy Spirit, we ask you to fill each of our students with discernment in every decision they make. Give them a heart for discipleship. Create a hunger within them for you and your word to seek your knowledge and insight in every situation. May they be able to distinguish the best from the good and choose it! And may they pursue your excellence through a lifestyle that is worthy of you and consistently points others to you.

It's in your powerful name we pray. Amen.

ACT: Write a brief note of encouragement to your campus minister relating what he or she has meant to your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to inspire you with words that will resonate deep support within the heart of the reader.

Carolyn Slaughter is a staff member of Ginghamburg Church in Tipp City, Ohio, where she works in adult discipleship in the areas of membership, marriage preparation, and curriculum writing. She is actively involved with her husband Michael in discipling young adults and works in a mentoring relationship with young women. She and Michael have two adult children and one grandchild.

DAY 39 ~ SEPTEMBER 30, NOON

READ: Psalm 24

PRAY: Gracious and loving God. We see the faces of your children who are arriving on campus from all across the world. May your blessings and hope and love be known to them. And may campus ministry be a source to show that love through our support and a welcoming hospitality.

O God, you place campus ministers in the midst of your children. Grant to us the sensitivity to see their struggles and promise. Help us to sing anew, *Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world...they are precious in his sight.*

O God, you place campus ministers face to face with those who speak a different language... with those of different cultures and faiths... with those who have arrived in what is for many a strange and unwelcome place. And you we pray for courage and guidance in knowing how to reach out and work within this diversity.

O God, you place campus ministers very close to those who are far away from home... those who are separated from families and friends... those who may be the only student on campus from their country.

In the midst of such a challenge, campus ministers need your guidance. And the prayers for all who are in mission on campus.

Grant us courage to reach out, to welcome in and to mark a difference in the lives of those who have arrived on our campus from all around the world. In the name of Christ our Lord of all the world. Amen.

Act: Where are the international students on our campus? Is there an English Language Institute? Invite them to share a meal and time of welcome at our Wesley Foundation or campus center. Listen to their stories. Organize to serve and meet with a special student organization... Do something with international students!

Ken Smith is the Campus Minister at the University of Alabama Wesley Foundation.

DAY 39 ~ SEPTEMBER 30, EVENING

READ: Psalm 91 CEV

PRAY: Father God, We praise you for being the God Most High and God of All Power. We also praise you for being like a brother and a close friend. Father you surround us, like a fortress, and protect us from the storms of life. Father, become our place of safety. Father, become our fortress. Help us to deepen our trust in You. Please be with us as we head back to campus, please protect us. Enable us to run and cling to you for comfort and peace. Give us strength in this coming year. Father, we ask for strength to persevere through the struggles of life. Surround us with your faithfulness that is like a shield or a city wall. Help us to run to you for safety and be unafraid of the world that surrounds us. Help us to cry out to You in times of trouble. Amen.

ACT: When things are falling apart around us, we resolve to go to God for peace and protection.

Carrie Shirah is the Student President of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Alabama.

DAY 40 ~ OCTOBER 1, MORNING

READ: Acts 2:17-18 and Isaiah 26:8

PRAY: Come, Holy Spirit. Come into our campuses and do a new work among this generation. Fill them with your love, your power, your grace, your goodness. Fill them with yourself, “best gift divine.” In these days pour out your spirit on all people, especially those on our college campuses. May your sons and daughters prophesy, may young men see visions and old men dream dreams. On your servants, both men and women, pour out your spirit in these days.

We have read of the great outpourings of the past beginning with Pentecost two thousand years ago. We have read of other moments in history where your Holy Spirit fell and power from on high was released: England in the 1700s; America in the eighteenth century and again in the nineteenth century. It has been a long time, O God. Do it again, we pray. We are waiting. We are asking . . . no, pleading. Pour out your spirit and renew the face of the earth, renew your people, renew your church. May it begin on our campuses. Raise up a new generation where your name and your renown are the desire of their hearts.

