



The 15⁺ Challenge

(Standing in the Gap)

Throughout the history of the Church, major movements of God have been preceded by devoted periods of prayer. One example would be what happened among the Moravians in Germany. In 1727 the Moravians began a 24/7 prayer meeting that continued for 100 years. Out of this concentrated time of prayer came an increased emphasis on evangelism that spread around the world. John Wesley came to saving faith through this movement. This led to the great revivals of John and Charles Wesley, and George Whitfield in both England and America.

The Bible records for us God's search for those who would stand in the gap (Ezekiel 22:30) and pray for the people. When this happens God intervenes. Grace Church is asking God to help us increase our passion for intercessory prayer in 2013. Would you join with other believers who are asking God to help us pray twenty-four hours every day? We will need God's help to do this.

We are calling this **The 15⁺ Challenge (Standing in the Gap)**. The challenge is to commit to pray for a minimum of fifteen minutes each day. You can certainly pray more, thus 15⁺. You could break it into three five-minute segments. This booklet contains suggestions as to how you might use your time of interceding on the behalf on others and God's presence among us.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Ti 2:1-4 ESV)

Come and seek the LORD and learn from Him each day. Experience Him and watch Him work! Our prayer for you is that you will have a new revelation of His attributes, character, love, and power!

Your brothers and sisters in Christ,
The 15⁺ Challenge Team

Suggested Guide to the 15⁺ Challenge

Prayer is much more than asking God for things. Prayer is not a synonym for asking. Prayer is communion with God. It's intimate communication, the development of a relationship.

Perhaps the acronym ACTS will prove helpful in your 15⁺ challenge.

A – Adoration

- ◆ Spend some time adoring God; remembering who He is. It's re-adjusting your view of God by taking time to remember that He is God and you are not.

C – Confession

- ◆ Confess sins, both of commission (sins you've committed) and of omission (the sin of knowing to do something and not doing it). Repent of specific ways you've fallen short and missed the mark.

T – Thanksgiving

- ◆ Thank God for the many ways He's blessed you, starting with your salvation! Thank Him for answered prayers, and the works He's done in your life.

S – Supplication

- ◆ Bring your requests before God. Ask in faith, knowing that what you ask in accordance with God's will and purpose will be given to you.

We encourage you not to see these pages as a checklist of prayers to get through, but a starting point for your communion with God. The pages that follow are tools to help you as you wish to use them.

It may prove helpful to...

- ◆ Keep a pen and paper near by to write down any distractions.
- ◆ Break your 15 minute segments into three five-minute segments (morning, noon, and night).
- ◆ Spend a few minutes in the Word prior to beginning your prayer time. Pray out of response to what God has spoken to you in His Word.

Sunday - Grace Church

A – Adoration

- ◆ Acknowledge that Jesus is the head of the Church, the Chief Shepherd. He builds His Church.
- ◆ Reflect on the fact that the Church is Jesus' Bride.
- ◆ Remember God has ordained Grace Church.
- ◆ Praise God for the gifts of community, preaching, corporate worship and ordinances that come through the Church.

C – Confession

- ◆ Confess times of selfishness when we put ourselves ahead of others in the church.
- ◆ Repent of our self-focus.
- ◆ Confess ways we've neglected to use our spiritual gifts in a manner that edifies the whole church.
- ◆ Confess and repent of times we've treated church as a social club instead of God's covenant community of believers.

T – Thanksgiving

- ◆ Express thankfulness for God establishing the Church as a means of grace in this world waiting for Christ's return.
- ◆ Thank God for the pastors, elders, deacons, and other leaders at Grace Church.
- ◆ Give thanks for the faithful history of Grace Church.
- ◆ Thank God for the legacy of obedient believers in which we walk.

