A Call to Praise

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TWR CANADA PRAYER AND DEVOTIONAL GUIDE FOR APRIL 28 - JUNE 29, 2024

PRAISE THE LORD

"Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!" (Psalm 117)

Psalm 117 is the shortest chapter in the entire Bible, consisting of only two verses, but it is beautiful, powerful and important. It is a short, sweet, and simple call to praise. The sentiment in this song is seen all throughout Scripture and yet these two verses were counted as being worthwhile to stand on their own and to take up space in the canon of Scripture.

This is the type of song that could easily get stuck in your head. With so few lyrics to memorize, this song could play over and over in your mind as you wake up in the morning, care for your children, go to work, go for a walk, sit down for dinner, and go back to bed. This call to praise the Lord, centred on his steadfast love and faithfulness, is a tune and message that was precious at the time it was written and is still precious to this day. The Lord is worthy of praise for all times and in all the nations! All throughout history, God's steadfast love and faithfulness have endured and he is the same God, worthy of the same praise today as he was then.

Let your heart be opened today to the steadfast love and faithfulness of the Lord. Take this song and make it your own. Maybe memorize it or set it to a tune of your own and let the praise of the Lord be in your heart and on your tongue every moment of every day for he is worthy to be praised!

Hard Places

Using media and technology, we reach into the hardest places of the world, opening new doors to the gospel that may otherwise be impossible. When we respond to those reaching out, we share resources, offer encouragement and connect them with local believers – because life is meant to be lived in community.

April

- 28. Pray for those in Quebec who call the Hope Line seeking biblical resources and for God to open more hearts in the province to receive the gospel.
- 29. Pray for wisdom and strength for our partner Media Impact International as they engage with people across India on social media who are seeking after Christ in difficult circumstances.
- 30. Across West Africa, people gather in groups to listen to biblical programming and discuss what they have learned. Pray that each group member would feel God's presence in their challenging experiences.

May

 Pray that the training pastors and church leaders across the Philippines receive through Discipleship Essentials and Leadership Essentials would effectively equip them in their ministries.

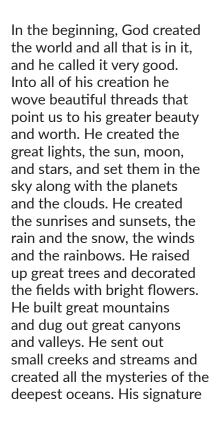


- 2. Belarus is the often-forgotten third country involved in the Russia-Ukraine war. Pray for the team there as they produce and distribute programs and meet with listeners.
- 3. Cuba continues to suffer from inflation and food shortages that affect daily living. Pray that those who seek Christ will experience lasting peace and connection through radio programs and content published online through RTM Cuba.
- 4. In Colombia, poverty and corruption can highlight spiritual needs. Pray for those who need to hear the gospel in their hard circumstances and for the RTM team in Colombia as they produce and distribute programs.



PRAISE THE LORD OF CREATION

"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above heavens... When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?" (Psalm 8:1, 3-4)



is scattered throughout the universe, even beyond what we have discovered at this point!

Truly, his name is majestic in all the earth! Having made all these massive and grand things that we look at in awe, and knitting together the minute and complex details that we overlook, he also made us and cares for us. In the midst of all this grandeur and beauty, who are we that he should care for us? But he does care and set in us a unique detail, his very image. Let us praise the Lord of creation who is mindful of us and who cares for us! Let the beauty of creation direct our hearts to praise our great and beautiful God!

Media Players

Whether listening to content in a group on a media player or privately from an SD card on their phone, these devices provide biblical teaching directly into the hands of people in their heart language.

- 5. Praise God for the ways media players and SD cards enable people all over the world to hear God's Word in a language they understand and a format that allows them to process the information at their own pace.
- 6. In remote parts of Central Asia, media players provide access to biblical content where churches may not exist and pastors may not often visit. Pray for those living in these areas to find Christian community.
- 7. Praise God for partnerships with Canadian churches that purchase media players to distribute on missions trips. Pray for those who receive a media player.
- 8. Pray for those who receive an SD card at a Persian ministry conference. Pray that the biblical content shared would continue to encourage and equip believers when they return home.
- In partnership with Thru the Bible, we recently assembled media players with the New Testament and Thru the Bible sermons in the Amharic, Oromo, Somali and Tigrinya languages. Pray for the distribution of these media players to listener groups in Ethiopia.
- 10. At a recent conference in Kenya, attendees received media players containing a New Testament, Thru the Bible sermons and *Bible Stories Alive*, as well as an SD card containing Discipleship Essentials. Pray that these resources would help strengthen ministries.



