



WE'VE BEEN
surprised *by*
GOD'S **GLORY**

JOHN 1:16



world
mission
offering 2021

PRAYER GUIDE

international
ministries 



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WE'VE BEEN surprised *by* GOD'S GLORY JOHN 1:16

"So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness . . . From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another." (John 1:14-16, NLT)

The highlight of my childhood summers was Family Picnic day. My father belonged to a social club that had a lakeside park, and on a designated day hundreds of club members and their families would pack the park for a summer celebration. There were games and contests, a clown with a crooked nose and an invisible dog, boat rides, and fire trucks on display. And—best of all—there was Mr. Frosty, a soft-serve ice cream truck that handed out cones—vanilla, chocolate, and twists—unlimited, and at no cost for the whole day! Growing up in a rural area where the sight and sound of an ice cream truck was unknown, and where the nearest Dairy Queen was twenty miles distant, I marveled at the abundance of Mr. Frosty at Family Picnic!

As I read the first chapter of John's gospel, that child-like sense of awe and wonder wells up once again to a far greater degree as I contemplate the abundance of God's grace revealed to us through the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. With John, I marvel that the Word that was in the beginning, that was with God, that actually was God, became the light that pierced the darkness of the world, took on human flesh, and made his home among us. And I realize this is not only of cosmic and corporate significance, it is also deeply relational and personal as God's abundance overflows to each of us in "one gracious blessing after another" or, as older and more literal translations express it, as "grace upon grace"—one undeserved, unearned, unqualified, unconditional expression of God's favor after another.

Throughout the sweep of God's self-revelation in Scripture, though, the outpouring of God's gracious abundance is not only to us and for us—it is to us and for us so that it may be through us. God called Abraham not only that he and his family would experience God's

blessing, but so that all nations would be blessed through him (Genesis 12:1-3). According to John, it was not to only the chosen few, but to all who believed him and accepted him that he gave the right to be called children of God (John 1:12). In the book of Acts we see this good news of God's grace penetrating barriers of religion, language, and culture in ever-broadening circles beginning in Jerusalem and reaching to "the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

The tragic error of God's people through the ages, and right up to our own day, has been to treat God's gracious goodness as if it were scarce rather than abundant, to receive it with a sense of privilege rather than responsibility, to guard it, cling to it, restrict it, and keep it to ourselves. God's abundance will not, though, be contained. God continues to pour grace into his people so that through us he might touch the lives of individuals and communities who have yet to hear of the name of Jesus, to experience his healing touch, or to be transformed by the Word and the Spirit.

As the Apostle Paul encouraged the believers in Corinth to give generously to a collection for fellow believers in need, he expressed confidence that their capacity to give was rooted in the ongoing outpouring of God's abundant grace. "God is able to make all grace overflow to you," he told them, "so that . . . you may have an abundance for every good deed" (2 Corinthians 9:8, NASB). **Let us not be a people who merely find satisfaction in being recipients of God's abundant grace. Let us be churches, families, and individuals who allow that grace to overflow through us for the blessing of others!** As you give to this year's World Mission Offering, may you do so in recognition and celebration of God's amazing and abundant grace.



Jim Bell

Rev. Jim Bell

Associate Executive Director
for Global Mission

2021

PRAYER GUIDE

During this year's World Mission Offering, our global servants and staff invite you to join us in prayer.

Our theme for this year ("We've been surprised by God's glory") is a celebration of the ways in which we've seen God enter into the grief and difficulties of our pandemic year to work through video-conferenced events, to raise up new global servants, to provide generous support through you for our global partners as they faced food scarcity and critical needs during the pandemic. In dark, lonely, and difficult times, God has surprised us with hope and provision.

Will you come alongside our global servants to join with us in a month of prayer? Here you'll find a short request for each day, as we ask God to continue to be at work in and through us all, to bring the kind of transformation that can only be found through Jesus Christ.



You may give through your church or at
www.worldmissionoffering.org.

1 Oh, loving Father, thank you for your faithfulness! Bless our Master of Theological Studies students with a song in their hearts as they start their day, and surprise them with your goodness as they serve you. In Jesus' name, amen.

JAE STOCKTON, MEXICO

2 Lord, we are thankful that you care for the people of Hungary and the whole world. Help us to be a reflection of your surprising grace and abundant love.

AMANDA & JON GOOD, HUNGARY

3 Creator God, sneak into our day with the whimsy and wonder of your Spirit. Surprise us with your smile as we glimpse your grace on the face of the other. Amen.

MYLINDA BAITS, GLOBAL

4 "AWE"some God, thank you for the glimpses of heaven on earth that cause us to pause in awe or wonder. Amen.

PETER & SARAH MCCURDY, MEXICO

5 Lord, we pray for the students of Kanto Gakuin University and for their parents to know the love of God.

SHIGEMI TOMITA, JAPAN

6 Loving God, we ask you to surprise us in the midst of our ordinary day. Help us to be vessels of your love and grace. Amen.

SARAH MATOS, BOLIVIA



7 Lord, thank you that you live and work through believers. Continue to renew and heal those who have accepted you with a childlike faith.

