



# prayer *life!*

## Weekly Prayer Focus

July 14, 2019

### That Blessed Hope

*So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. –2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:6-8*

*... waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. –Titus 2:13*

Mrs. Murphy's wheel chair was a fixture at my home church. Most of the time, it sat in a corner of a room off the platform, waiting for its occupant. Then, just before Sunday service, Mr. Warren, Mr. Shook, or another faithful servant would help Mrs. Murphy get her twisted body from a car into her chair and wheel her in for worship.

And worship she did! With her face cocked to one side, she'd listen to the singing, the preaching, and the testimonies. Mrs. Murphy worshiped in spirit more than body, because her body was broken. Blinded and paralyzed in car accident years before, her movement and her life were almost entirely limited. So there was a profound irony in her oft-repeated testimony of hope and joy in the Lord, "Once I was blind, but now I see." You see it was not until her car accident that Mrs. Murphy found Jesus Christ.

Fanny J. Crosby, the blind hymn writer of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, had a very similar spirit. Born blind, she often rejoiced that the very first thing she'd ever see would be the face of Jesus when she awoke after death.

It was Jesus who spoke this world into being. With an eye for beauty, He gave shape to a formless world. With a heart of love, He filled its emptiness for us to enjoy. Being the Lord of Life—the Great I Am—God gave us life, so He could give us the world for our own. Blind eyes and broken bodies remind us that sin has marred the good world God gave us. Wars and rumors of wars tell us that what's wrong with this world is us. It was our sin that broke the beautiful world we received. But that's not the end of the story.

A look at my life, these days, reminds me how much I need Mrs. Murphy's testimony. My body is telling me I'm no longer young. Things I've aspired to all my life still seem to elude me, and with each passing year the hope that I'm progressing becomes more of a sham. What am I striving for, anyway? When my parents passed away, I moved up in line. Now I'm one step closer to life's back door. The door marked, "Exit."

Not to worry. I've got Jesus—or rather, He has me. I was made from the stuff of this world, and my body's passing away with it. But in Christ Jesus, I've been recreated for another world, where sin and its brokenness are defeated. Jesus opened death's door and leads to life. An old song has new meaning, ringing with hope.

This world is not my home, I'm just a passin' through.  
My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue.  
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door,  
And I can't feel at home in this world any more.

Just up in Glory Land we'll live eternally.  
The saints on ev'ry hand are shoutin' victory.  
Their songs of sweetest praise drift back from heaven's shore.  
And I can't feel at home in this world any more.

O Lord, You know I have no friend like You.  
If heaven's not my home, then Lord what will I do?  
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door,  
And I can't feel at home in this world any more.

There's a phrase you hear every now and then, "It's all good!" Well, no. Not really. This world and our lives are clearly broken. It's not all good. But in Christ, we have hope. One day it will be—and so will we.

To the praise of God's glory!

## Summer Prayer

- **Student Summer Camps:** Ask God to “hit reset” on their relationship with Jesus Christ.
  - Junior High camp (July 14-18): Ask God to speak into the lives of our junior high students.
  - Senior High camp (July 22-27): Ask God to speak into the lives of our high school students.
  - Revolve College Group: Ask God to draw our college students closer to Christ.
- **Men’s Ministries:** Ask God to lead the men to take their stand as men of God at the Men’s Breakfasts on July 20 and August 17.
- **Women’s Ministries:** Pray for the Pieces of Love ministry and the Christmas Tea preparations that are under weigh this summer.
- **Prayer Ministries:** Come into Christ’s presence as you pray together with God’s people every Sunday at 8:00 AM and Monday at 6:00 PM.
- **Leadership Search:** Pray for wisdom for the Nominating Committee for new elders to led Northpoint. Pray also for God’s guidance in our search for a new lead pastor to lead us to seek God in His Word and in prayer. Pray for a man who is gifted in effective spiritual leadership.

Continue to pray for our pastors and elders.

1. **Our Pastors and Directors:** Scott Williams, Tony Chute, Taylor Mendoza, Terilyn Brown, Geoff Grant, and Marti Wiegman.
2. **Our Lay Elders:** Tim East, Steve Flood, Mark Kiker, Mike Russell, Vinoj Zechariah, and new elders who come onto the board.
3. **Our Church Staff:** Michelle Balga, Bob Brown, Andria Brucks, Chelsae Grant, Carolee Jefferson, Amber McEwen, Tamene Menna, Mark Norland, Corie Saunders, and Teri Vaughn.

## Praise Record

Note when and how God answers your prayers. It will help you to see that He really is paying attention.

Date	Request	Date	Answer

*Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. –2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:11-13*