S – Supplication

- ◆ Pray that **God would be glorified** in all that we do. The Church exists to the praises of God's glory. Ask for Grace Church to be careful to give God the praise in everything. (Eph. 1:18; Col. 1:27)
- ◆ Ask for the Holy Spirit to move within our hearts as individuals and as a congregation. Pray for each one to be **sensitive to the leading of the Spirit** as we go about our daily routine. (Eph. 4:30; 1 Thess. 5:19; Gal. 5:25)

- ◆ **Pray for the Praise Team** as they lead our corporate worship in song. Ask God to work in their hearts during the week so that it overflows on Sunday.
- ◆ Prayer is a definitive work of God in our own lives. Without His help our prayers become human effort. Pray that God would **make us a house of prayer.** (Mt. 6:5-14; Mt. 18:19; James 5:16)
- ◆ God is glorified when others see our good works. Ask that all of our **works would be the sweet aroma of Christ** to those around us. (2 Co. 2:15; Col 3:17)
- ◆ Pray for God to **kindle in each of us a growing passion** for Him and His Kingdom. Pray for revival to come to each heart. (Rev. 3:14-16; Ps. 19:7; 51:10)
- ◆ God has designed a leadership structure for the Church. **Pray for Elders/Deacons** as they provide godly examples. Pray for their protection as they step out and lead. (Acts 6:4; Titus 1:7-9)
- ◆ God has called some to be pastors/teachers. **Pray for the pastoral staff** of Grace Church. Ask God to protect their families. Pray for strength when the battle is long. (2 Co. 4:1; 1 Co. 4:1-3)
- ◆ Children are a gift from God. Ask God to **give Kelly Graeber and all our children's** workers wisdom and passion as they work with our little ones. (Mt. 19:14; Ps 127:3)
- ◆ Throughout Scripture we see God working through teams of people. **Pray for the support staff** of Grace Church. Ask God to protect them from acts of the enemy.
- ◆ Pray that Grace Church would be a **good steward of the finances God has entrusted to us.** Ask for wisdom as those responsible for handle our budget. Pray that we can make an impact in our community as we seek to help those in financial need. Pray that we would fulfill our MUCH & MORE objectives.
- ◆ God has used the youth of the church often over the centuries to bring about a renewed passion for his glory and mission. **Pray for our youth to be used of God.** Pray for protection and passionate hearts for the things of God.

Monday - Family (Those you consider to be your family)

A – Adoration

- ◆ Praise God for being the author of life and family.
- ◆ Worship God for giving us a family.
- ◆ Praise God for being a faithful Father.
- ◆ Adore God for providing the daily needs of our family.

C – Confession

- ◆ Confess specific sins that The Holy Spirit brings to mind regarding our family.
- ◆ Repent of ways we isolate ourselves from our families.
- ◆ Confess ways we fall short of loving our family members.
- ◆ Confess specific times we have not forgiven members of our family as we have been forgiven.

T – Thanksgiving

- ◆ Thank God for specific members of our family.
- ◆ Thank God for adopting us into His family through Christ Jesus.
- ◆ Thank God for giving us all we need to sacrificially love our families.
- ◆ Give thanks that God chose to give up His Son in order to make us sons and daughters.

S – Supplication

- ◆ **Remember you cannot change a family member.** You can only change yourself. Ask God to change your heart where it needs changing. (Deuteronomy 30:6; Psalm 51:10)
- ◆ Ask God to help you pray with a **humble and repentant heart.** (Psalm 66:18; Ephesians 4:32)
- ◆ **Pray for your home** to be established around God's principles. Ask for the ability to teach these principles to all your family. (Deuteronomy 6:1-9)
- ◆ Pray for **peace and unity** in your home. Ask God to show you how you can be a peacemaker. (Colossians 3:12; Romans 12:18)

- ◆ Ask God to **enable husbands/fathers** to be the spiritual leader and umbrella of protection for their families. Pray for the men of our homes to embrace the role of responsibility God has given them. (Ephesians 5:25-28)
- ◆ Ask God to **enable wives/mothers** to respect her husband and to mother her children according to God's plan for the family. (Ephesians 5:22-24; 1 Peter 3:1-4)
- ◆ Ask God to **enable children** to honor their parents. (Ephesians 6:1-3)
- ◆ Pray for **those who are single** that they would sense their value role in their immediate family and God's larger family. Sometimes those who are single or single again feel left out. Pray for a sense of inclusion.
- ◆ Ask God to **break any cycle of sin** that has plagued your family. Seek forgiveness from others for any sins you have committed against them. (Exodus 20:5; 1 John 2:12-14)
- ◆ Pray for **healing** in the lives of those who have suffered hurt. Whether it was from others or self-inflicted. (James 5:16)
- ◆ Pray for wisdom to be a **good steward of the finances** God has entrusted to you and your family. (Luke 19:11-24; 2 Corinthians 9:6-9)
- ◆ Pray for God help you not acquiesce to the opulence of our society. In other words, the material things of this world will not take first place in our lives. That as parents we will not fall into the trap of giving our children too many material things. (Matthew 6:19-21)
- ◆ Pray **for saving faith** to be granted to any in your family who has yet to come to salvation. Ask the Holy Spirit to convict and convince them of the reality of Christ as the Savior. (John 16:8-11; 2 Timothy 2:10)
- ◆ Ask God to give you and your family a **heart for missions**. Release your children to do whatever and go wherever God calls them. Even to Oolaboolabongo.



