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You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16 NIV
Thank you for downloading the 2023 Prayer Guide.

The ACSI Day of Prayer is an annual event that advances Christ-centered education by advocating through prayer. What a blessing it is to pray for students, teachers, school communities, and global impact through prayer! Will you join us?

This year’s theme is based on Matthew 5:14-16, where Jesus uses the metaphor of light to encourage His followers to positively impact their world. You and I have the wonderful opportunity to carry the light of Jesus, the Gospel message, to our world every day through our words, actions, and deeds.

This summer, I spent time in the Colorado mountains. At night, the stars lit the sky in magnificent beauty, truly declaring the glory of God. It reminded me of how Paul urges us in Philippians 2 how to live as children of God so that we will “shine among them like stars in the sky” (verse 15). God wants us to shine brightly in our world today.

When is a candle the brightest? It’s when the candle is set in the dark. As the culture seemingly continues to grow darker, you and your school community have an amazing opportunity to Shine Bright... to be the light in a dark world. We join you in praying that the Gospel flame permeates your school community and the area surrounding you like never before.

I encourage you to pray for your school community and Christian schooling around the world during the ACSI Day of Prayer on February 28. Please find helpful ideas and resources inside this prayer guide to plan your participation.

Shine Bright,

Larry Taylor, Ph.D.
ACSI President
One of the first Sunday school songs young children quickly learn is “This Little Light of Mine.” Boys and girls learn the hand motions of creating a candle with their finger, covering it with their other hand, and lifting their hand when they collectively yell, “No!” The next line is “I’m gonna let it shine…”

The word “let” is a good reminder for all of us that when we know Jesus as Lord and Savior, His light naturally radiates through us. It’s nothing forced or created. We all “shine bright” as we share God’s love with others.

This is a natural outflow of the Flourishing School Culture Model’s Purpose construct, remembering that we are a part of God’s bigger plan and can be used by Him to “make a difference.”

As you plan for the ACSI Day of Prayer, we encourage you to use this guide. Be creative by utilizing prayer stations, displaying student illustrations, or highlighting people shining brightly in your school community. No matter what you do, share your ideas and pictures with your ACSI global family with the hashtag #SchoolsThatPray on social media.
It's easy to get involved with these simple steps:

1. **PARTICIPATE**
   Let us know that you are a part of this global day of prayer at [www.acsi.org/day-of-prayer](http://www.acsi.org/day-of-prayer). You'll have access to additional resources, ideas and support.

2. **PLAN**
   You can make this day as simple or elaborate as you want by praying personally or creating an experience for you and others.

3. **PROMOTE**
   Whether you are planning a Day of Prayer event or praying on your own, help us promote this day through social media or through your community.

4. **PRAY**
   Pray on February 28, 2023, using the five areas of flourishing, concentrating on shining brightly for Jesus.
Theme-Related Bible Verses

John 8:12
Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Genesis 1:3-4
And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.

2 Samuel 22:29
For you are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness.

Psalm 97:11
Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

Psalm 119:105
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Proverbs 4:18
But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day.

Luke 8:15-17
No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light.

John 1:5
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
**John 8:12**
Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

**2 Corinthians 4:6**
For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 5:8-9**
For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

**Philippians 2:14-15**
Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

**1 Thessalonians 5:5**
For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.

**1 Peter 2:9**
But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

**1 John 1:5-7**
This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

**Revelation 21:23**
And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

**Numbers 6:24-26**
The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
Ways To Make This Day Special For Christian Educators & Schools

Plan the Day of Prayer
Consider appointing a prayer coordinator or forming a team to plan a larger event or emphasis. Use the following to spark ideas for planning the day:

• Create a special chapel or assembly to bring your school together to pray.
• Print and distribute the ACSI 2023 Day of Prayer Guide.
• Determine a specific time to pray no matter where you are.
• Create a prayer room or prayer walk with prayer stations.
• Develop a sign-up for different classrooms or grades to pray each hour to cover the day.
• Consider fasting in order to focus on prayer time.
• Create a prayer and/or blessing wall.
• Create an art display illustrating the Day of Prayer theme.

As You Begin
• Pray for what you should do.
• Review and download event materials.
• Plan your day’s event experience.
• Delegate responsibilities and assign task deadlines.

