

Daily prayer devotional for OneLove campaign

Introduction:

During the month of May 2018, believers across the city of Tshwane will once again be taking hands in a concerted effort to see our city transformed by the God we serve.

During the OneLove series participating churches will be praying together for the peace of our city, preaching around the same themes and embarking on various outreach initiatives.

This daily prayer guide will allow you to join us in our combined prayer initiative as we trust God to reach those far from Him, bring churches closer together and see the power of the gospel at work in practically transforming our city as His kingdom comes in every home, workplace and city street.

May we see our ONE and only GOD be glorified in the ONE CHURCH of which Christ is the head and may this ONE CITY together see the power of His transformation.

This initiative is facilitated by the Tshwane Christian Leaders Forum (TCLF), a gathering of church fraternal leaders from several church fraternals from every corner of Tshwane, representing hundreds of churches from most denominations in the city. The dream is to spread the word of our unified message of salvation, hope and restoration for our city only through the ONE name, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Visit www.onetshwane.co.za for more info.

Day 1 – Your prayer matters

Matthew 26:36-46

Whenever I read this passage I'm struck by Jesus' response to the disciples upon finding them sleeping. Elsewhere in the gospels we find him very patient and gentle with them yet here He almost seems just a bit frustrated at their inability to pray for Him in His time of need. Have you ever wondered why He would respond in this way? I believe it is because Jesus believed in the power of their prayer. Jesus believed that their prayer would change something about the situation He was going through. Jesus believed their prayer over there would change something over here. I wonder if the disciples would have remained awake and praying if they had believed in the power of their own prayer, if they had believed that God hears their prayer and if they had believed that their prayer over here changes something over there.

Do you believe in the power of your prayer? Do you believe your prayer over here changes something over there?

Prayer response:

1. Pray that God will help you grow in your understanding of the power of your prayer, that God hears your prayer, and that your prayer changes things. Ask God to help you develop a healthy prayer life and that you would not be found asleep at the times He has called you to pray.

2. Pray for someone you know who is going through a difficult time. Pray that God would give them wisdom and comfort, that they would taste and see that God is good in the midst of their struggle. Ask God to show you if there is something practical you can do to help and demonstrate love toward your friend.
3. Commit to a daily time of prayer. Make an appointment in your diary for this or use your cell phone to schedule a daily reminder. If you haven't already got one, we would encourage you to keep a prayer journal, writing down what you pray for each day.

*Write down the names of five people who are not currently in a relationship with Jesus and commit to praying for some of them each day for (at least) the duration of this prayer devotional. You may want to put their names up somewhere where you will see them regularly as a reminder to pray for them throughout the day.

Day 2 – God's Initiative

John 3:16-17

As we pray that the love of our God would reach the people of our city, let us consider the following from John 3:16-17.

1. The initiative for evangelism is the love of the Father. We read in John 6:44 "No one can come to me (Jesus) unless the Father who sent me draws him." Let us pray that unsaved people will hear the heart of the Father as He continues to call people to salvation.
2. God's love is a value statement. He values every person on earth to the extent that He was willing to pay the greatest price for us. Let us pray that people will become aware of how precious they are...how He leaves the 99 to save the 1.
3. He loves the world. We often focus on the sin of people and do not see that they are truly the focus of His love! He loves every individual and we pray that Christ followers will be flooded with His love for every individual in our city.
4. God so loved that He gave his only Son. We see that love always demands sacrifice. He made the ultimate sacrifice for us. Let us pray that the church in our city will be flooded with the love of God and will be willing to sacrifice equally for people to get saved.
5. He did not send his Son to condemn. Let us pray that the heart of God will be very evident in our city as the church reaches out without condemnation.
6. The world saved through Him. Salvation will bring people to a relationship with God through Jesus Christ and then we will see the values of people change as they find themselves in Christ.

