Friday, July 1: Read Psalm 33, 133

This Sunday we commemorate Independence Day. We will gather to celebrate the freedoms our nation enjoys and the blessings God has given us as a people. Notice how God responds to nations in these two Psalms. He favors large groups of people who honor, fear and obey Him. He blesses the unity of His people. Take time to pray for our country. Ask God to unite His church to influence our nation for righteousness and for His namesake. Invite someone to hear Judge Weigle's message at Bethel Gilead this Sunday.

Pray for Our Missionaries

Juan & Adriana Palacious (Angola Africa), Ivan & Kim Hoyt (Argentina), David & Miriam Trott (Cochabamba, Bolivia), Mario Bloise (Argentina), Nate & MaryBeth Brace (Kentucky), Dan & DeAnn Gerard (San Antonio, TX), Robert Newkirk (Jesus Film), Craig & Shelly Shafer (Sentani, Indonesia), Randy & Kari Ash, John Smith (CEF), Mike & Fran VanBruggen (S. Africa), Sue Sanders (Detroit, MI), Matt Kooi (Tijuana), Daniel Jezonski (Wycliffe), Danielle Tucker (leaving in September), Andrew & Sara Williams.

Specific Concerns:

Katie deAraujo going to Brazil for 50 days. Please pray that God will work in and through her, to blanket her in peace, love and safety.

Madelyn Albright is going to Tijuana, June 27. She will serve where Spectrum needs her.

Robert Newkirk (Jesus Film) asked for both prayers and additional financial support. He had funeral expenses for his brother's death to suicide and unexpected dental problems (\$8,000 additional costs).

Pray this weekend:

- •Review of the week (Thank God for answered prayer)
- •Note any ongoing concerns to pray for the week.
- •Praise God that He is working in your life. You are growing in your faith.

Spiritual Disciplines Reading Assignments

- Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading each day.
- *Read the chapters of the Bible according to the date.*
- Underline any meaningful verses and take note of specific advise or wisdom gleaned from your reading.
- Note any unclear passages or teaching and seek insight, answers or help.
- Think about what you're reading. Ask:
 - 1. How does this apply to me?
 - 2. Are there any temptations to avoid, sins to confess, commands to obey or promises to claim?
 - 3. What insight do I gain on God, myself, others, or life?
- Ask God to show you any specific action you need to take as you read.

Weekly Readings

Monday, June 27: Read *Psalm 78:1-54*

The topic for the sermon this past Sunday was "grumbling." We saw how the people poorly responded to various difficulties in the desert. The first half of Psalm 78 recounts the Exodus. What can you learn about human nature from this passage? What do you learn about God's character? According to <u>verses 1-7</u>, how can solid biblical instruction guard us, and the next generation, from following their bad examples?

Pray for personal growth:

- 1. My relationship with God.
- 2. My life roles
- 3. My personal needs/weak areas
- 4. Goals and objectives



Tuesday, June 28: Read Psalm 95

God warns us against hardening our hearts toward Him. What exactly is being hardhearted? Can you identify anything in your life that tends to harden your heart attitudes toward God? <u>Reread verse 1,2, and 6</u>. They prescribe actions to soften our hearts to God. Any directions there for you? <u>Verses 3,4,5</u> <u>and 7</u> remind us who God is and why we serve Him. Take a few minutes in prayer. Affirm your faith in God and His goodness. Ask Him to help you keep a soft heart toward Him each day.

Pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday June 29: Read *Deuteronomy 8:6-20*

We've seen how the Israelites grumbled against God when things were tough. Notice God's warning here is to also beware when everything is going well. What is our human tendency when all goes well according to <u>verse 14</u>? Do you tend to forget God when your life is going well? Do you ever take credit for your successes instead of acknowledging God's goodness to you? Ask God to reveal any pride in your heart. Choose to humble yourself daily to give God His due, to give thanks for all your blessings, and to tell others how good God has been to you.

Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church

(Consider fasting one, two, or meals this day.)

- a. Pastors: Pray for God's grace & guidance in Pastor Jim and Pastor David's ministries and families. Pray for the Youth and children's ministries here at BGCC.
- b. Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.
- c. Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers.
- d. Discipleship: ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people.
- e. Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ.
- f. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future Pray for God's clear leading in 2016 and beyond.

Thursday, June 30: Read Deuteronomy 30:11-20

God has made us free agents. He gives us choices with corresponding consequences. What choice did God give Israel? What did choosing life involve according to <u>verse 16</u>? What did He promise them if they obeyed? What were the consequences of disobedience according to <u>verses 17-18</u>? In <u>verse</u> <u>20</u>, God declares that He is their life. Is that true for you today? Or, are you looking for "LIFE" in other places? Note <u>John 17:3</u>, <u>Col. 3:1-4</u>. Ask God to help you to "choose life" daily and to experience His life in you as you walk with Him by Faith.

Pray for "My World"

- Neighbors People at Work Others God bring into my life
- Pray for the upcoming community-wide prayer service (THE CALL), <u>Sunday July 24</u> at the fair grounds.
- Pray for our nation and the upcoming elections.

