

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 LABOUR DAY	2 7am Men's Prayer Meeting	3 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: <i>Revelation 1-3—Just Who Is Jesus, Anyway?</i> 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	4	5	6 10am Safe Relationships Training 1-4pm Baking Club
7 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (<i>Luke 4:42-44; Col 4:2—Prayer: Being Jesus' "Co-worker")</i> 11:30am BBYOL	8	9 7am Men's Prayer Meeting	10 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: <i>Rev 1-3—Who Is Jesus?</i> 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	11	12	13
14 KICKOFF SUNDAY 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (<i>Luke 5:1-11—Gospel: Getting Right with Jesus</i>) 11:15am Faith Formation 12pm BBYOL	15	16 7am Men's Prayer Meeting	17 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: <i>Rev 1-3—Who Is Jesus?</i> 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	18	19 7pm Youth (Kickoff!)	20 9:30am Naomi House: Explore the Refugee Highway (Kildonan Park) 7:30pm UGM
21 Communion Sunday 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (<i>Luke 5:1-11—Sharing: With Jesus, With Others</i>) 11:15am Faith Formation Prayer Meeting 12pm BBYOL	22	23 7am Men's Prayer Meeting 10am Missions Team Meeting	24 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: <i>Rev 1-3—Who Is Jesus?</i> 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	25	26 7pm Youth (Bible Study & Games)	27 8:30am Men's Prayer Fellowship
28 10am Worship – Pastor Yuri (<i>Luke 5:1-11—Teaching: Here, There, Everywhere!</i>) 11:15am Faith Formation 12pm BBYOL Birthday Sunday!	29	30 7am Men's Prayer Meeting 7pm Council Meeting	1 6:30pm Bible Study Topic: <i>Parables of Jesus?</i> 7:00pm Prayer Meeting	2	3	4



Bethesda Church
Newsletter

Congregational letter

September 2025

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit; for apart from me you can do nothing [...] If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” —John 15:5,7

Last month I identified our single “missional priority” to be PRAYER.

What do I mean by that phrase, “missional priority”? It sounds like something a CEO might say. And I suppose it is. I don’t generally like to use that kind of language, because it leaves me cold. I like beautiful words. I like words that send me off on tangents. On the other hand, dull, latinate corporate-speak does force me to focus! Poetry soars, but it also leaves wiggle room. Case in point: we’d like to think that prayer is something that we can engage with on our terms. We imagine we should only pray when we’re inspired. We fancy that if we make ourselves pray when we don’t feel like it, we’re being inauthentic. But the Bible makes it clear that prayer is *business* for us. Our business is prayer. Think of it this way: as Christians, as the church—God’s called out, gathered ones—God gives us specific tasks to accomplish: a “mission”. But what he expects of us is humanly impossible. The only way we can possibly hope to make progress is through prayer.

Hence, prayer is our missional *priority*.

Imagine: your boss gives you a tough assignment. Since he knows it will be hard, he gives you a step-by-step list of things you need to do to accomplish the task. He also makes clear that he is putting

together a team to work on it. Now, maybe you’re like me and you don’t enjoy group work. Maybe you figure that you’d be better off trying to do what the boss wants in your own way, on your own steam, and in your own time. So, you chuck his stupid, condescending list. And you decide you only need to show up for work when you feel up to it. Would this not signal to the boss that you think you know better than he does? Would he be wrong to question whether you really understand what he’s asked you to do? Might it even be reasonable for him to suspect that you don’t care that much about what he’s asked you to do? That you care more about yourself than you care about his mission?

In his Word, God tells us many times, and shows us in many ways, that prayer is to be our missional priority. Prayer is the main way he expects us to accomplish his mission. While there may be other steps on the to-do list he’s made for us, prayer is the thing he expects us to stay committed to from start to finish (and beyond). He also makes perfectly clear that his whole project has been a group effort from the beginning: he himself is a team (in his very being!) and he has been envisioning and assembling his cloud of human co-workers since before time began! So when we do not pray—alone and together—we are effectively rejecting God’s mission. How could we ever expect to carry it out?