Tuesday - Oikos ("Extended Family," Circle of Influence)

A – Adoration

- ◆ *Affirm* that God can do the impossible. (Mark 10:27; Jer. 32:27)
- ◆ Remember that God has given us a sphere of influence to intentionally engage.

C – Confession

- ◆ Repent of lost opportunities to share the Gospel with members of our Oikos.
- ◆ Confess idols that steal our time from investing in our Oikos.
- ◆ Repent of times we fall short of engaging unbelievers in the ways Jesus did.

T – Thanksgiving

- ◆ Thank God that He desires all to be saved. (John 3:16, 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:1, 3-4)
- ◆ Give thanks for the authority of the name of Jesus by which salvation has been purchased. (Acts 4:12; John 14:6)
- ◆ Express thankfulness for His gift of salvation. (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom 5: 8, 15)
- ◆ Rejoice that He seeks the lost ones and draws them to Himself. (Luke 19:10, John 6: 44)
- ◆ *Praise* God that His word does not return to Him without accomplishing His purposes. (Rom 10:17, Heb. 4:12, Isa. 55:11)

S – Supplication

- ◆ Acknowledge the **reality that those without** Christ are without hope and will spend eternity separated from God. (Ephesians 2:12; Revelation 20:15)
- ◆ Pray for your **own heart to be tender and sensitive** to those around you who are without Christ. Ask God to give you His heart for those who are without Christ. (John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 9:16-18)
- ◆ Pray that Christians would have a **burden to reach the lost**. Ask that they would respond to God's call to be laborers in His harvest. (John 4:35-38; Matthew 9:38; Romans 10:14-15)

- ◆ Ask God for **evangelistic eyes to see** those He has brought into your Oikos (circle of influence) so that you may share the gospel of Christ with them.
- ◆ **Make a list of a few unsaved members of your Oikos and pray** for them on a regular basis. Pray they will be delivered from the domain of Satan's darkness and brought into the Kingdom of God's son. (Colossians 1:13-14)

- ◆ Pray for the **Holy Spirit to convince and convict** the lost concerning their sin and the reality of Christ to take away the penalty of their sin. (John 16:8-11)
- ◆ Use the names of God to pray for those on your Oikos list.

Jehovah-Raphe	Healer	Exodus. 15:26
Jehovah-Tisidkenu	Righteousness	Jeremiah 23:6
Jehovah-M'kaddesh	Sanctifies	Leviticus 20:7,8
Jehovah-Shalom	Peace	Judges 6:24
Jehovah-Shamah	Always there	Ezekiel 48:35
Jehovah-Jireh	Provider	Genesis 22:14
Jehovah-Nissi	Victory, Banner	Exodus 17:15
Jehovah-Rohi	Shepherd	Psalms 23:1

Example: God you are Jehovah-Raphe, I pray that you be the healer in John's life. Or, God you are Jehovah-Shalom, I ask that would bring true peace to Susie.

Wednesday - Neighborhood, City, and State

A – Adoration

- ◆ Remember that *God is the author of order and authority*.
- ◆ Reflect on the fact that God is the One who places leaders in authority.
- ◆ Praise God for *bringing the world* to our doorstep through the diverse cultures and peoples represented in our community.
- ◆ Worship God because He cares about the affairs of our community.

C – Confession

- ◆ Confess and repent of our *failure to pray* as it is sin. (I Sam. 12: 23.)
- ◆ Repent of ways we have neglected to seek the shalom of our community.
- ◆ Confess and repent of ways we've put our trust in the strength of political leaders when we should trust in the name of the Lord our God. (Ps. 20:7)
- ◆ Repent of times we've thought that caring for our community is "someone else's job."

T – Thanksgiving

- ◆ Give thanks for the leaders placed in authority, as they provide justice for evildoers, and provide order for our lives.
- ◆ Thank the Lord for the many ways we experience relative *peace and safety* in our town.
- ◆ Thank God for the systems and structures already in place in our community that promote education, justice, peace, crisis response, financial stability, and care for the needy.
- ◆ Give thanks for evidences of common grace seen in our community.

