

PENTECOST PRAYER WEEK

DAY 1

Monday May 25

PENTECOST LATVIA TRIP // May 17-26

Since May 17th, four young adults led by our Pastor of Young Adults have been ministering in Liepaja, Latvia and they will be returning home tomorrow, the 26th. They have been coming alongside Paul's Church for an intentional week of community outreach, evangelism, and prayer leading up to a big Pentecost celebration event and worship service yesterday. The team is debriefing with the Latvians at the church today and starting the long journey home.

Prayer for the Spirit's work through this trip:

Lord God, we hold before you every person that has encountered this team as they have been in Liepaja. We ask, Holy Spirit, that you would use the memory of their interaction, however momentary or extensive it was, to reveal Jesus to them. Help them to remember the name of Paul's Church and continue to draw their minds and hearts to that community and to their lives of faith. Encourage and strengthen the believers at Paul's Church through our team. Sustain our team as they travel home and reveal to them with more and more clarity the ways you have been at work in and through them.

Prayer for the Spirit's work in and through me:

Lord, in the same way that so many people walk past Paul's Church in Liepaja every day without understanding the hope they could find within, show me where I am missing you and what you're trying to do in my life. Is there some way in which I am ignoring the hope, peace, and joy that you make available to me through the power of your Spirit? Remove anything contributing to my spiritual blindness and my inability to receive all that you have for me. Lead me in sharing the abundance of all you give with those around me today.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Romans 15:13

DAY 2

Tuesday May 26

STUDENT MINISTRY SUMMER CAMP // June 6-11

Our junior high and high school students, along with their leaders, will be having a blast together in the San Bernardino Mountains from June 6-11. Amidst all the fun activities with friends, they will be hearing messages each day from Alan Garcia out of the Gospel of Luke inviting them to be “All In” with their faith. Many of the students and the friends that will be coming with them to camp have never made the decision to follow Jesus.

Prayer for the Spirit’s work through camp:

Lord God, we pray for your divine preparation of every heart that will be attending summer camp. Reveal the emptiness and pointlessness of a life pursuing anything apart from you, Jesus. Dismantle any idols that keep them from surrendering to you more fully. Release them from the hold of apathy and give them new eyes to see the life you are inviting them to step into with you. Holy Spirit, move in the midst of the small group discussion times. Orchestrate conversations and moments each day of camp where your truth is spoken and people are set free.

Prayer for the Spirit’s work in and through me:

Lord, how are you inviting me to be “all in” with you? How are you wanting to continue your work of flooding and filling every place in me so that there’s no area of my life in which I’m resisting the leading of your Spirit? I renounce any idols taking up space in my life as well as any strongholds of selfishness. I give all these into your hands, Lord Jesus, to make more room for the Spirit’s work.

*“...I bow my knees before the Father... that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his **Spirit** in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love... may be filled with all the fullness of God.”*

Ephesians 3:14-19

DAY 3

Wednesday May 27

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) // June 15-19

Every evening during the week of June 15-19, kids four years old through sixth grade will gather together at our church for our "Illumination Station" VBS (with John 8:12 as the theme verse). As they engage in worship, Bible teaching, fun games, and activities, they will discover that Jesus is the light who brings hope to a dark world. Many families in our area who do not attend our church come to participate in this awesome week for kids. Also, many of the kids that attend invite neighbors and friends from school to join in with them.

Prayer for the Spirit's work through VBS:

Lord God, be with every aspect of planning and preparation for VBS. Provide just the right ideas, volunteers, small group leaders, and resources to make this experience something unforgettable for every kid who attends. And let the impact be completely beyond human effort. Holy Spirit, do the mighty work only you can do of illuminating the truth about Jesus and shining his light over every heart. Empower the families of these kids to respond to the invitation to come to church on the Sunday after VBS and reveal yourself powerfully to them during that time.

Prayer for the Spirit's work in and through me:

Holy Spirit, bring the light of Christ to bear more and more in my heart and mind. Seek out any darkness that remains in me—any ways of thinking or responding that are not of you—and minister deeply. And remove anything that keeps the light of Jesus from shining through me with full brightness into the lives of those around me.

*"I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you **the Spirit** of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is... the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe..."*

Ephesians 1:16-19

DAY 4

Thursday May 28

SPECIAL NEEDS LATVIA TRIP // June 23-July 2

We are sending a team of eight people (many of whom serve in our SHINE ministry) to join with Paula Zveja and Ventspils Baptist Church as they provide a summer camp experience for those with special needs. They will have campers from age 3 to 31 coming from all over Latvia to be a part of this unique time of making crafts, hearing Bible lessons, and doing activities created with them in mind by leaders who truly care about them. In Latvia, people with special needs are often looked down upon and their caregivers have very little support.

