

## 2025 — 1st Quarter Prayer Letter

### Greetings in the name of our lovely Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

Wow, isn't it amazing how fast the year is already slipping away?! So true is the Word of God whether we are conscience of it or not, but as we get older we often develop a keen awareness of certain realities that are solidified in the Scriptures. For example: "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." ~ James 4:14 With this acute realization should come a concern, a challenge, and a call to make the best of what "little time" we are given and have been blessed with. As long as we are alive, we have opportunity, that we should take advantage of to the best of our ability.



Our theme for this year is "Alive in 25" and our theme verse is John 10:10 "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Thank God for His mercy and grace, for the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, for the finished work of redemption, for the availability of whosoever to call upon our Saviour, for so great a salvation, for eternal LIFE!... But at the same time, we need not forget the last part of John 10:10 as the Lord said that He not only came that we might have life, but praise God, we can have life more abundantly!

I want to say that the ministry is a privilege of that abundant life that Christ gives to every born again Child of God. While it is true that our individual part may differ in some aspects of ministry specifics, we all have the ministry of being a witness, and an ambassador of the Lord Jesus to the best of our ability. Sometimes that individual part gets overwhelming, with much opposition, and can cause us to (and just being honest and transparent here), but sometimes we just feel like opting out. But then Christ has such a wonderful way of patiently and lovingly giving us the reminder that our life IN HIM is an abundant life that is worth EVERY aspect of the ministry, positive as well as negative.

Sometimes, it is not even the ministry itself that gets overwhelming, although it is a contributor, sometimes it is uncontrollable situations in your personal life that pushes you over the edge. There is a reason that I included the Dr. Ballew list of ways of praying for your missionaries last year. The first of this year, I went through a personal dark period, in which there were many contributing factors, but largely do to the physical trials within our family. As a husband and father, it hurts to see your wife and children going through something physically that you have no control over and can do nothing about! I know that God is in complete control and that all things work together for good, but sometimes we get weak and we ask Elijah to make room under the Juniper tree so that we can wallow in our doom & gloom, our distress, and our depression.

But praise God, our Saviour made a promise that He would NEVER leave or forsake us, and just as God did not forget Elijah, He will not forget us. I do very much appreciate all that have been praying for us as we cannot express what a difference each and every prayer makes! Please know that all is well, we have been refreshed and renewed! The church is going well, slow but steady. We recently had a young man accept Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Saviour and follow the Lord in believer's Baptism as a first step of obedience!

God is good Church, we have been given eternal life, let us now embrace the abundant life that Christ intends us to live for and IN Him!

With the Love of Christ ~ Bro. John McKinney and Family





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