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January 2012

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PRAY  
every  
DAY

***“Enlarge the place of your tent,  
stretch your tent curtains wide,  
do not hold back; lengthen your  
cords, strengthen your stakes”***

*Isaiah 54:2 (NIVUK)*



**Happy New Year!** As we move into 2012 we're going to focus on our theme for the year. None of us knows what this next 12 months will bring our way. We might have plans and expectations but all we really have is the moment we're now living in.

However I do believe God has plans and purposes for us and as long as we have breath there is always something in which we can be involved to help His Kingdom grow. Individually and collectively there will be opportunities this year to worship, serve, pray, witness and develop in spiritual maturity.

One word sums up our theme for 2012 – **"Enlarge"**. But that one word has so many facets to it and we'll be exploring these over the coming months. Please pray that together we will continue to enlarge our vision and the practical outworking of our faith.

*Each day use the letters in the boxes to pray for people in the church.  
Unless shown, Bible references are taken from NIVUK.*

## Enlarge

Using our Verse for the Year this week we're going to claim God's blessing over our lives.

### SUNDAY

1

A-An

**"Enlarge the place of your tent"** – Isaiah 54:2. Tent in this connection is about where we live. Pray protection and blessing on not only our homes but also over God's household. Remember we (God's worshipping people) are the church, not the building, so pray that together we will enlarge our vision as we meet together today.

2

As-Ban

**"Stretch your tent curtains wide"** – Isaiah 54:2. It's so easy to forget that our faith, although personal, is not private. We are here to share God's love with those around us. Pray for increasing opportunities to impact and influence those with whom we have contact – at home, work, school, socially – wherever!

3

Bal-Bat

**"Do not hold back"** – Isaiah 54:2. What causes us to be fearful? What limits our effectiveness? How do we confine the power of the Holy Spirit working in us? As you ask these questions of yourself commit the answers to prayer today. "Father, please enable me to not to limit what You want achieve through me."

4

Bi-Bo

**"Lengthen your cords"** – Isaiah 54:2. Although tent guy ropes need to be in tension (i.e. taut not loose) in order to maintain stability if we are going to grow we need to be willing to be extended. Pray that we will all be prepared to allow the Holy Spirit to "extend" us.

5

Br

**"Strengthen your stakes"** – Isaiah 54:2. We also need to have firm foundations. "Heavenly Father, let my roots go deep into Jesus and help me not be tossed about but have a firm and sure faith at all times."

6

Bu

**"For you will spread out to the right and to the left"** – Isaiah 54:3. This is about the influence we have with others. Pray that your life will be an example to others in **"speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity"** (1Timothy 4:12)

7

Ca

**"Your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities"** – Isaiah 54:2. "Heavenly Father, today we stand together to reclaim what the enemy has stolen. Your word says that Yours is **"an everlasting Kingdom and your dominion endures through all generations"** (Psalm 145:13) so we thank You that we can be confident that You will give us the victory."

## Moving forward in God's power

### SUNDAY

8

Ch-CI

**"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness"** – 2Peter 1:3. Claim this today for the new year – that's God's power will be evident in all we say and do.

9

Co

**"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline"** – 2Timothy 1:7. This is our inheritance – the Holy Spirit's power working in us and through us at all times. "Holy Spirit, please make this a reality in our lives today."

10

Da-De

**"...we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of His calling, and that by His power He may fulfil every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith"** – 2Thessalonians 1:11. Think of three people in the church that you could pray for by name today using the words of this verse. Make it personal to them by using their names as you pray God's blessing over them.

**11**

Du-E

***“...we pray...that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way...being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience”***

– Colossians 1:10-11. Again pray this over a few people that you know in the church; maybe someone in your small group. By specifically praying words of Scripture we know that we’re praying in line with God’s will and His word does not return empty-handed (Isaiah 55:11).

**12**

F

***“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being”*** – Ephesians 3:16. This one is for you! Pray that you will be

strengthened in your inner being with Holy Spirit inspired power today; that you will have all that you need to live a victorious life.

**13**

Gi

***“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power”*** –

1 Corinthians 4:20. Of course this is God’s power we’re talking about not ours. Pray that you will do everything today in His strength; that you will rely on Him more than your natural gifts and abilities and that people will see the Lord Jesus in you as you serve them in His name.

**14**

Gi-Gw

***“Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power”*** – Ephesians 6:10. This verse comes before the exhortation to put on the ***“whole armour of God”***. We need heavenly

protection and power in order to defeat the enemy. I believe the armour and the weapons we use in our fight are not optional extras but essential equipment so pray you will be kitted out with whatever is necessary for today’s action.