Now – February
• Work on event details as needed.
• Promote the Day of Prayer.

February 28, 2023 – Day of Prayer
• Watch God work and move as you pray.
**Promote Day of Prayer Activities**

Once you have a plan, consider the following ways to let your school community know about the day:

**As You Begin**

- Seek support and approval for any activities from your administration.
- Gain support from your teaching team by letting them know in advance about the day.
- Encourage teachers to weave the concept of prayer throughout the day’s academic activities.
- Consider how to include local churches, parents, or alumni in promotion and involvement of this day.
- Be prayerful as you plan details.

**January – February**

- Download and print promotional and event materials as needed to help you promote and prepare for this day within your school community. Resources include posters, bulletin inserts, social media graphics, a bookmark, videos, and presentation slides.
- Gather local prayer requests.

**Day of the Event**

- Show school unity by dressing in school colors.
- Document the day through social media using the hashtag #SchoolsThatPray.
- Collect testimonials on what the day meant to each person. Post those with permission at www.acsi.org/day-of-prayer.
Prayer is the most intimate communication with God, our Father. As such, consider these areas in which to pray:

**Adoration**
- Praise God for who He is.

**Confession**
- Seek personal forgiveness.
- Ask for forgiveness for moral decay in our world.

**Thanksgiving**
- Thank God for everything He has done for you.
- Thank Him for the students, educators, and leadership.
- Thank God for opportunities and new avenues of ministry.
Supplication

• Personal concerns/needs.
• Pray for others in your community.
• Ask God to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian education:
  - Opportunities to transform the hearts and minds of children around the world.
  - Help educators to provide education grounded in biblical truth.
  - Raise up godly leaders and educators to train up the next generation to follow Jesus Christ.
  - Strategic planning and vision for opportunities to advance Christian education.

• Ask God to provide access of Christian education for every child:
  - Global outreach.
  - Poor/needy children to have the ability to attend a Christian school (i.e. scholarship funds, etc.).
  - Christian education to flourish through resources, removed barriers, increased opportunities, etc.
  - Creativity of education through new/innovative delivery.

• Ask God for advocates for Kingdom education:
  - Local churches to support Christ-centered education in their community.
  - Legislative support and resources to defend and protect freedom of education.
  - Community leaders to support Christ-centered education.
Prayer stations provide a hands-on approach to communicating with God, which helps deepen rote prayers. Prayer stations can simply be places where a prayer item is posted as a sign to pray about. Prayer stations can also be interactive by providing things to do as you pray. The ideas below will require preparation. Make each station as elaborate or simple as you like. Consider interweaving scripture verses into the stations as you feel led. You can choose one or more ideas to create your station flow or create your own. Consider the music and lighting for each station to create a full interactive sensory experience.

1. **Adoration**

   **IDEA ONE:** Provide a sheet of white butcher paper or individual sheets and crayons. Have each person draw what they are most thankful for regarding who God is.

   **IDEA TWO:** Provide letter tiles and have participants spell out words that describe who God is. Have them thank God for that attribute.

2. **Confession**

   **IDEA ONE:** Have a cross on the floor, or draw out a cross. Have each person pick up a black stone and pray, confessing any personal sin. Place the black stone on the cross. Have them take a clear stone as a reminder that God forgives us of our sins through Jesus Christ dying on the cross.

   **IDEA TWO:** Place a steering wheel at the station or street signs or road signs. List the questions: Where have you steered wrong? Where are you not aligned with God? Ask God to forgive you.

   **IDEA THREE:** Provide Play-Doh. Have participants think about something that has taken a higher place than God. Have them mold the Play-Doh into that figure. Then, have them pray that God will be first in their life and help them remove that idol from their life. Literally have them smash the Play-Doh as a commitment to turn back to God and put Him first in their life.

3. **Thanksgiving**

   **IDEA ONE:** Provide blocks (i.e. DUPLO, LEGO, or wooden). Challenge participants to think of the blessings of God one by one and stack a block for every blessing. Then ask them to see how tall their tower is.

