

Life in neighbourhoods

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.



**24-7 PRAYER FOR REVIVAL
11 - 17 December 2023**

Life in neighbourhoods

The Global Organized Crime Index 2023 reveals the rise of organised crime globally, with 83% of the world's population living in conditions of high criminality. Let us pray this week for our neighbourhoods to be transformed into the image of God so that His kingdom will increase upon the earth.

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.
(Matthew 5:16)*

MONDAY: 11 DECEMBER 2023

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Submitting to one another in the fear of God. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. (Ephesians 5:21-23).

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behaviour in any relationship committed by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Almost one in three—or 736 million—women above the age of 15 across the world have experienced intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence at least once in their lifetime. More than one in four women have suffered violence at the hands of their partners.

What does Jesus say about domestic violence?

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her. (Ephesians 5:25). The LORD tests the righteous, but the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates. (Psalm 11:5). Let us pray for our neighbourhood to be transformed and to thirst for His righteousness. He is the Bread of Life; whoever comes to Him shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Him shall never thirst (John 6:35).

Meditate on this verse and hear from the Lord how you can apply it to your life.

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him. (Psalm 28:7).

TUESDAY: 12 DECEMBER 2023

CRIME

My son, keep your father's command, and do not forsake the law of your mother. Bind them continually upon your heart; tie them around your neck. (Proverbs 6:20-21).

A crime or offence (or criminal offence) is harmful to some individual and a community, society, or the state (a public wrong). Such acts are forbidden and punishable by law. The Global Organized Crime Index 2023 reveals the rise of organised crime globally, with 83% of the world's population living in conditions of high criminality.

What does Jesus say about crime?

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). Father, we pray for life-changing transformation for all criminals in our neighbourhood. We ask that you remove all evil from their hearts and fill them with Your goodness and love. May they confess their sins, for You are faithful and just to forgive their sins and to cleanse them from all righteousness (1 John 1:9).

Meditate on these verses and hear from the Lord how you can apply them to your life.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23).

WEDNESDAY: 13 DECEMBER 2023

ALCOHOLISM

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Alcohol use disorder is a pattern of alcohol use that involves problems controlling your drinking, being preoccupied with alcohol or continuing to use alcohol even when it causes problems. Alcoholics need prayer, support and rehabilitation. Many times, alcoholism leads to loss of income or less money in the household, aggression towards family members and the family must cope with repercussions that can be challenging for all levels of being a functional family unit. Worldwide, 3 million deaths result from the harmful use of alcohol every year. This represents 5.3% of all deaths.

What does Jesus say about alcoholism?

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age. (Titus 2:11-12). Father, we pray that our neighbours who are bound in alcohol addiction will, through Your grace, be able to resist and refuse its hold on their lives. We ask for their minds to be transformed, to hate sin and believe in Your name, repent and turn away from the world to seek You wholeheartedly. Give them the desire to live a life that pleases You so they can experience eternal life.

Meditate on this verse and hear from the Lord how you can apply it to your life.

Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing. (Psalm 100:2).

THURSDAY: 14 DECEMBER 2023

ENTERTAINMENT

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. (Colossians 3:2).

The global entertainment and media market is expected to grow from \$2,322.46 billion in 2022 to \$2,507.25 billion in 2023 at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8%. Entertainment should never be so important that it cannot be stopped to help a friend in need or share the Gospel with a person who needs Jesus. The most abiding joy comes from fellowship with God, not a fleeting source of amusement. Satisfaction can only be achieved by walking daily with Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

What does Jesus say about entertainment?

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. (1 John 2:15-16). Pray for the entertainment industry to reflect the character of God (godly, humble, willing to serve, full of integrity) and have the fear of the Lord. Pray that artists in your neighbourhood would see themselves as missionaries and potential world changers. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill entertainers with the skill, intelligence and knowledge of His Word. Pray for Christians to have Christian friends who will keep them accountable to spend more time with God than on worldly entertainment.

Meditate on this verse and hear from the Lord how you can apply it to your life.

Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy; and on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God. (Psalm 43:4).

FRIDAY: 15 DECEMBER 2023

SEXUAL IMMORALITY

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality. (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

Sexual immorality means neglecting and defying God's law of sexual relations. In the New Testament, Jesus taught that lusting after someone is just as sinful as the act itself. Sexual immorality is essentially the 'selling off' of sexual purity and involves sexual expression beyond the boundaries of a biblically defined marriage relationship (Matthew 19:4-5). Sexual immorality is increasing worldwide and few people are upset about it.

What does Jesus say about sexual immorality?

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Corinthians 6:18-20). Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. (Hebrews 13:4). Let us pray for the people of our neighbourhood to consciously resist sexual sins and to live pure and acceptable lives before God at all times.

Meditate on this verse and hear from the Lord how you can apply it to your life.

"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." (John 15:11).

SATURDAY: 16 DECEMBER 2023

BOREDOM

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:11).

Boredom is a state of mind characterised by a lack of interest, stimulation, or challenge. Chronic boredom can lead to impulsivity and risky behaviour, careless driving, compulsive gambling, drug and alcohol abuse and other self-destructive behaviours. Though boredom may not lead to murder and adultery, it always indicates a dethroning of God and an enthroning of something other than Him. To recognise God as the ultimate source of purpose and satisfaction is critical to overcoming boredom and finding lasting fulfilment.

What does Jesus say about boredom?

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). There is a way to avoid boredom and that is by cultivating a thankful praying heart in all the circumstances of life. Consider a prayerwalk in your neighbourhood and invite friends to join you asking the Lord to deepen your love for your neighbourhood. Pray for the Word Who became flesh to move into your neighbourhood (John 1:14).

Meditate on this verse and hear from the Lord how you can apply it to your life.

Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37:4).

SUNDAY: 17 DECEMBER 2023

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work. (Titus 3:1)

Law enforcement is an organised manner of enforcing the law by discovering, deterring, rehabilitating, or punishing people who violate the rules and norms governing that society. Social justice makes societies and economies function better and reduces poverty, inequalities and social tensions.

What does Jesus say about law enforcement?

He who says to the wicked, "you are righteous," him the people will curse; nations will abhor him. But those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them. (Proverbs 24:24-25). Pray for all members of law enforcement in your neighbourhood who are discouraged and overwhelmed by rampant crime, to seek wisdom and understanding from the Lord. Ask the Lord to help them carry out their duties with integrity, compassion and fairness. Pray that each of them will make sound decisions in difficult situations and uphold justice and protect the innocent in your neighbourhood.

Meditate on this verse and hear from the Lord how you can apply it to your life.

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13).