FAYE CAROL YARBROUGH,
SOUTH AFRICA

8 While looking toward an unknown future, Lord, help me to remember that you know me, love me, and offer me your peace. You are never changing, even as the world around me changes.

KRISTY ENGEL, GLOBAL

9 Lord, we pray for the Nicaraguan women immigrants in Costa Rica as they try to give their children a better life.

SUE HEGARTY, COSTA RICA



10 We thank you, God of grace, for the resilience of educators and students around the world through this pandemic, and pray for you to continue to show up for them in surprising ways.

RUTH FOX, GLOBAL

11 Drága Jézus (Dear Jesus), what a surprise your grace is! Especially in difficult times. Please surprise us with your glory—today, tomorrow, and forever. We know you will.

BECKY & LARRY STANTON,
HUNGARY

12 Lord, we pray for Sabah Theological Seminary students, that you will equip them to become faithful, kingdom-minded, servant-hearted leaders in indigenous and local Asian churches.

AARON & VALERIE
OSTERBROCK, MALAYSIA

13 God, what is your prayer for the world? What is your prayer for me? May I embrace and lean into the surprises of your desires for 2021.

DAVID & JOYCE REED,
GLOBAL

14 Gracious God, may we not be surprised by your glory because we were not looking for it, but surprised instead because your glory came looking for us.

ANNIE & JEFF DIESELBERG,
THAILAND

15 Lord, may your love and grace penetrate our very souls. Help us to know your love so deeply that being your beloved child becomes our passionate identity and how we see ourselves and each other.

ALISE & MARK JUANES,
THAILAND

16 Traveling along a Congolese dirt road, we rose above the cliffs and a glorious sunrise enveloped us. Thank you for glimpses of your glory above the tedium of daily life.

ANN & BILL CLEMMER,
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO



17 Worthy Lord, may your radiance be embraced and your name be held high. Along the journey, may we remember your provisions, your grace, and your mercy. Thank you, Father. Amen.

BRIAN & LYNETTE SMITH,
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

18 Almighty Loving God, your glory is in all that you are and do. Who could have guessed? You came to serve, not to be served. You wash our feet! Amen.

JEANINE & WALT WHITE,
GLOBAL

19 Tune our troubled hearts to be aware of your glorious presence. Adjust our wayward thoughts to discover your divine purpose.

GLEN & RITA CHAPMAN,
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
THE CONGO

20 Lord, we pray for the women and girls of Samaritana, who have been traumatized or are highly vulnerable to exploitation. Even as we continue to adapt to protocols and restrictions due to COVID, please strengthen our community-based outreach and program activities.

JONATHAN & THELMA
NAMBU, PHILIPPINES

21 Thank you, God, for how you are inspiring and supporting the leaders and churches of the Union of Indonesian Baptist Churches to be your people during this pandemic. “God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:9).

ANN & BRUCE BORQUIST,
GLOBAL

22 Oh, gracious God, open our eyes to see your beauty and glory in the fullness of Jesus Christ and enthrone us to follow his steps. Amen!

EMERSON & IVY WU,
EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

23 Please pray for the staff and families of Mitendi Women’s Center and Mitendi Primary School who have suffered greatly during the COVID-19 pandemic. May the Lord restore and protect them!

JILL & MIKE LOWERY,
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
THE CONGO



24 Lord, we pray that the people of Honduras will seek the Lord.

DILIA ZELAYA, HONDURAS

25 In these days of fear and anxiety, driven by forces that are beyond our control, we lift up our eyes to you, Lord God, enthroned in heaven. We are comforted to learn you are still in control of all events. We pray to you, Lord Jesus, who stilled the storms; lead us by the power of your Holy Spirit. Restrain the evil and fill our lives with compassion. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

DAN & SARAH CHETTI,
LEBANON

26 Lord, let us soak up your grace and dwell in your inexhaustible fullness. May your abundance overflow in unexpected ways.

STACY & TIM REESE,
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

27 In our walk with God, we all arrive at dry, stagnant places. God, give us the refreshing presence and power of your Holy Spirit to breathe new life into us.

KATHY & TIM RICE,
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
THE CONGO

28 Lord, we ask you to empower and encourage the fifteen Lao staff members of HOPE Project as they take on the challenges of working with children who have endured more severe abuses than most of us could ever imagine.

LORI & MATT MANN,
SOUTHEAST ASIA

29 Let us pray together that our spiritual eyes will see the fullness of God’s grace for us and our neighbors. Let us share his grace with others as well.

CARLOS BONILLA & MAYRA GIOVANETTI, IBEROAMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN



30 Lord, may the unfolding grace and truth revealed through living out our hope and becoming in Jesus interact with and fulfill the traditional grace of the foundation of our religious upbringing.

NORA & PIETER KALKMAN,
EUROPE & THE MIDDLE EAST

31 Let us be surprised every day by your grace. Let it create hope, and may this grace, this hope, surprise those who need it most with water, food, shelter, and peace.

BARBARA & DWIGHT BOLICK, CHILE