   **IDEA TWO:** Create a blessing wall using sticky notes, index cards, or a white board. Ask participants to write blessings down and leave them for others to see as a testimony of God’s faithfulness.
Supplication

ADVANCING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
IDEA ONE: Create a space using maps or a globe. Print the prayer cards from the ACSI event resource file. Pray for the needs listed for each region of the world. When you have prayed for a region, set a colored stone or some type of marker on the map.

IDEA TWO: Use the online prayer globe wall and pray for prayer requests listed there.

IDEA THREE: Hang pictures of Christian educators and leaders in your area to pray for. Have a card prepared that says “We prayed for you today” and have participants sign it. Send the card to the educator/leader after the Day of Prayer.

PROVIDING ACCESS TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
IDEA ONE: Put some rice in a bowl and place plastic spoons and sandwich bags around it. In John 6:35, Jesus reminds us that “I am the Bread of Life.” Have participants consider children around the world who are not only physically hungry but spiritually hungry to know more about Jesus. Pray for opportunities for Christian schools to reach out to these children in tangible ways. After the participant prays, have them scoop a spoonful of rice into the plastic bag.

IDEA TWO: Display beautiful green plants. Have participants pray for Christian education to flourish.

IDEA THREE: Form a small wall of cinderblocks and provide markers. Encourage participants to write one word or small phrase that is a barrier right now to growing (i.e. finances, leaders, strategy, etc.). Pray that God will remove those barriers and break down walls to advance access to Christian education.

IDEA FOUR: Have various lights turned on or light bulbs displayed. Pray for innovative ideas and creativity for Christian education to grow and flourish.

ADVOCATING FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
IDEA ONE: Pass out snack-size packages of M&Ms or Skittles with a color guide. As participants enjoy the yummy snack, they should pray for: Orange - the teacher in their life; Blue - freedom of education; Yellow - your school to be a light in your community; Green - the school administration to lead with a God-given, mission-minded mission; Brown - their family to be a strong voice for Jesus Christ.

IDEA TWO: Display global flags, the American flag, your state flag, and the Christian flag. Ask participants to pray for global, national and state government leaders, local schools, and Christians everywhere.

IDEA THREE: Create construction paper hearts or have die-cut hearts or stickers. Pray to have a heart for Christian education. Pray for school leaders/teachers to have a continued passion for Christian education. Pray for government/community leaders to have a heart for Christian education. As a commitment to continue praying for Christian education, have participants write their name on a heart and display it on the wall in a way you choose.
Shine Bright Theme Prayer Stations

We suggest using flameless candles and outdoor string lights instead of actual light bulbs to avoid harm. Consider holding back your Christmas lights from storage for easy access in February.

1. **IDEA ONE**: Read 2 Samuel 22:29. Using battery-operated tea lights, have students think of an area of darkness and then light a candle. Pray that God’s light will penetrate the areas of darkness.

2. **IDEA TWO**: Read Philippians 2:12-16 (NIV). Using gold star stickers and blue butcher paper, have students stick a star in the “sky” and pray that they will shine brightly for Jesus.

3. **IDEA THREE**: Play the hymn “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” and have copies of the song lyrics. Using a cross, have students jot down what they think about Jesus when they think about Him on a Post-it notes and then stick their thoughts to the cross. Pause and thank Jesus for dying on the cross.

4. **IDEA FOUR**: Hang string lights up. Using clothes pin and cut-outs of stars, have students think about ways they can shine brightly in their world (family, school, church, friends, community) and write it down on the star.

5. **IDEA FIVE**: Have students take a glow stick and activate it. Then, have students sing or read the lyrics of “This Little Light of Mine” while doing hand motions. Pray God gives you courage to shine brightly.
Maintaining Momentum

It’s exciting to build anticipation and participation for a single day of prayer. Our desire at ACSI is that this would be a catalyst for ongoing commitment of prayer. Here are some ways to continue maintaining momentum:

• Develop prayer partners within your school.
• Sign up to participate in the ACSI Online Community. We will connect you with another school to pray for in the coming year.
• Set a particular day of the week or time each day to pray for Christian education.
• Share your stories, ideas, and testimonies on the ACSI Facebook page.

Keep up-to-date on our social media

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ACSIUSA
Twitter: @ACSIUSA
Instagram: acsi.usa
#SchoolsThatPray

Be sure to check out our Day of Prayer Community Group: your.acsi.org/prayercommunity