Prayer response:

1. Pray that God's love will reach every heart in our city. Pray that each and every person in our city will discover how valuable they are to God.
2. Pray that the church will be renewed with God's love for our city. Pray for your church and your church leaders that God would cause them to abound in love towards our city and for wisdom in how to practically demonstrate that love.
3. Find two friends with whom you can pray together once per week. Make a fixed date and commit to meeting together once per week for the rest of May (at least).

*Pray for the salvation of those on your prayer list.

Day 3 – Praying for leaders

1 Timothy 2:1-8

It is striking that Paul urges us to pray for all people, but especially for those in our civil government. We are often quick to criticise those in positions of authority, and yet scripture would have us pray for them instead. We also see in today's passage that it is God's desire (His yearning and strong wish) that every person should be saved and understand God's truth. Our reading for today ends with an exhortation that we should pray free from any anger in our hearts. How is your relationship with authority? Are you quick to criticise when you see things you believe to be wrong, or do you pray for those carrying the responsibility of leadership?

Prayer response:

1. Repent of any times you have been quick to criticise rather than pray for those in authority. Commit to being a person who chooses prayer over criticism.
2. On a city level, we are governed by the mayor, Counsellor Solly Msimanga, his mayoral committee and the rest of the city council. Pray for them that God would grant them the wisdom to lead us well and that they would govern justly. Pray that He would cause their hearts to be filled with love for the people. Also, pray that they would be saved and would grow in their knowledge of God's truth.
3. Write a note of encouragement to one person in authority of whom you have been critical in the past, sharing with them your commitment to uphold them in prayer. This can be someone in government, at work, church or any other leader.

*Pray for the salvation of those on your prayer list.

Day 4 – Love your neighbour

Matthew 22:34-40

We have a great practical gospel. If you look at the rules and guidelines of our gospel you realize, this must be the truth. Jesus commands us to love our neighbours. Can you imagine a world, where all love others as much as they love themselves? This love will take away great pain, disappointments and heartache that happen in this world. To mention a few things, there will be no more hate, nor war, nor stealing, nor corruption, nor murder and we can mention so many more. This love will also bring so many positive things, it will drive us to truly care, be there for one another and help wherever we can. It will open our eyes to the numerous amount of people with great need, suffering and pain, and challenge us to get involved to make a difference. May the Lord help us to develop and grow in this love and to show it in a practical way to one another as Christians, but also to all people, especially sinners.

Prayer response:

1. Pray that God will help you to be an example when it comes to loving. Lord, please help me to love according to your example and the Word.

2. Pray that the church will love. That we will love in such a way that the world will see Christ in us and know that we have the answer and the truth (John 13:35).
3. Pray for sinners: That they will see God's love in us and our example will convince them that what we have is the truth. Pray for their salvation because this will also help them experience the wonderful and true love that we have.

*Pray for the salvation of those on your prayer list.

Day 5 – United in Christ

Galatians 3:26-28

Ever since the fall of mankind in the garden of Eden the enemy has been working to establish separation in humankind – separation between God and humans as well as separation between humans ourselves. Jesus came to make all of this right. He came to re-establish our relationship with the Father, and also to re-establish our relationships with one another. Our humanly built walls of separation, whether cultural, racial, economic or otherwise, are destroyed when we come to each other as brothers and sisters in Christ, fellow children of God and heirs of His promise. Sadly, much of today's politics and news media is directed at increasing the divisions amongst us but as believers we have the opportunity to demonstrate Christ's love to this city. Surely all the people of the earth shall be blessed by us!

Prayer response:

1. Pray that God would show you if there are any divisions in your heart towards those of different race, culture or economic status and ask Him to heal your heart in this regard.
2. Pray for those who you sometimes see as *different* to you. Pray that God would breathe His life over them, that He would bless them abundantly and that He would draw them ever closer to Him.
3. Ask God to show you how you can practically begin to build bridges across some of the walls of separation in our city. Take a deliberate step in this direction today by reaching out to someone you wouldn't normally have. This can take the form of inviting them for lunch, simply taking time to speak to them so you may understand them better, or even praying with them.

