

From the Executive Director

Not Just in the Event of an Emergency

Our theme this year in the SBCV has been “The Lord Is with You.” We began the new year emphasizing the truth of God’s presence with a focus on prayer, and pastors gathered for a prayer event, where we had times of praise and worship; confession and repentance; thanksgiving; and intercession. This spring, we held prayer summits in various regions. Every ministry effort in which we engage is dependent upon the blessing of God.

This year’s Annual Homecoming in November will continue to emphasize the truth, “The Lord Is with You,” as we embrace our dependence upon His presence and power. This edition of the Proclaimer includes stories of pastors and leaders encouraging one another; churches engaging and mobilizing for ministry and missions; and churches planting and revitalizing. The bottom line is we must humble ourselves and recognize we are dependent upon the Lord every day in every way. Praying, seeking God’s face, and abiding in His presence are not just for emergencies.

Many people view prayer like they view an emergency oxygen mask on an airplane. However, prayer is not an oxygen mask just to be used in times of emergency and crisis. We need to view prayer more like a scuba diver views oxygen—prayer is not just important but essential! In fact, prayer is more like breathing itself. Martin Luther wrote, “To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”¹

The Apostle Paul prayed often and encouraged believers to pray. He was a person of prayer and called on churches to be people and places of prayer. In his first letter to the Thessalonians, he ends with simply asking them, “Brothers pray for us” (1 Thessalonians 5:25).

Please pray for churches in your community as they minister and serve. Please pray for pastors and their families, that they will not be weary in well-doing. Pray for mission trips, Vacation



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Bible Schools, youth camps, and the many ministry opportunities we have.

You are not alone. The Lord is with You!

Your brother in Christ,
Brian Autry

P.S. Here are “**10 Scriptures to Pray for Lord Jesus’s Church.**”

1. **2 Timothy 4:2** – Pray that His church will preach the Word of God without apology.
2. **Colossians 4:2** – Pray that His church would devote itself to prayer.
3. **Acts 4:12** – Pray that His church will boldly share Jesus as the only hope for salvation.
4. **John 4:24** – Pray that His church will worship God in spirit and in truth.
5. **1 Peter 5:2-3** – Pray that church leaders will serve humbly as godly examples to all.
6. **Colossians 1:28-29** – Pray that His church will labor and strive to present everyone mature in Christ.
7. **Matthew 9:37-38** – Pray that more workers step up to faithfully serve.
8. **Ephesians 4:11-12** – Pray that our leaders equip the saints for the work of ministry.
9. **Revelation 2:4-5** – Pray that His church does not lose its first love.
10. **Matthew 16:18** – Pray that we will trust Jesus to build His church.

¹ Attributed to Martin Luther by George Sweeting, *Talking It Over* (Moody Press, 1979), 88.