S – Supplication

- ◆ Pray for God's kingdom to come, and His glory to be revealed in Bloomington-Normal.
- ◆ Pray for growing *justice and peace*, that we may grow as agents of gospel-change wherever we have influence.

- ◆ We ask, Father, that ***Your will may be done*** in our community, as it is in heaven.
- ◆ Pray for the ***salvation*** of all leaders and people in authority.
- ◆ Pray for ***revival in Bloomington-Normal***.
- ◆ Ask the Lord to provide opportunities for the local churches to have growing influence for the advancement of the gospel.
- ◆ Pray for the ***education system*** in our neighborhoods, community, and state.
- ◆ Pray that ***teachers and administrators*** use their positions for good and not evil.
- ◆ Pray for the ***children in our schools***.
- ◆ Intercede for ***the oppressed, marginalized, and poverty-stricken***. Pray for them to meet Jesus, and ask for opportunities to show Jesus' love as individuals and as Grace Church.
- ◆ Ask God to ***give us opportunities to serve*** our community and invest in our culture.
- ◆ Pray for the judicial system, ***that justice would be served*** in our communities.
- ◆ Ask God to ***restrain evil*** and injustice.
- ◆ Pray for ***workers to be sent*** into a ripe spiritual harvest in our community.
- ◆ Ask God to ***end the proclamation of false "gospels"*** that teach salvation through any means other than Jesus Christ in our community.
- ◆ Pray for ***unity*** with local believers and churches.
- ◆ Ask God to break the chains of addiction and idolatry in our community.

Thursday - Nation

A – Adoration

- ◆ Worship God as our ultimate Authority.
- ◆ Remember that Jesus came not to set up a worldly government, but a kingdom that is not of this world.
- ◆ Praise God for the promise that Jesus is one day coming again to set up His kingdom on earth, when He will rule over the entire world.
- ◆ Remember that God holds the heart of the ruler in His hand, and He causes nations to rise and fall.

C – Confession

- ◆ Repent of the times we've placed more trust in a political leader to change our nation than we've placed trust in God.
- ◆ Repent of the times we've been thoughtless and prayerless about the state of our nation.
- ◆ Confess that in this land of abundance, we've squandered many opportunities to share with those in need.
- ◆ Confess times our love for our nation has eclipsed our love for the kingdom of God that knows no national boundaries.

T – Thanksgiving

- ◆ Give thanks for the leaders placed in authority, as they provide justice for evildoers, and provide order for our lives.
- ◆ Take time to be thankful for the freedom, peace, and material blessings we receive simply by living in the United States.
- ◆ Thank God for the men and women who have served/are serving our country, and for the lives that have been sacrificed to give us our many freedoms.
- ◆ Thank God that He is sovereignly involved in the affairs and activities of our nation.
- ◆ Thank God that no leader comes to power apart from His will.

S – Supplication

- ◆ Pray for leaders in our nation to come to know Jesus, to lead morally upright lives, and to guide our country with wisdom.
- ◆ Ask God to swiftly end the atrocity of *abortion* that plagues our nation.

Thursday

- ◆ Pray that Americans will hear the gospel and turn to Jesus, and that our nation becomes a place where God's moral law is practiced.
- ◆ For ***President Obama and for Vice-President Biden***. Ask the Lord to give them both wise advisors. Pray that both men will be sensitive to the Lord, and that they will go to the Lord, praying for wisdom in their decisions. Pray for their protection and for the protection of their families.
- ◆ Ask God to grant our nation favor in foreign affairs, and that peace and justice would abound between our nation and others.
- ◆ Pray that our leaders be honest in financial, tax, and ethical matters; that they ***desire honesty***, integrity, and loyalty.
- ◆ Pray that America would be a safe haven for foreigners, strangers, and aliens.
- ◆ Ask that as a nation (and as citizens in this nation) we would provide safety and refuge to the vulnerable and oppressed.
- ◆ Pray that God would uphold safety and security for our nation.
- ◆ Pray for our ***military***. Ask God to protect them and their families from evil. Ask that they will turn to Jesus for comfort and strength in the various trials they face.
- ◆ Even as issues and political lines sharply divide our nation, pray for unity surrounding issues that bring God glory.
- ◆ Pray for spiritual awakening in our nation, for a gospel-revival to sweep our nation filled with spiritually dead hearts.
- ◆ Ask God to give us wisdom and grace to use our national resources for the good of others, and not to squander on our own passions.
- ◆ Ask God for workers to be sent into the ripe spiritual harvest of our nation.