11. Praise God for the SD card distribution which took place in Indonesia earlier this year and for the feedback from pastors indicating that the material helps maintain enthusiasm and is applicable in their discipleship ministries.

PRAISE THE LORD BECAUSE HIS GRACE IS ENOUGH

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)



In the verses before these, Paul explains that in order to remain humble, he was given a thorn, a messenger of Satan, to harass him (12:7). He doesn't specify much about this thorn. but it was clearly significant and painful enough for him to plead with God three times that it be taken away from him. Paul didn't get the answer that he probably hoped for. The thorn wasn't taken away. How many of us carry these intense aches, pains, and still-stinging open wounds that we plead with God to remove from us?

How many of us are plagued with weaknesses, sickness, physical or mental struggles, financial insecurity, contentious relationships, loss, unmet desires, and so many other thorns? How many of us have pled with God to remove these thorns from us? How many of us have received an answer that we didn't want? The answer that Paul received. and the answer that we all have received, too, is that God's grace is sufficient for us. His power is made perfect and seen most clearly in our weakness. When we have nothing to boast of, when our success doesn't cloud our vision from seeing God's hand in it, when our good health doesn't keep us from remembering our Sustainer, when our wealth doesn't keep us from remembering our need, when we are weak, then we are strong because God's grace and strength are magnified. The answer we get isn't always what we want but it is what we need. God's grace is enough.

Let us be content with it in all circumstances and give praise to God who is always enough. Let us see the grace and strength he provides and sing praise!

Latin America and the Caribbean

Broadcast from the island of Bonaire, TWR programming can be heard across much of northern Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as from local FM stations. Local teams also share the hope of the gospel through on-the-ground initiatives in their communities.

- 12. Pray for those listening to our two Cuban programs, *Messages* of Faith and Hope and Our Home, broadcast from the TWR transmitter on Bonaire.
- 13. Please pray for RTM Cuba leader Alberto, who continues to await visa confirmation so he can join his family in the United States and carry out God's will for him there after years of faithful service with RTM Cuba.
- 14. Pray for incoming RTM Cuba leader Moisés and that his youthful vigour will stir the hearts of Cuba to experience the hope of Christ.
- 15. In Uruguay, *Against the Current* encourages young adults to stand firm in their faith. Pray that listeners would be encouraged to live using a biblical worldview.
- 16. TWR Canada is excited to work with the TWR Women of Hope team in Paraguay to grow their ministry. Pray for this partnership to change lives across Paraguay.
- 17. Praise God for the infrastructure and technology that enables RTM Colombia to spread the hope of the gospel through recording programs in their office and studio space.



18. Pray for our team in Mexico as they produce a program called *The Carpenter's Workshop*, which will provide biblical marriage advice to couples across the country.

PRAISE THE LORD WHO LOVES HIS CHILDREN

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." (1 John 3:1a)

God has adopted us as sons and daughters. He has welcomed us into his home. See what kind of love the Father has given us! We are called children of God and that is who we are! We get to call him Abba, Father, and that is who he is to us! And he is a good and loving Father indeed!

Matthew 7:9-11 says, "Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

Our Father in heaven knows better than anyone how best to love and care for his children. We can trust our lives, dreams, well-being, fears, troubles, and everything else into his perfectly loving hands. He is a good Father who loves us, his children. Let us praise him for his perfect love and trust in his good and loving care!

Missionaries

Our missionaries serve in a variety of countries, including here in Canada! Using their God-given skills and passion, they are the onthe-ground workers in the field.

- 19. Pray for Greg and Ingrid Clarke in their roles as station manager and finance manager at the Eswatini transmitter site, which celebrates its 50th anniversary later this year.
- 20. Praise God for the opportunities Nathan and Megan Dunlop have to meet listeners and hear their stories.