*Pray for the salvation of those on your prayer list.

Day 6 – Love is a verb

1 John 3:11-23

Love is a beautiful word. It has a variety of meanings and connotations depending on how we use it. We may love God, our spouses, our country, our favourite sports team and food – each of them in a different way. What this passage does say is that real love, God's type of love, requires action. It's God's love in our hearts that inspires us to action, action that often costs us personally in some way, but action that demonstrates God's love to a broken world.

Prayer response:

1. Thank God for the way in which He has demonstrated His love toward you, that you can be a partaker of life because Jesus gave up His life for us.
2. Pray that you may increase in love toward those around you and that that love would find an outflow into the appropriate action. Ask God to show you how you can demonstrate His love towards those around you.
3. Prayerfully think of a way to practically demonstrate love toward someone around you today and commit to doing so.

*Pray for the salvation of those on your prayer list.

Day 7 – Compelled by love

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

In today's reading, we are reminded that restoration of relationship with God is the greatest gift we are able to give. It is not that we are able to restore that relationship for anyone, but we are able to point them toward the cross of Christ, where He has made restoration. As much as we can, and should, demonstrate love in a variety of ways, true God-inspired love will always be aware of eternity. It is because of the love in our hearts that we are compelled to carry the Good News of Jesus to those who have not yet embraced it.

Prayer response:

1. Pray that God would stir in you a renewed awareness of eternity and what it means to be reconciled to God.
2. Pray for those around you who have not yet been reconciled to God that they would hear, and embrace, the Good News of Jesus.
3. Commit in your heart to being a carrier, an ambassador, of God's message of reconciliation.

*Pray for the salvation of those on your prayer list.

Day 8 – Love as witness

Philippians 1:3-11

It is clear from today's passage that the ultimate goal of the church and of our individual lives is the glory and praise of our God. Our role, therefore, is getting more and more people involved in this glorious activity. How does it work? According to Paul, we will reach the desired result (glory and praise to God) when we live the life of a lover. When we start to love unconditionally according to the example of Christ, bearing bountiful fruits by living irreproachable lives. By living and loving in the footsteps of Jesus, we make our Lord irresistibly attractive to the people we interact with.

Prayer response:

1. Pray that God will empower you through his Holy Spirit to live a "lover's life". Pray that Jesus may become visible in your life by acts and fruits of love.
2. Pray for someone you know who is disillusioned and disappointed in God as the result of negative experiences in the church. Ask God for opportunities to demonstrate Christ-like love towards him/her.

3. Commit to growing in your role as a follower of Christ – to live a fruitful and irreproachable life. Write down the next two steps you will take to accomplish this.

*Pray for the salvation of those on your prayer list.

Day 9 – Spirit-empowered witness

Acts 1:6-11

It is important to realise that as followers of Jesus we are His witnesses to the world, everything we do and say reflects back to Him. In a sense, we can say that Jesus entrusted the completion of His mission, the success of His message, to you and to me. Isn't it incredible that we get to partner with Him in His plan of redemption for the nations? It is also encouraging to remember that Jesus promised that we would receive power from the Holy Spirit, a divine empowerment to speak of Jesus. Much like in a court of law, as witnesses, we are not required so much to give our opinions and views as to simply tell of our experience – what we have seen and heard. If you have met Jesus you have a story to tell and your story, breathed on by the Holy Spirit, changes and transforms lives. Let us not be under-cover Christians, but Christians who boldly proclaim the good things Jesus has done.

Prayer response:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to come upon you and give you boldness to tell people of Jesus in a loving and relevant way.
2. Pray that God would pour His Spirit out over the churches in our city and that this would lead to ever more vibrant mission and witness for Him.
3. Take a moment to write down your story – what your life was like before you met Jesus, how you met Him, and what has changed since.

*Pray for the salvation of those on your prayer list.