BETHESDA
CHURCH

Bethesda Church Office Information
Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10:00am-2:30pm
Phone: 204-987-2890 (main office)
1350 Grant Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3M 2A7
Email: office@bethesdachurch.ca

September 2025

Bible Reading Plan

- 2 Sam 1
- Ezek 6
- Matt 15:21-28
- Ezek 7
- 2 Sam 2:1-11
- *Ps 57
- Matt 15:29-39
- 2 Sam 2:12-3:5
- Ezek 8-9
- Matt 16:1-12
- 2 Sam 3:6-39
- Ezek 10
- 2 Sam 4
- *Ezek 11
- Matt 16:13-28
- 2 Sam 5:1-16
- Ezek 12
- Matt 17:1-21
- 2 Sam 5:17-25
- Ezek 13
- Matt 17:22-18:20
- 2 Sam 6
- Ezek 14:1-11
- Matt 18:21-35

- *2 Sam 7
- Ezek 14:12-23
- Matt 19:1-12
- 2 Sam 8-9
- Ezek 15
- Matt 19:13-30
- Ezek 16†
- 2 Sam 10
- Ezek 17
- Matt 20:1-16
- 2 Sam 11
- Ezek 18
- 2 Sam 12:1-25
- Ezek 19
- *Matt 20:17-34
- 2 Sam 12:26-31
- Ezek 20:1-44
- 2 Sam 13
- Ezek 20:45-49
- Ps 142
- 2 Sam 14:1-15:12
- Matt 21:1-11
- 2 Sam 15:13-16:14
- Matt 21:12-17
- 2 Sam 16:15-17:29
- Matt 21:18-32

- 2 Sam 18
- Matt 21:33-46

Memory Verses:

#1. Psalm 57:1

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in you my soul takes refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.

#2. Ezekiel 11:19

“I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.”

#3. 2 Samuel 7:8-13

“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my

people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth.

And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will

raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

#4. Matt 20:26b-28

“...whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

She loves to be alone, walking in the fields and groves, and seems to have someone invisible always conversing with her.
-Jonathan Edwards,
On his future wife, Sarah

to be leading this day

PRAYER AND DEVOTION

— E.M. BOUNDS (ADAPTED by Pastor Yuri)

Never was there greater need for saintly men and women; the world moves with gigantic strides. Satan has his hold and rule on the world, and labours to make all its movements serve his ends.

Modern sainthood must be inspired by the loftiest ideals through the Spirit: Paul lived on his knees, that the Ephesian Church might measure the heights, breadths, and depths of an unmeasurable saintliness and “be filled with all the fullness of God.” Epaphras laid himself out with the exhaustive toil and strenuous conflict of fervent prayer, that the Colossian Church might “stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.” Everywhere, everything in apostolic times was on the stretch that the people of God might each and “all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

No premium was given, no encouragement, to an old babyhood. The babies were to grow; the old, instead of feebleness and infirmities, were to bear fruit in old age, and be fat and flourishing. The divinest thing is holy men and holy women. No amount of money, genius, or culture can move things for God. Holiness energizes the soul, the whole man aflame with love, with desire for more faith, more prayer, more zeal, more consecration. This is the secret of power. These we need and must have, that we will be the incarnation of this God-inflamed devotedness. God’s advance has been stayed, His cause crippled, His name dishonoured for their lack.

(continued, next)

3+ hours: George Whitefield; Robert Murray M’Cheyne; Henry Martyn (translated Bible into Hindi); Bernard of Clairvaux; E.M. Bounds; Adoniram Judson advocated praying 7X/day: at dawn, 9:00, 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 & midnight

4+ hours: William Bramwell (Methodist); Charles Simeon; Joseph Alleine (Puritan); Smith Wigglesworth (evangelist) prayed for a few minutes every 15-30 minutes

5+ hours: Athanasius; Lancelot Andrewes (King James Bible translator); David Brainerd; Leonard Ravenhill; John Welch (John Knox’s son-in-law); the last three, often 8+ hours!

