

WHITE WING

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MESSENGER

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PRAYING THROUGH OUR DISTINCTIVES

Prayer Points: April 2022 Contributor: Bishop Shaun McKinley, PhD

Proverbs 29:18 warns, “Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he” (Proverbs 29:18). The words of this Scripture are often used to demonstrate the importance of clearly defined strategies and plans in many arenas of life—including ministry and business.

Over the course of the past 15 years, the Church of God of Prophecy has prayerfully engaged in the process of strategic planning. The process has involved the ongoing development of vision and mission statements, identification of core values, and discernment of organizational distinctives.

Join with us this month as we pray through these distinctives, affirming the work of the Holy Spirit in and among our movement. We will also ask for focus, spiritual insight, and favor in fulfilling our ongoing mandate to answer the Harvest call.

Prayer Directives

- Christ-exalting—Pray that in all we do, Christ may be visible as the Head of the Church, preeminent in all things. Affirm our desire for Christ to be seen more perfectly through the members and ministries of the church on the local, state/regional, national, and international levels (Ephesians 1:22; 5:23; Colossians 1:18).
- Holiness—Ask the Father to renew, both personally and corporately, our surrender to his grace and the cleansing power of his blood. Ask him to make you more like him, revealing areas of your life that you have not fully resigned to his will (2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 Peter 1:15).
- Spirit-filled—The promise of the Father is that in the last days he will pour out his Spirit on all people. Declare our dependence on the Spirit, inviting him to lead us in all ways and empower us to serve him in these last days (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17).

- All-nations—From the earliest days of our movement, our forefathers and foremothers held that we would be composed of “every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.” Praise God for the global perspective of the Church and the multicultural diversity represented in our leadership levels and among our global membership. Pray for the unreached nations to be opened and for churches to be established where none exist (Revelation 5:9; 13:7).
- Disciple-making—Pray for the evangelization of the lost and for the development of leaders in our local churches and missions. Pray for a desire among our ministries to return to this biblical mandate and for men and women to rise up to assume their responsibility to enter into discipling relationships with others (Mark 16:15; Ephesians 4:12).
- Church planting movement—Pray for our church planting efforts around the world. Ask the Father for wisdom and discernment as new field works are identified and developed. Pray for favor with local governments and communities where these churches are organized. Pray for men and women to respond to the call to shepherd and lead these new plants (Acts 1:8; 11:19-30; 13:1-3; 14:21-23).
- Christian Union—Pray that we would cooperate with all those who exalt the name of Christ so that the Gospel message may be declared to the lost. Pray for the churches throughout your own community to experience the blessings of the Lord, as well as renewal and revival (1 Corinthians 1:10; John 17:23; Colossians 3:14).

Download this prayer guide as a bulletin insert, access prayer guides on additional topics, or find resources for your local church prayer ministry online at www.COGOPprays.org. Let us know you are praying with us by using #COGOPprays on social media to share your requests, inspirations, and praise reports.



ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTOR:

Bishop Shaun McKinley serves as international director of Children’s Ministries, administrative liaison to the general overseer, and prayer coordinator for the Church of God of Prophecy International Offices in Cleveland, Tennessee. He and his wife, Stephanie, serve as preschool teachers at the Peerless Road Church, also in Cleveland. Shaun is a graduate of Bryan College having earned a Master of Business Administration in Marketing from Bryan College and is a licensed bishop with the Church of God of Prophecy. He was awarded a Ph.D. in Religion and Leadership Studies by the University of the Cumberlands.