Day 10 – The simple gospel

Romans 10:8-10

This is such a liberating scripture whereby Paul once again reminds us of the simplicity of the Gospel – the Good News of Jesus Christ. There aren't many hoops we have to jump through or things we have to do to be saved. Salvation is not a list of things I have to do to obtain righteousness in God. The whole New Testament is based on what Jesus has done for us from love and our response to this Good News. Our response is set in two things and that is that we shall believe in our hearts, in our inner beings, that Jesus is Lord and if you truly believe the evidence will be in your confession, in your everyday speaking. But for anyone to believe in Jesus they need to hear of Him and have a personal revelation that Jesus is Lord of all, that He is God. Your faith in Jesus is not a "personal matter" it is the best news ever and you should speak boldly of this.

Do you believe that Jesus is Lord of all and Lord of your life? Can you and do you confess, speak boldly of, Him as your saviour?

Prayer response:

1. Thank God that you can know Him and that you believe in Him. Ask God to increase your faith.
2. Pray for personal boldness to confess, speak of, your relationship with Him to everyone and anyone. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you words to share with friends and family so they can hear the Good News and also believe.
3. Pray for three people by name that need to become aware of the Good News of Jesus. Pray that they will have a revelation of Jesus as Lord so they can believe in their hearts that they are justified from all sin and confess with their mouths to being saved.

*Pray for the salvation of those on your prayer list.

Day 11 – Personal witness I

Scripture: Luke 24:13-31

As co-worker in God's Kingdom the simplicity of your life story is meant to tell a tale of salvation. In Luke 24 we read how Cleopas and his companion were on their way to Emmaus. After the terrible happenings regarding Jesus' death on the cross and the disappearance of His body, they were dismayed and disappointed. Jesus joined them on the way and listened to their version of the events. What is notable is that Jesus allowed them to share their understanding of what happened, while He actually had all the facts. Their story was important to Him. He wanted them to articulate their pain and feelings of despair. Jesus' remark about their foolishness and unbelief did not trouble them. They were eager to listen to His words of encouragement and hope. They needed to rediscover the essence of life itself. So they invited Him to stay over, and as they were breaking the bread together, their eyes were opened to recognize Jesus in their story.

You don't need a glorious testimony to become a witness for Jesus. Allow Him to change your story of pain and brokenness into His story! Your testimony is meant to touch lives, not impress people!

Prayer response:

1. Tell Jesus about your pain and disappointments in prayer. Allow Him to change your story into His story.
2. Identify one person in a difficult situation and pray for him/her.
3. Pray for an opportunity to share what Jesus did for you and plan to tell at least one person a part of your story today.

*Pray for the salvation of those on your prayer list.

Day 12 – Personal witness II

Scripture: Luke 24:32-36

When your story is infused with God's story you will find that the true story starts to unfold. The moment the two inhabitants of Emmaus recognized Jesus in everything they had experienced, they were filled with enthusiasm. The word: *enthusiasm* originated in the Greek word: *en Theos*, which means *to be in God*. When they discovered Jesus in their midst, God's presence filled them – they were infused with enthusiasm. With joy they walked the whole

way back to Jerusalem to share their story. Nothing could stop them. Not even the 8 km walk at night time.

While they were sharing their story with His disciples Jesus appeared in their midst. Just share your testimony with others, and you will experience how Jesus takes it from there. Be bold!

Prayer response:

1. Tell Jesus about your preconceived ideas and fears to be a bold witness in His Kingdom and allow the Holy Spirit to enthuse you with boldness.
2. Pray for an opportunity to share the Good News with people at work.
3. Prayerfully plan a small meeting at work during your tea break or lunch hour. Invite a few friends/colleagues and share your testimony with them.

