



Wake Up

By Tamara Roberts - January 2024

*“Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God.
I speak this to your shame.” 1 Corinthians 15:34*

“You mean I slept through the party?” my daughter asked, lower lip quivering.

“Yes, there you lay across your bed in your costume. I couldn’t wake you for anything.” I laughed.

“But, I asked you to wake me up in time.” She said with tears spilling over the rims of her eyes.

“I shook you and made noise, but you wouldn’t budge.” My daughter who was immune deficient and required extra sleep had gone to an overnight gathering at church and came home joyfully exhausted. She dressed for the birthday party then, fell into a very deep sleep. Her body just wouldn’t awaken until she was rested. The same thing happened as an adult when she stayed up all night on “Christmas Eve-eve” one year when her children were young. She so wanted everything to be perfect, that she exhausted herself staying up all night making it happen. When everyone gathered at my house on Christmas Eve, she relaxed as gifts began to be opened and fell asleep not waking until the next morning.

Have we all been sleeping in another more subtle way? Do we need to wake up? A new urgency creeps in with this new year. In these last days, we need to wake up to the fact that the birth pangs of end times are speeding up. We were placed by God right here, right now, for God's special purposes. Jesus said in Matthew 24, "No one knows the day or the hour" when Jesus returns. Every day is closer to the last day. Every day is closer to our personal last day, too. Let's determine to make the most of every opportunity now. A world full of people need the Lord. Just as the virgins awaiting the bridegroom needed oil in their lamps, we, too must shine.

I believe the oil in the lamps in that Matthew 24 parable represent our prayers. How else could we awaken and refuel except by prayer? The world is darker than ever. We have increasing instances of wars and rumors of war, nations rising against nations, and offenses and violence on the rise. Famine, pestilence, and disasters are ever increasing. The light from our prayers must illuminate the darkness.

How do we pray? The Lord's prayer, prayed back to God is a good place to start. Here's an example:

Dear Heavenly Father

You exist in a realm so much greater than this little world we see. Time and space are nothing to You. You know everything and everyone and You love us all. How grateful we are to be in Your presence. We are astounded that You care so much that You sent Jesus to save us. How amazing that You, the King of the Universe, would love us, adopt us, and even allow us to communicate with You.

Hallowed be Your Name...

Holy One, the One and Only True God, You are above all things and in all things. You are truly set apart. In Your presence, our un-holiness is almost overwhelming, yet we know You have made us righteous in Christ. Remind us of anything in our lives that is not right with You so we may repent and confess it. Give us opportunities today to bring honor to Your holy name.

Your Kingdom come...

We praise you that Your kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy has come and is coming in power and great glory. "The kingdom of the world is now the Kingdom of our God and His Messiah! He will rule forever and ever!"

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...

You are God and we are not. Our little points of view are so much less than what You see and know. No matter what happens, help us trust You and follow Your plan. Give us the vision, courage, gifts, power, energy, and stamina to do Your will. Hold the hearts of the rulers and judges of all nations in Your hands and remove those from power who are not following Your will.

Give us this day our daily bread...

We refuse all worry about the daily necessities of life because You know what we need and make provision. We have confidence in You and thank You.

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us...

This is difficult because selfishly, we want mercy for ourselves, but justice for others and we realize it can't work both ways. Jesus, help us remember You paid for all of our sins when we're wronged. Forgive our sin and gently show us where we need to repent.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil...

Thank You, Father, that You have promised that we are never tempted beyond what we can endure -- remind us of that when we are discouraged. Give all of Your children clarity, so we see the temptation and the way out that You provide.

For Yours is the Kingdom, the power...

Father, we reaffirm that the Kingdom is Yours. You are our King, O Lord, and we acknowledge no other! You have all power. In You we can confidently expect to be delivered from all other powers.

The glory...

Glorious! May you be given all honor and glory for You deserve it all. For ever and ever amen.

With our eyes closed in deep prayer to our Father, we'll be far from sleeping, but fully engaged and ready to meet the challenges and Kingdom opportunities each moment brings.

Almighty Father, we are so grateful for Your love, salvation, and purpose. Help us draw closer to You, discern Your plan, and empower us to fulfill it. Amen

Pray for our Church Family

Cross Church Hospital Board & Prayer Sheet as of December 27, 2023: Marvin Myers, Dan Hudkins, Homer Wallace, Kay Hamelwright, and Brenda Harrison. **Sympathy to the families of:** T. Kent Atkins, Jeanne Casten, John Warren (J.W.) Shaunty (Shari Moore's dad), Mutt Parker and Jerome Davis. **Birth Announcements:** Granddaughter of Ron & Shari Moore. **Continued Needs:** Thomas Albaugh, Javier Alvarez, David Antwiler, Jeremy Berveiler, Sharon Booker, Charles Bourne, Sr., Nikki Bowmer, Jackie Bozeman, Carole Browne, Tiffany Browning, Connie Bushor, Weida Caldwell, Jackie Campbell, Maddox Carmean, Sherry Christensen, Sam Cochran, Jack Combs, Gerald Daniel, Joy Davis, Shari Emmons, Elaine Fauntleroy, Summer Fernihough, Gary Fuller, Will Gopffarth, Betty Gresham, Jerri Hajek, Kay Hamelwright, Michael Hamelwright, Dean Hancock, Vickey Howard, Jake Jacob, Beth Kelley, Edith Martin, John Martin, Mike Mathis, Deanna Maynard, Lisa McWilliams, Sharon Mings, Alan Moody, Mark Moses, Aaron Parrill, Pete & Becky Pipkin, Rob Puskas, Tammy Roberts, John Seely, Kathy Stricklin, Linda Shepherd, Phillip Smith, Troy Smith, Glenda Sobel, Arnold Sumrall, John Tankersley, Mikki Thiele, Leland Thomas, Mike Tidmore, Mike Williams, and Thomas Wittner.