Friday - World

A – Adoration

- ◆ Remember that God is the creator of all nations and peoples, and the diversity of people in the world is merely a reflection of a piece of His creativity.
- ◆ Worship God for blessing all peoples and nations through His Son.
- ◆ Remember that God is the Father who has named every family on earth.
- ◆ Remember that every tribe and nation will one day bow to Christ.
- ◆ Reflect on the fact that heaven is filled with citizens from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages.
- ◆ Worship God for His omnipresence – that His presence fills the earth, and no one can escape it.

C – Confession

- ◆ Confess that we've been far too “us-centered,” and have not had “a zeal for the nations.”
- ◆ Repent of our lack of prayer for the nations of the world.
- ◆ Confess we tend towards apathy for world missions.
- ◆ Confess the times we outsource the work of the Gospel in other parts of the world instead of faithfully and sacrificially following God where He leads us.

T – Thanksgiving

- ◆ Thank God that He has displayed His glory throughout the earth, and that He has brought the Gospel to us, and around the world.
- ◆ Thank God for displaying his handiwork in all the diversity of peoples, languages and cultures.
- ◆ Give thanks for the growing number of opportunities we have with modern technology and international travel to spread the Gospel.
- ◆ Take time to thank God for specific missionaries, pastors, and workers in other parts of the world who are spreading the Gospel.

S – Supplication

- ◆ Ask God for the *earth to be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord* as the waters cover the sea.
- ◆ Pray for the soon return of Jesus to establish His kingdom and finish the restoration of all things.

- ◆ Ask for God's will to be done throughout the world.
- ◆ Ask God to raise up Christians throughout the world to care for the widows and orphans.
- ◆ Pray for the Good News to be preached in the farthest corners of the earth, and that many people will respond to God's call in their lives.
- ◆ Pray for God to end the global famine for His Word.
- ◆ Intercede for Christians who are in countries where it is illegal or difficult to worship Jesus. Ask God to give them boldness and grace in times of persecution.
- ◆ Pray for pastors, elders, missionaries, and church leaders around the world. Ask for them to be humble and filled with the Spirit. Pray for them to faithfully proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Pray for unity among the global Body of Christ.
- ◆ Ask God to restrain the devil, his works, and his demons. Pray that the Church worldwide would have the boldness to storm the gates of Hell.
- ◆ Take time to pray each week over the missionaries highlighted in our weekly prayer guide.
- ◆ You may wish to adopt one of our missionaries to pray consistently over each Friday. Fill in their name here:

Saturday—Personal Growth

A – Adoration

- ◆ Remember that God made us. We are fearfully and wonderfully made.
- ◆ Praise God that He chooses to make us more like Him as we grow in our sanctification.
- ◆ Praise God for the works He has done in our lives.
- ◆ Remember that we are sinners, and He sought us and saved us.
- ◆ Remember that our personal growth only happens through God’s strength and provision.

C – Confession

- ◆ Confess the sins of selfishness, laziness, apathy, pride, and others that hinder your personal growth.
- ◆ Repent of the ways we try to earn our free gift of salvation.
- ◆ Confess the times we think our way is better than God’s way.
- ◆ Confess and repent of the times we grieve/quench the Holy Spirit.

T – Thanksgiving

- ◆ Thank God for saving us from sin and separation from Him through salvation in Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Take time to reflect on the growth you’ve seen in your spiritual walk in the past month, year, five years, ten years, and give thanks.
- ◆ Thank God for His character towards us (mercy, grace, faithfulness, goodness, provision, etc.).
- ◆ Thank God for His “Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Un-breaking, Always and Forever Love” for us even when we sin and fall short.
- ◆ Thank God that we can trust that He who began a good work in us will see it through to completion.

S – Supplication

- ◆ Pray that God would be glorified in our lives.
- ◆ Ask God to give us supernatural wisdom.

- ◆ Pray for God to give us a growing love for Him.
- ◆ Ask for a renewed focus on the gospel in our everyday lives.

Use the following lines to fill in your personal requests.

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