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Day 13 – Workers in the field

Matthew 9:35-38

In today's passage, we once again see Christ's heartfelt love and compassion for the people leading to a genuine concern for their eternal state. We also see Him instructing the disciples, and by extension you and me, to pray for workers to be sent out. Jesus is holding before His disciples the reality that there are many, many people to be reached with His message but there are few who are willing to go. It is also important for us to realise that we cannot in truth pray this prayer (for workers to be sent out) without being willing to be the answer to our own prayer. How is your commitment to the harvest? Are you willing to be a worker?

Prayer response:

1. Ask God to reveal himself to you as the Lord of the harvest, to show you His passion for the lost.
2. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers recognising that you are in fact an answer to that prayer! Allow God to give you a heart for the harvest, to equip you to effectively reach the people he has placed around you.
3. Find out about the outreach and short-term mission programmes your church has. Contact your pastor/reverend or outreach director to find out how you can be involved and contribute to the programme.

*Pray for the salvation of those on your prayer list.

Day 14 – Gospel impact

Philemon 1:4-9

Paul prays for his friend Philemon as he is about to ask him to do something quite unheard of. Paul is going to ask Philemon to not only forgive his runaway slave, Onesimus, but also to give him his freedom and to see him as a brother. If Philemon did this he would break all sorts of social conventions of the day and potentially upset some powerful people.

In his prayer for Philemon Paul uses the word “Koinonia”, here translated fellowship, to remind Philemon that all believers share equally in the grace and mercy of Christ. God’s kingdom includes a new society wherein all men are equal, as Paul reminded believers in Colossians 3:11 *that we belong to* “a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.”

The good news of the gospel must transform our hearts and then through changed lives transform the society around it. The impact of the gospel may be very personal on each of us, but may its impact never be kept private.

Prayer response:

1. Pray that God would cause the gospel to continue to transform your heart and life. Ask Him to show you what in your life still needs to be transformed and if there is anything countercultural He wants you to do.
2. Pray that the church of Jesus in Tshwane would also be strengthened in its fellowship, that we would be able to gather around the grace and mercy of Jesus that we all equally share in.
3. Pray that the gospel would continue to transform lives in a very personal way and also continue to transform our society as people live out that transformation in public.

*Pray for the salvation of those on your prayer list.

Day 15 – Follow

Mark 1:16-20; Matthew 16:24-27

When Jesus called his first disciples he called them into relationships. At the end of his life’s ministry He commanded these same disciples to go and make disciples of all nations. So what is a disciple and what is discipleship? In short – a disciple is someone who FOLLOWS Jesus, FISHES for men and FELLOWSHIPS with believers. These three relationships that are vital for a true disciple: a relationship with God (FOLLOW), a lost world (FISH) and with other believers (FELLOWSHIP). Discipleship is then the process by which we make disciples.

When Jesus called the two brothers Simon and Andrew to follow Him, He was calling them into a relationship. He said: “Follow me”, that is following a Person and not a program. Following Jesus is so intimate and personal as we hear and know His voice. When we say we follow Him it means we obey Him and follow His example. It means laying down our lives and taking up our cross. It means counting the cost and paying the price of following Jesus. In comparison to the price Jesus paid for us on the cross, these ‘sacrifices’ are nothing compared to knowing Him and following Him.

In my own walk with Christ I’ve experienced the joy of letting go of my plans and surrendering to the perfect will of God. Jesus calls us daily to follow him and submit to his Lordship and leading. In what areas of your life have you not yet surrendered to his Lordship? Are you quick to obey Him?

Prayer response:

1. Pray for a new passion to obey and follow Him in every area of your life.
2. Pray that God will give you a heart for discipleship so that you can obey His great commission to go and make disciples.
3. Ask God who in your life you should intentionally start to disciple and reach out to that person as soon as you possibly can (preferably today).

*Pray for the salvation of those on your prayer list.