Prayer for the Spirit's work through this camp:

Lord God, minister in deep and profound ways to each of these campers during this experience. Let each of them be convinced through this camp that they are seen, valued, and infinitely loved by you. Holy Spirit, empower them in very personal ways to understand who Jesus is and what he did for them on the cross. Minister also to all the caregivers of these campers, that this would be a time of refreshment and blessing for them.

Prayer for the Spirit's work in and through me:

Lord, how deeply have I accepted the truth that I am seen, valued, and infinitely loved by you? Holy Spirit, find the places in me that need comfort and nourishment from these truths today. I surrender my unbelief and anything else that keeps me from fully understanding, embracing, and embodying your love. Empower me to see and love those with special needs that I encounter. As the team in Latvia loves those that you send to the Planet of Hope Camp, help me to love those here in Mesa.

*"Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but **the Spirit** who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God."*

1 Corinthians 2:12

DAY 5

Friday May 29

LIEPAJA & VENTSPILS LATVIA TRIP // June 30-July 15

A group of 24 will be heading to Latvia to assist with two different youth camps taking place. Some of our team will go to Liepaja to help out with a camp where students can choose the “Fusion” track (learning music) or the “Edge” track (sports and fitness). The rest of the team will spend their time in Ventspils helping run a student ministry summer camp similar to ours for the students of Ventspils Baptist Church and the friends they invite.

Prayer for the Spirit’s work through this trip:

Lord God, we pray for a powerful movement of your Spirit to lead the youth of these areas in Latvia to sign up for these camps. Protect each of them from anything that would prevent them from being able to come and give them open hearts ready for all that you have to say and show to them. Use the testimonies that each of our team members will be sharing to reveal how real and loving you truly are. We pray a special blessing over the prayer labyrinth activity at the end of the camps. Lead many to respond with faith in Jesus.

Prayer for the Spirit’s work in and through me:

Lord, what is the testimony that you have given to me? Provide some time and space for me today to remember your work in my life and how I came to believe in Jesus. Give me clarity about any parts of my story that I feel unsure about and guide me as I think of how I would articulate that journey to someone else. I entrust to you whatever my feelings are about the content of my testimony (gratitude, disappointment, embarrassment, boredom, etc.). Holy Spirit, lead me to recognize any opportunity that you may bring for me to share my testimony and empower me to do so with boldness and faith.

*“Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end... Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is **the Spirit**, and where the **Spirit of the Lord** is, there is freedom.”*

2 Corinthians 3:12-17

DAY 6

Saturday May 30

INDIGENOUS BIBLE COLLEGE TRIP // July 12-18

Indigenous Bible College in Flagstaff is a unique place where Christians from a Native American background can grow in their faith and be equipped for ministry. One of the ways we come alongside them is by sending a team each summer to do needed work around the campus. It's also a time of mutual encouragement as some of our team and some of the students and staff at IBC share their testimonies in the evenings. This year, each morning will begin with devotionals out of Colossians.

Prayer for the Spirit's work through this trip:

Lord God, we pray that the campus as well as all the students and staff at IBC would be built up and blessed by the presence of our team. Guide and direct all the times of worship, testimonies, sharing from your Word, and fellowship between our team and the people of IBC. Also, provide the wisdom, skill, strength, and team unity they need to complete the hard work that needs to be done. We pray each person on the team would "put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other..." (Colossians 3:12-13).

Prayer for the Spirit's work in and through me:

Lord, what building projects are you wanting to do in me? Are there things in my heart and life (desires, ways of speaking, thinking, habits) that need to be renovated, repaired, or upgraded by the power of your Spirit? Help me to be open to the transformation you have in mind for me in this season. And like the team going to IBC, is there some tangible way you are calling me to bless and support a person or ministry that I know of? Is there something you want me to put my hands to in order to meet the practical needs of your people and move your kingdom work forward?

*"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve **the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."*

Ephesians 4:29-30

PENTECOST PRAYER WEEK

Join us tomorrow!

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES // 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

We will finish out our sermon series on "The Leading of the Spirit" in Romans 8.

NIGHT OF WORSHIP // 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Gather in the Gym for a time of noticing the Spirit's work among us and responding in worship.