- 21. Vincent and Trina Collet and their family recently moved from France to Canada and are now involved with editing, translation and administration work in Canada. Pray for the family as they adapt to their new ministry roles.
- 22. Pray for Carol Hawkins as she works in the London office calling donors to thank them and pray with them.
- 23. Please pray for Stephen and Teresa in their work with TWR Africa. Stephen is working with teams across Africa to improve the technology used to speak hope to the world and Teresa is working with TWR Women of Hope to equip and encourage women across West Africa.
- 24. Praise God for the support we received to upgrade studio equipment so that Jeremy Mullin and our Arabic and Spanish production teams can more effectively produce *Bible Stories Alive*.
- 25. Pray for McDaniel Phillips in his role as global ambassador for Discipleship Essentials, mentoring and encouraging partners.

PRAISE THE LORD BECAUSE HE HEARS

"For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him." (Psalm 22:24)

The God we praise stands alone, unique to the idols made by human hands. Psalm 115:4-7 speaks of these manmade gods saying, "Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat."

Our God is not like these idols. He is real, active, seeing, speaking, and hearing.

The idols of the world do not and cannot care for their worshippers or enact justice, but the Lord hears the cries of the afflicted and oppressed, cares for them, and acts in justice, compassion, and righteousness. He does not stop his ears against our cries but listens to us. He does not cringe or turn up his nose at the suffering of his children or hide his face from them but hears them and is a rock of refuge for them.

There are many afflicted and oppressed people in this world. There is much wrong that we have not yet seen be made right. But who better to entrust with this hurting than the Lord who hears? Let us trust and praise him and look in hope for the day when he makes all things new and right!

Hidden Places

Everyone should have access to the gospel, no matter where they are. We share the hope of the gospel with and provide fellowship to those who are isolated due to geography, culture or simply where access to Christianity is limited.

- 26. Pray for the effective distribution of biblical resources and portable devices so that believers who are in hiding or who lack access to such resources would receive what they need to grow closer to God.
- 27. The Roma population in North Macedonia is hesitant to enter a church or publicly acknowledge their faith for fear of rejection from family and friends. Pray for peace for believers and praise God for the ways *Voice of Truth* speaks into their lives.
- 28. With little Christian community and limited access to the gospel, isolated believers in Sri Lanka turn to *God's Unique Book* to find spiritual nourishment. Praise God that through the power of radio, we can reach these hidden believers and provide the hope of God's Word!
- 29. Pray for believers in Nepal to grow in faith and feel connected to God and his Church through listening to audio programming and discussing what they have learned together in radio home groups.
- 30. Japan is the second largest unreached people group in the world. Pray for those across Japan who will hear the truth of Jesus through the SON-Lift project, which shares stories from the Gospels in audio programs.
- 31. Through the production of songs and animated videos, we are assisting Serbian Roma church planters and pastors in reaching out with the hope of the gospel to children. Pray for those who engage with this biblical content!



June

1. Women of Hope provides women around the world with both spiritual teachings and practical advice. Pray that listeners would find hope in Jesus as they listen to the program.

PRAISE THE LORD WHO IS VICTORIOUS

"And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the LORD and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say, 'Give thanks to the LORD, for his steadfast love endures forever.' And when they began to sing and praise, the LORD set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Sier, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed." (2 Chronicles 20:21-22)



The Lord our God is worthy to be praised. He holds the victory, but his victory often comes in unconventional ways. From Gideon's victory with 300 men holding trumpets and torches against the entire armies of the Midianites, Amalekites, and people of the East (Jdg. 7) to his victory at Calvary in dying on a cross (Matt. 27, Mk. 15, Lk. 23, Jn. 19), God's victory comes in ways that we really can't predict!

Two particularly interesting victories are seen in the passage above and in Acts 16:25-40. In both cases, God works out a great victory through the praises of his people.

In 2 Chronicles, King Jehoshaphat was faced with impending war and the odds were not in his favour. He prayed to God saying, "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you" (20:12). Then he instructed his people to praise the Lord, not to strategize, not to form more weapons or enlist extra help, not even to come up with an intimidating chant, but to make the praise of God their battle cry. And God set up an ambush against their enemies and delivered them.

