

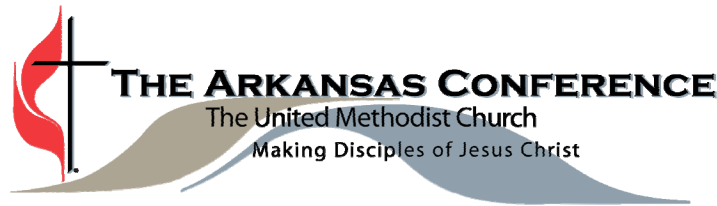
AN APOSTOLATE OF PRAYER

“Imagine Ministry” A Guide for Reading, Meditation, and Prayer August 1, 2009

We ask that pastors, prayer groups, teams in the local church, and individuals use the prayer guide as an intentional daily and weekly study for devotions. This prayer guide is available on the conference web site and will be sent out weekly on the conference email network.

Sources:

- A Guide for Reading, Meditation, and Prayer for all who participate in The United Methodist Way.
- Upper Room Books
- General Board of Discipleship, United Methodist Church
- Scripture quotations are from the NRSV
- Excerpts from “Covenant Renewal Service and Opening Prayer,” copyright 1992 United Methodist Publishing House. Wesley Covenant Service abridged by Ole E. Borgen.
- United Methodist Hymnal



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Week Six: September 6 – September 12, 2009

Read Isaiah 54:10 slowly and prayerfully. Mountains communicate permanence and power. The hill country in Israel is vast. So too is the covenant of God’s peace. What is the Spirit saying to you through this text?

Eighty-five percent (85%) of the existing congregations in Arkansas, have been established over one hundred plus years. It has been said that the longer a congregation has been in existence in one place, the less it knows about the surrounding community. It has drawn upon itself and its membership and knows less about the mission of the community of which it is a part. However, this *cannot* be said of *all* congregations, for some are busting forth with new people and missions to the least, last and lost.

The journey of renewal and spiritual growth begins with each individual, one at a time, then two in conversation and holy conferencing, and reaches out to others in need, the neighbor who we do not know by name, to those on the other side of the street, city, delta, and even across the world.

Please pray the covenant prayer contained in the Wesley covenant service. Let the words and the Holy Spirit speak deeply to your heart and life.

Wisdom from the Wesleys – The Covenant Prayer:

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt,

Rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,

Exalted for thee or brought low by thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O gracious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Thou art mine, and I am thine.

So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Record your thoughts, feelings and emotions related to this prayer.

How is God leading you into the Christian life and discipleship.