### Fully equipped for the battle

Our focus this week is on recognising the enemy’s tactics and applying God’s strategies and equipment in our fight.

**SUNDAY****15**

Ha-He

***“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.”*** –

2Corinthians 10:3. “Father, I pray that today I will be a positive person prepared to encourage, support and build people up rather than be negative or cynical. Let people see You living in and through me I pray.”

**16**

Ho-Hu

***“On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds”*** – 2Corinthians 10:4. “Holy Spirit, I ask for Your wisdom today, so that

I may be effective as Your ambassador. Thank You for entrusting me with the task of working to see Your Kingdom grow. Guide me I pray.”

**17**

J

***“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ”*** – 2Corinthians

10:5. This is not about being ultra-aggressive – we can demolish strongholds through love and patience. Pray that today every aspect of your life will exude God’s grace.

**18**

La-Le

***“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”*** – Ephesians 6:12. The key to

spiritual warfare is understanding the enemy’s tactics. Primarily there are two – deception and lies. Pray that today you will not be “taken in” by attempts to mislead or deflect you from God’s purposes for your life.

Jesus said, ***“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven”*** –

Matthew 16:19. This is an amazing promise – direct from Jesus. We have the power to bind and loose. He came to set captives free. Pray for anyone you know (including yourself) who is held captive – physically, emotionally, spiritually – and allow God to do His work.

**20**

Ma-Me

***“Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else”*** – 1Thessalonians

5:15. We sometimes talk about coming against attacks in the “opposite spirit”, i.e. not retaliating in the same way. This is an example. Pray today that you will act with integrity in every situation.

**21**

Mi-Mu

***“The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure”*** – 1Corinthians 10:13 (NLT). Pray today that you will not be ***“led into temptation, but delivered from evil”*** (Matthew 6:13). Remember, God is faithful!

**SUNDAY****22**

P

***“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good”*** – Romans 12:9. This is an absolutely vital verse. Pray it for yourself and everyone else in the church today.

## Praying for an increase

This week we're asking God to enlarge us in a variety of aspects:

23

R

**"God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work"** – 2Corinthians 9:8. "Thank

You Father that You don't do things by half. You are able to make all grace abound to us so we can abound in every good work. This is just amazing – nothing is too difficult for You.

24

Sa-Se

**"No-one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us"** –

1John 4:12. Other versions translate the word "complete" as

"perfect". When we love each other it demonstrates the perfection of God. Pray that this will be the reality of our relationship together.

25

Sh-Sw

**"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another"** – John 13:35. This verse

confirms yesterday's thought. Our love for one another demonstrates

God to other people. Pray that our love will increase so that other people are drawn in.

26

T-Tr

**"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"** – 1Peter 4:10 (TNIV). Being faithful in this

context also includes developing (enlarging) the gifts we have received. This occurs as we use what we have been given so pray for opportunities today to do what God has uniquely gifted you to accomplish on His behalf.

27

Tu

**"We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our**

**Lord Jesus Christ"** – 1Thessalonians 1:3. Faith, hope and love – the three "eternal" qualities that will remain (see 1Corinthians 13:13) are all mentioned here. Pray for an increase in all three aspects.

28

Wa-We

**"...make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him"** – 2Peter 3:14. "Make every effort" doesn't sound as if it's an option! Rather it sounds like it's

a command and one that should be taken seriously. Confess any areas for which you recognise that you have need of God's

forgiveness – and then rest assured that you have been forgiven.

SUNDAY

29

Wh-Wi

**"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need"** –

Hebrews 4:16. As we meet together

today, let's remember those who are in need in so many different ways – physically, financially, relationally, emotionally, spiritually. Come into God's presence with confidence because when we come in faith He promises to reward those who earnestly seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

30

Wo

**"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see"** – Hebrews 11:1. Most of us

are in constant need of increased faith, not necessarily because we

have doubts (although sometimes that may be the case) but because we lack confidence that God can and will use us for His purposes. Each of us has a personal testimony of God's goodness and faithfulness to us which no-one can deny. Pray that our willingness to put ourselves "on the line" for God will increase.

31

Leaders

**"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then**

**make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose"** – Philippians 2:1-2. "Father God, at the

end of this first month of the year, we pray that we will be increasingly united with one another. We ask that You will help us to see what You see; that we will align ourselves with Your plans and purposes and grow increasingly aware of the Holy Spirit's leading. Fill us again and again with Your power so that we may reflect the love and character of Jesus. Help us to have a larger vision for Your will to be done in our lives and for Your rule and reign to be extended in this community as we serve You and other people. Amen."