Then, in Acts, Paul and Silas were imprisoned for preaching about Jesus. While in prison, they sang hymns and songs of praise to God and God brought down the prison walls with an earthquake and brought about their deliverance.

God is worthy of all our praise and when we praise him and give him glory, he shows himself to be victorious. In all circumstances, let us turn first to praising the Lord. Let us not forget that he holds the victory. Let us praise him and trust that he will act for our good and for his glory!

Discipleship Essentials

Discipleship Essentials is available in more than 15 languages and is used by individuals for personal study and in thousands of small groups in Canada and around the world.

2. Pray for our partner in the Middle East and North Africa, Together Network, as they train believers, many of whom

are from a Muslim background, to share their faith and create spiritual movements using DE and other resources.



- 3. As translation and production continue, we are beginning to distribute DE in Indonesian. Pray for the multiplication efforts of the more than 200 people who received DE training in Indonesia earlier this year.
- 4. Pray for those in West Africa who hear Discipleship Essentials teachings, broadcast to French-speaking communities.
- 5. Pray for the translation and production of Discipleship Essentials in the Hausa language for Nigeria. Pray for wisdom for the team as they complete the work and begin to integrate it into their ministry.
- 6. Pray for those accessing DE online on TWR360, YouTube and the DE Android and iOS apps. Pray that their faith would be strengthened as they watch, listen and read.
- 7. Praise God for the growth in faith we are seeing as Christian and Missionary Alliance Churches of the Philippines small groups have increased from 7,900 in 2022 to 8,744 in 2023!
- 8. Praise God for providing DE in new languages! Please pray for those who will access the materials in the Bambara, Peruvian Quechua, Tagalog, Hiligaynon and Albanian languages.

PRAISE THE LORD WHO SUFFERED FOR US

"For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter 2:21-24)



In light of suffering for doing good, Peter encourages his readers to look to the example of Jesus, referencing Isaiah 53:5-6 to do so. There may very well be times when we experience suffering even when we've done nothing wrong and sometimes even for doing good! This seems unfair because, realistically speaking, it is! We have all sinned and our sin does have consequences, but there will also be times when we experience suffering and it makes no sense to us at all.

Peter's encouragement was to look to Jesus, who suffered for sins that he didn't commit and received insults and shame that he didn't deserve or retaliate against. Because he suffered for us, we are healed and have comfort knowing that we will be healed of every suffering we experience! We won't experience perfect relief from suffering this side of eternity but praise the Lord Jesus who suffered for us so that we could be healed! Through him, we can endure all suffering with him as our hope and example. Let us praise him for what he has done for us!

Canada

TWR Canada provides resources for the Canadian Church, as well as tools to help share the hope of Jesus in the heart languages of our neighbours.

- Pray for the CRTC application process for the five new FM antennas in Quebec. Pray that the applications would be quickly approved so that more people across the province could hear the hope of the gospel across the airwaves.
- 10. CultureCross was created for the Canadian church to assist Christians in knowing how to share the gospel with people



of other cultures. Pray for the launch of this resource and for those who will use it.

- 11. Pray for God's guidance as TWR Canada looks at other ways to provide resources for the Canadian Church.
- 12. TWR Canada provides media players for believers to use as an evangelism tool in reaching new Canadians with the gospel. Pray for those who will receive a player in their heart language.
- 13. Pray for Robert Barbeau as he grows the ministry of Every Man a Warrior in Canada. Pray that Canadian men will be equipped into faithful warriors and multiply God's Church through this ministry.
- 14. Praise God for the ways *La Parole Vivante* opens doors for the gospel across Quebec.
- 15. Praise God for the many faithful prayer partners across Canada who join in praying for the ministry and God's work around the world every day.

PRAISE THE LORD WHO IS PERFECT IN ALL HIS WAYS

"The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true and righteous altogether." (Psalm 19:7-9)

The Lord is perfect in all his ways. His holiness knows no end and his righteousness endures forever. His law is perfect, just, and good. His testimony is sure, trustworthy and faithful. His precepts are right, untainted and incorruptible. His commandments are pure, holy and instructive. The fear of the Lord is clean, faith-filled and loyal. His rules are true, righteous and unshaken.

Psalm 145:17 tells us, "The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works."