Day 16 – Fish

Mark 1:16-20; Luke 19:1-10

When Jesus called his first disciples, two fishermen, He called them to a higher purpose. They were fishermen, but Jesus called them to a new adventure of fishing for people. He made a simple promise: that if they followed Him, He will MAKE them fishers of men. For us to fish for men, we must understand the heart of God and his desire to see people saved. Jesus came with a clear purpose: to seek and save the lost. His unfailing love drove Him to leave the comfort of heaven, cross all imaginable barriers and bring the gospel of salvation to a dying world.

When we understand that true discipleship always starts with evangelism and ends with evangelism, we will also leave our comfort zones to cross the street, cross the room and cross the border to go and reach the lost. Jesus' heart will start beating in all of us. A heart to see people come to the saving knowledge of Christ. We are called to be witnesses and to intentionally reach out. This isn't some special gift for just the evangelists. This is for all of us and there is no better place to catch the heart of God for the lost than in prayer.

When was the last time you intentionally reached out to an unsaved friend or stranger, sharing the good news of Jesus?

Prayer response:

1. Pray that God will break your heart for the lost.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit how you can reach out to those you've been praying for on your prayer list, perhaps it's as simple as a text message, a phone call or an appointment over lunch.
3. Pray for a nation that God shows you.

*Pray for the salvation of those on your prayer list.

Day 17 – Fellowship

Mark 1:17-18; 1 John 1:7

As the two brothers responded to follow Jesus, scripture says they 'immediately left their nets and followed Him'. From other passages we learn that they didn't follow Jesus alone. They were added to this new group of strangers, called disciples. People from different ethnic and

social backgrounds, some even enemies. And yet they were drawn into a new fellowship with Jesus at the centre.

We were not made to walk alone. We were born to live in relationships just as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit walk in perfect unity and relationship. Fellowship is the natural result of people who are called together by God. Fellowship is beyond just sharing a meal and exchanging stories. It is the willingness to know and be known. When John calls the church to walk in the light as Jesus is in the light the promise shines through that the blood of Jesus will cleanse us of all sin and we will have fellowship with one another.

The third relationship a disciple needs is true fellowship. Now for some this may be a scary thought since we live in a broken, imperfect world where the church is also imperfect. And yet Scripture is clear that the church as the bride of Christ is vitality important for our own growth and foundation as a disciple of Jesus.

Maybe you are part of a wonderful spiritual family (church) and you are saying yes and amen to all of this, or perhaps you are sceptical and past hurt, offence and abuse are keeping you away from committing to a local church. I pray that God will bring healing and restoration as He did for me so that you can experience the joy of true fellowship where we are challenged, encouraged and formed to be the body of Christ.

Prayer response:

1. Pray for your local pastor/dominee/reverend/leader and his/her family. Encourage them with a message or a phone call thanking them for their labour in God's kingdom.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you any un-dealt pain or hurt from church experiences and choose to forgive any offence just as Jesus forgave us. Also, ask Him to add you to a church and become actively involved. Ask his forgiveness where you have spoken death over His bride, the church.
3. Pray for churches all across our city to follow hard after God and fulfil their calling from Him.

*Pray for the salvation of those on your prayer list.

Day 18 – Personal transformation

Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Philippians 2:12-18

One of the unmistakable fruits of living in a relationship with Jesus is that He changes us – He changes the way we feel, think and act. This transformation means we no longer do things the way the world does them, we become a peculiar people living differently for His name. This transformation is a process, a process which does not stop until that moment when we see Christ (either through our earthly death, or His return). How have you changed since you began to follow Christ? What else do you think needs to change?

Prayer response:

1. Ask God to continue to transform the way you think and act. Also ask Him to show you if there are any areas in which you copy the behaviour and customs of the world, and for the courage and boldness to change your ways.

2. Pray for Christians in our city to shine as lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.
3. Speak to a fellow believer who knows you well and ask them if they see any areas in which you still copy the behaviours and customs of the world.

*Pray for the salvation of those on your prayer list.