“Stained the walls of his room by the breath of his prayers...”: John Fletcher (friend of Wesley)

Old “Camel Knees”: James, brother of Jesus

Genius, education, position, dignity, place, honoured names cannot move this chariot of our God. It is a fiery one. And fiery forces only can move it. Genius fails. Strength fails. Spirit can move it. Spirit on fire for God, on fire for souls. Nothing earthly, worldly, selfish may abate the intensity of this all-impelling and all-consuming force and flame.

Prayer is the creator as well as the channel of devotion. The spirit of devotion is the spirit of prayer. Prayer and devotion are united as soul and body are united. There is no real prayer without devotion, no devotion without prayer. The preacher must be surrendered to God. He is not a professional man, his ministry is not a profession; it is a divine institution, a divine devotion. He is devoted to God. His aim, aspirations, ambition are for God and to God, and to such prayer is as essential as food is to life.

Devotion to God – there is no substitute. Devotion to a church, to opinions, to an organization, to orthodoxy – these are paltry, misleading, and vain. God must be the mainspring of the preacher’s effort, the fountain and crown of all his toil. The name and honour of Jesus Christ, the advance of His cause, must be all in all. Then prayer will be a source of illumination, the means of perpetual advance, the gauge of his success. The perpetual aim, the only ambition is to have God.

Never did the cause of God need prayer more than in this age. No age, no person, will be an instance of the gospel power except the ages or persons of deep and earnest prayer. A prayerless age will have but scant models of divine power. Prayerless hearts will never rise. The age may be a better age than the past, but there is an infinite distance between the betterment of an age by the force of an advancing civilization and its betterment by the increase of holiness and Christ-likeness by the energy of prayer.

The Jews were much better when Christ came than in the ages before. It was the golden age of their Pharisaic religion. Their golden religious age crucified Christ. There was never more praying, yet never less praying; never more sacrifices, never less sacrifice; never less idolatry, never more idolatry; never more of temple worship, never less of God worship; never more of lip service, never less of heart service (God worshiped by lips whose hearts and hands crucified God’s Son!); never more of churchgoers, never less of saints.

It is prayer-force which makes saints. Holy characters are formed by the power of real praying. The more of true saints, the more of praying; the more of praying, the more of true saints.

But there is something even more fundamental that you will miss if you don’t dedicate yourself to prayer. You will not “abide in him”. Nor will he “abide in you”. Jesus is talking here about the *quality of your life* right now. According to Jesus, you have to “abide in” him to “bear fruit”. The question is: Do you want a fruitful existence? Or a barren existence? Do you want to feel like your life is worth living? Or are you content with the sneaking suspicion that nothing you do makes a difference?

If you “abide in” Jesus, his sustaining power will course through you! His creative force will cause you to “bear much fruit”! And he makes you a dangerous promise. As his words abide in you, you will come to want more of what he wants. If you want what he wants, you will get everything you pray for! How could any practical person afford *not* to spend much time “abiding in him”?

Pastor Yuri

EDWARD MCKENDREE BOUNDS (1835-1913)

trained as a lawyer but he became a humble, devoted pastor during the revival that took place at the end of the 1850’s. Every day, he would get up at 4:00 and pray until 7:00! He wrote many inspiring books on prayer, but only two were published in his lifetime. (Since he wrote on any random scrap he could find, his books were a challenge to prepare for publication!)

The article above is from his book “Power through Prayer”. He also includes a chapter which he calls “Prayer’s Hall of Fame”. Some of the people on the list below is from that chapter, although I’ve added a few myself! Of course, these men and women modelled their prayer habits on Jesus himself, who usually got up “while it was still dark” to pray (Mark 1:35). At other times he prayed long into the night (Matthew 14:23) and was even known to go the whole night through (Luke 6:12)!

2 (+/-) hours/day: Susannah Wesley (mother of John & Charles) prayed sitting in her kitchen with her apron flung back over her head while her 10 kids buzzed around her! Many others: John Wesley; Henry Havelock (famous British General); Earl Cairns (Chancellor under Disraeli); Martin Luther (often 3 hours); Mother Teresa, John Calvin, John Knox, Francis Asbury, etc.