Each of these movements began with prayer, so in prayer we turn to you.

In the words of campus minister Charles Wesley we pray,
O Thou Who camest from above,
The pure celestial fire to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love upon the mean altar of my heart.
There let it for Thy glory burn
With inextinguishable blaze,
And trembling to its source return,
In humble prayer and fervent praise.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

ACT: Read Acts 2 and look online for information about the First or Second Great Awakenings, familiarizing yourself with past movements of the Holy Spirit.

Ron Watts is senior pastor at LaCroix United Methodist Church in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

DAY 40 ~ OCTOBER 1, NOON

READ: Is. 40: 1-11, 28-31

PRAY: Everlasting God, we are humbled to be your people. You are mighty, holy, good and incomparable. We tremble in your presence, and yet, you are The Good Shepherd, faithfully tending to your flock, tenderly nurturing us with YOUR word, YOUR power, and YOUR strength.

Lord, there are people in classrooms, part-time jobs, on athletic fields, and in rehearsal halls that are wondering how they are going to make it another day. They are seeking direction, purpose, provision, and connection. Hear their prayer today, and our own, as we ask for you to reveal yourself—your perfect, compassionate, and strength-giving self—to them.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this generation to be a bold witness of your self-giving love. Make them people not afraid to speak of your name to those who don't know you yet. Give them the grace to receive the gifts that you've given them for your glory and empower them to be the next generation of leaders of the Church—your called-out ones. Show them the joy of an abundant life lived completely in you.

Thank you for awakening the hearts and minds of so many in this generation to the injustices of this world. Give them a desire to serve those who you served—the least, the last, and the lost. Transform their hearts first, and make them fully yours. And then make tangible your love in their lives. Give them strength to run and not grow weary...to walk and not faint. And raise up people to nurture and call forth the best from them. We are grateful for your Spirit guiding us as we together seek to do your will. May you find us faithful.

We pray this is the holy name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

ACT: Commit to remain faithful in prayer for campus ministry in the next season in your life. Find one way to be a partner in ministry to someone in one (or in each) of the following areas in the *next* 40 days:

- A local church who is active in reaching the college students of their community
- A campus minister in a college or university in your area
- A college student who you know who is feeling a call to ministry

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DAY 40 ~ OCTOBER 1, EVENING

READ: Revelation 5:12, Matthew 22:37-38

PRAY: Jesus, you are the Great High Priest. Just as the angels in Heaven declare around the throne in every timeless moment, we declare that you are the worthy one—the lamb who was slain. Jesus, you are worthy to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise! We come to you, on this day, asking that your Holy Spirit would be released on our hearts in a new measure, and in a refreshing manner. Lord, we ask that you would come and do what you love to do, what you enjoy doing most—come and magnify Jesus to our hearts in love.

God you call each of us on a different type of journey, but the base of every journey is loving pursuit. Remind us today, whether we are students, adults, clergy, or lay, remind us of your jealous love for us. Your love alone causes the desire in us to pursue you. We pray for desperate and weak hearts that lead to disciplined lifestyles of prayer, fasting and reading the word. We pray, oh God, that we would be people who help tell the story of Jesus. Come and fill us with a genuine understanding of the first commandment so that we may go out and teach others about the love that we have experienced. Fill us up to the brim with an understanding of your love, so that our hearts will drown in grace—may we lose ourselves in that overflow so that you may be magnified. We declare that this is all about you. You are the reigning one of our story. Anoint our hearts with your purpose alone; fill us with your desires. Jesus, we say ‘yes’ to you. May our life vision be the fullness of your love. You are love itself, from everlasting to everlasting.

We pray these things in the holy and prevailing name of Jesus, Amen.

ACT: Meditate on Revelation 5:11-14 – Meditate on how Jesus, love himself, is honored where the enemy has already been defeated. If for only a moment, experience the joy and adoration of this time of love and fellowship that is soon to come.

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