Not only are his rules and commandments good and perfect, morally speaking, but they are also good for us, reviving our souls, making us wise, rejoicing our hearts, opening our eyes, giving us proper fear of the Lord, and instructing our lives!

There is no sin or deceit or hint of evil in him. He is good, through and through. He is faithful, eternally. He is holy, holy, holy. He is really and truly always worthy of our praise. Let us sing praise to the Lord who is perfect in all his ways and kind in all his works toward us!

Hostile Places

Where Christian believers face persecution and restrictions, we provide safe and accessible means through technology and discipleship conferences for them to hear the gospel, be discipled and grow in faith.

- 16. Pray for the safety of believers in areas of the world hostile to Christianity.
- 17. Pray for those across the Persian-speaking world who receive resources such as SD cards, Bibles and other resources. Pray that they would grow in faith.
- 18. Pray for safety for Persian believers and seekers as they cross borders to attend conferences.
- 19. Pray that SOTA initiatives and fellowships would equip believers in China to stand firm in the face of hardship and persecution.
- 20. Pray for seekers in Pakistan who are keen to know about the Bible. Pray that our signal strength and coverage will reach listeners through radio broadcasts such as *The Way of Righteousness*, which preaches the gospel, provides a biblical education and leads people to salvation.



- 21. Praise God for providing technology that allows us to safely and securely share programming in areas of the world where it is unsafe to be a Christian.
- 22. Across much of North Africa and the Middle East, Discipleship Essentials is used to train and disciple believers in areas hostile to the gospel. Pray that DE would spark a spiritual movement in these countries.

PRAISE THE LORD WHO OVERCOMES

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

"The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein." (Psalm 24:1)

God made this world and it has always belonged to him in every way. Even when sin first came into the world, God has ruled over it in holiness, justice and love.

The enemy has fought to make this world his own but *"all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to [Jesus]"* (Matt. 28:18).

Sin and death have left a cruel mark on this world, so we will have troubles, but Jesus Christ our Lord has overcome the world with all its sin and death. In him, we can have peace knowing that all these troubles will pass. The world will be made new, and sin, death, and all our tribulations will be no more. There are an infinite number of reasons for us to sing praise to the Lord: for who he is and for all that he has done. For his holiness, righteousness, justice, love, mercy, patience and kindness. Because he created us, cares for us, instructs us, disciplines us, lived, died, and rose for us. Because he has overcome the world.

Psalm 100:3 tells us, "Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." As such, let us remember the Lord and praise him with our hearts, thoughts, words, and deeds. Let us magnify and sing praise to the God who has overcome the world and rescued us!

Radio Broadcasting

Radio broadcasting allows listeners from hard-to-reach places to urban centres, and everywhere in between, to access the gospel. From FM stations in countries like Burundi to high-powered radio from Bonaire, Eswatini and more, radio broadcasting shares the hope of the gospel around the world.

23. In Kenya, *Bible Stories Alive* is aired in Swahili on four FM stations across the country, one of which reaches into Ethiopia as well. One listener shared, "When I grow up, I want to be a Sunday school teacher and tell children stories from the Bible Stories Alive program." Praise God for these eager children!



- 24. Across Sri Lanka, *God's Unique Book* introduces Buddhists to the truth of God's Word. Pray that hearts across the country would be open to receiving the good news of Jesus.
- 25. At every level of government, leaders play an important role in ensuring the peace and stability of a country. Pray that leaders in South Sudan will be equipped with biblical leadership principles to ultimately become a better, more peaceful, and prosperous nation through *Tools for Wise Leadership*.
- 26. In Côte d'Ivoire and Mali, *Women of Hope* is broadcast in the French and Bambara languages. Pray that the women who listen would understand the love God has for them and the hope that he provides.
- 27. Praise God the Burundian programs *Good News for All* and *Jesus is the Answer* continue to be well-loved across the country!
- 28. Pray that the program *Strengthening Families Through the Word of God* would open the door for families in Eswatini to communicate on difficult topics from a biblical perspective.
- 29. The Discipleship Essentials radio program is aired across Latin America and West Africa on medium wave transmitters and local FM stations. Pray for those listening to deepen their faith and understanding of God's Word.





Using media, we partner with churches around the world to share the message of salvation among the nations.



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