Day 19 – The power of the word

2 Timothy 3:14-17

What a privilege we have to freely access the Bible - God's Word. In Matthew 4:4 Jesus responds to the devil when tempted by saying "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." For us to fully exist we need to live in the realm of God's word. His words are profitable for us when we listen and accept it. We don't always know what is good or bad, but Scripture is there to guide and even correct us. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was for our complete restoration. The Bible trains us in this righteousness so we can fully discover and live in this completeness that will naturally result in good works to others.

Is the Bible the ultimate source of truth in all your decision making? Do you study God's Word regularly?

Prayer response:

- Thank God for the awesome gift of the Bible.
- Ask God to reveal His will and truth for you through His Word. Pray that the Holy Spirit will remind you of His words in all circumstances and also give you the boldness to speak His word in truth.
- Commit to a time of daily Bible study/reading. Get hold of a good daily devotional or ask your pastor/reverend to suggest a reading plan.

*Pray for the salvation of those on your prayer list.

Day 20 – Doing unto others

Luke 6:27-36

We don't close gaps between people with perfection or great stories or even with revenge - we close gaps with Christ. When we live today's scripture, I can only imagine what great impact it will have on people's lives all around us. It does not feed the "me" – it rather feeds the "who" and satisfies them. It's about someone else. Jesus showed through all that He endured that relationship and caring are key.

We need to show people in the normal day-to-day walk a better way of doing and experiencing life. This can be accomplished by putting others needs above our own. It's not easy, I know, but it is worth it – "**do to others** as you would have them **do** to you."

The idea is not revenge or even payback, it's doing it the Jesus way. Let's close the gaps of indifference not just with words but through our actions. Let us close the gaps as Jesus did - through relationship and caring.

Prayer response:

1. Pray that your eyes will be opened to the needs of those around you, no matter the cost to yourself.
2. Pray that you will not only try to do good to those who you feel deserve it, but rather that God will help you to do good all around you.
3. Make a point of doing for someone else what you would have loved to be done for you today.

*Pray for the salvation of those on your prayer list.

Day 21 – Go

Matthew 28:18-20

We all understand that to correctly interpret the Word of God we need to consider original context and original meaning. Looking at this well-known beautiful passage where Jesus commanded His discipleship to “Go” and “make disciples” we need to position ourselves almost as if we are sitting in front of Jesus and He is speaking to us. The following will become more relevant and correctly understood if we keep the original context and intent in mind:

1. First of all, Jesus was not giving a great suggestion, it was a great commandment! What do you understand about this commandment concerning your own life?
2. Secondly Jesus was not sending them out to existing Christian groups, communities or churches, there were none. The original intent, which then explains the correct biblical meaning of discipleship, is that He was sending them out to into the world who did not know Him or worship Him. Biblical discipleship starts with the lost and always ends up again with the lost.
3. Thirdly Jesus said “Go” and “make disciples”. He did not say wait, or invite or hope, He said “Go”. To whom can you go in the next 2 weeks trusting God that He will touch their hearts as you are faithful and obedient?
4. Lastly, “Teach them to obey everything I have taught you”. Who is teaching/discipling you and who are you teaching to obey Jesus. We trust that God will use this OneTshwane month as a moment to build a momentum that will result in a movement of disciple-making disciples. If we teach people to obey, then this month cannot stay being only one month, it needs to translate over into you and I continuing to be and make disciples for Jesus. May you continue to faithfully obey Jesus and teach others to also make this their lifestyle.

Prayer response:

1. What do you understand about this great commandment that Jesus gave to His disciples and how is this applicable to your life right now? Why don't you pray and ask Jesus to help you be a disciple of Jesus yourself?

2. Who are you reaching out to or befriending that does not know Jesus or who is not born again? Why not pray now and ask God to give you opportunities and the grace to share the gospel with them?
3. Ask God to show you how to continue living a lifestyle of prayer and obedience to His word. Prayerfully commit to continuing what God has begun in your life over the last three weeks.

*Pray for the salvation of those on your prayer list.