Pray for Ministries of Both Campuses

Scott Maze, Senior Pastor requests prayer for:

🕊 People to pray (by name) for friends, family & co-workers who are lost.

Danny Roberts, Executive Pastor requests prayer for:

🕊 Our community as we communicate our "Love Extended."
🕊 Wisdom for staff as we determine best steps for reaching the unchurched and lost.

Stuart Pendell, NFW Campus Pastor requests prayer for:

✝ Our stewardship sermon series. Pray that our people would experience that freedom that comes with biblical stewardship.
✝ Our NFW campus and a smooth installation of our second modular building. Also pray for the kick-off of our Midweek classes.

Danny Koonce, Worship Pastor requests prayer for...

👂 For our choirs to remain healthy.

Missions Ministry requests prayer for:

➔ Texas Baptist Men, Send, and other volunteers & missionaries who are in & around Ukraine helping those effected by the Russian attacks.
➔ Local mission partners, I Can Still Shine, Refresh (BISD) & CAN (Cornerstone Assistance Network).
➔ God's direction for other mission opportunities.
➔ God to provide opportunities for ministry as a result of the food pantry. God's blessing on those who donate.

Dave Bryant, MS and HS Minister requests prayer for:

👨‍👩‍👧 Families to grow together in their spiritual walk.

Daniel Simmons, HS Minister requests prayer for:

👨‍🎓 Students to be discipled and focused on Christ.

Michael Slater, Dir. of Communications requests prayer for:

⇒ Equipment to work well as we offer online services.

Jody Hayes, Wellness Center & Senior Adult Ministry requests prayer for:

- God to arrange opportunities to share the love of Christ in the Wellness Center.

GPS (Singles) Ministry requests prayer for:

☺ Reaching Single Adults in our community.
☺ Our DivorceCare Support Group as we minister to individuals in recovery.

D'Ann Laywell, Women's Ministry requests prayer for:

♥ Our ladies to form relationships that bring them closer to God.

D'Ann Laywell-Children's Ministry & Caren Crow-Angel Land Director & Preschool Ministry, Natalie Goodman-Cross Church Children's Ministry & Russell Zwerg-KID Worship Ministry requests prayer for:

🚲 Eight Good News Clubs in Birdville elementary schools.

🚲 As we begin the new year please pray for children to truly understand the Bible and how much God loves them.

Numbers to call for Prayer Concerns:

International Mission Board
Prayer Line 1-800-395-PRAY (7729)
North American Mission Board Prayer
Line 1-800-554-PRAY (7729)
International Mission News
<http://www.imb.org>
North American Mission News
<http://www.namb.net>
General Prayer Requests
mandi@ccdfw.org

Cross Church
6955 Blvd. 26
North Richland Hills, TX 76180

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Let us pray for the special activities of our church

Jan 1—Happy New Year! Pick up your Bible reading plan in the Ministry Gallery.
Jan 3—Students Family Group Leaders Meeting. Adult Worship Ministry Rehearsals resume.
Jan 7—LORD's Supper observed. Girls Ministry Planning Meeting. Deadline to register and pay for Kids Night Out. Deacon Meeting.
Jan 10 - Lifeline Health Screening in the gym. 2024 Students LIVE kicks off. Children's Choir, WILD, ESL, and the Pastor's Class all resume.
Jan 12 - Kids Night Out if you registered and paid in advance.
Jan 14—New Members Classes. Student Missions Training. Men's Steak 'n' Bake in the gym.
Jan 21—Midweek Discipleship Fair in the Ministry Gallery. City Conversations at the NFW Campus.
Jan 22—Mom 2 Mom.
Jan 24—GriefShare presents "Loss-Of-A-Spouse" seminar, 6:30 in Room 200. It's free.
Jan 28—Baptism Sunday. Midweek Discipleship Fair in the Ministry Gallery. Rodeo Day in the Children's Ministry. Leadership Equipping Meetings.

AcademyHomeSchoolChoir	Adopt-A-School
Angel Land Preschool	BSF Groups
Celebrate Recovery	Child Care Ministry
Children's Choir	Children's Ministry
Connect Classes	Couples Ministry
Cross Church Campus	Discipleship Groups
Divorce Care	Divorce Care for Kids
ESL Program	Financial Peace Univ.
Fine Arts Academy	Food Pantry
G.A.L.S. Media Group	Good News Club
GPS (Singles) Ministry	GriefShare Ministry
Homebound Ministry	KID Worship
KIDs Beach Clubs	Ladies Prayer Group
Library Ministry	Media Ministry
Men's Bible Study	Missions Ministry
Men's Ministry	Music Ministry
Pastor's Prayer Team	Preschool Ministry
Senior Adult Ministry	Spanish Speaking Ministry
Student Choir	Students Hang Time
Students Ministry	Upward Basketball
Wednesday WILD	Wellness Center Ministry
Women's Ministry	Women's Step Study
WOW (Widows of Worth)	Young Singles 20s