

## Giving Thanks and Praising God 2015

*Let's give thanks and praise God for all our blessings and pray that God will be with us all in 2015 as we give our best effort to worship and serve Him.*

### Member Directory

Inadvertent omission: Please add **John Aguiar\*** (Jessica\* & Johnny); 83425 San Asis Dr. Coachella, CA 92236. Phone: (760) 558-9651 (\*member).

### January Birthdays

5 John Aguiar            14 Juanita Small

### January Anniversaries

8 Bob & Debbie Pescador

(Note: if anyone is "missed" here, let Jim know)

#### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

**Preacher:**  
(Vacant)

**Church of Christ**  
81-377 Ave 46  
Indio, CA 92201  
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

# Indio Informer

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Prayerful Living...

### Practical Suggestions for Praying

By Batsell Barrett Baxter

**Pray immediately upon rising.** In what better way can we begin the day than by thanking God for His protection and care during the night and by asking His guidance and help during the coming day. A prayer at the beginning of the day will be a kind of insulation against evil through the entire day.

**Pray before every meal.** God has provided for our every need in such a bountiful manner. Surely, the least we can do is express our gratitude as we sit down to enjoy each meal! When we eat in restaurants, a few moments of silent prayer may serve for the audible prayer which we pray around our tables at home.

**Pray at set times.** The ancient Jews, and others, found it helpful to reserve certain periods of the day for prayer. We may find it helpful, too. Those regular times serve as reminders and help to keep the busy, on-rushing world from crowding out our periods of communion with God.

**Pray with our whole family.** There is something particularly wonderful about a prayer in which both children and parents have a part.

**Pray when we feel discouraged.** Most of us need little encouragement to pray when we feel discouraged or when we face some special problem. At such times prayer comes unsought. It is a great comfort to know God listens to our prayers in times of crisis. One of the greatest privileges of the Christian is the privilege of leaning upon the Lord in times of difficulty.

**Pray at odd times.** Pray whenever we feel the desire. The real Christian will often find cause to pray - while driving our car, while working at our desk, while waiting for a friend, or while doing a host of other things. When the desire comes, pray. The prayer need not be long - perhaps only a sentence or two. It does not need to be spoken aloud, for God can hear silent prayers, too.

**Pray when we are happy.** It is easy to pray in times of crisis, and equally easy to forget to pray when the affairs of life are going well. Most Christians need to thank God for our happy, prosperous lives far more often than we do.

*“Men ought always to pray, and not to faint”*  
Luke 18:1

## **Praise Ideas for Prayer**

By Neal Pollard

Prayer is a very personal exercise, a life built between an individual and God. Thus, these suggestions may of themselves feel intrusive or foreign to some. However, through the years, I have heard many express some difficulty in knowing how to praise God or what to say in praise to Him when in prayer. Leah, in naming Judah, was the first to articulate the idea (through his name), *“I will praise”* (Genesis 29:35). Moses resolved the same at the head of his song in Exodus 15:2. The remaining six times the phrase appears, the psalmist pens the words (Psalm 22:22; 35:18; 69:30; 109:30; 145:2; 146:2). Twice in the Psalms we learn that “praise is comely” (33:1; 147:1). In fact, it makes little sense to make the case for the importance of praise to anyone who professes a belief in God and has seen His blessings and assistance in his or her life.

Having said all of that, what are some specific things one can praise God for in the exercise of prayer?

- Praise Him for His attributes (eternality, limitlessness, superlativeness).
- Praise Him for the wonders of creation (try praying under a starry sky, as the sun is rising, or out in the midst of nature’s beauty—words of praise will flow like water).
- Praise Him for His blessings.
- Praise Him for His sovereignty and superiority.
- Praise Him for His promises.
- Praise Him for His desire to have relationship with us.
- Praise Him for His providence.
- Praise Him for His plan of salvation, giving thought to its component parts.
- Praise Him for the glorious future He has prepared for us.

- Praise Him for the victorious work of Christ and its spiritual benefits.

Obviously, this is just a primer list of ideas. Contemplate God, His nature, His work, His personality, and we will have an ever-growing, ever-changing, and ever-deepening “praise component” in our prayer life. It is good to thank Him and petition Him, but take sufficient time to exalt Him by infusing our supplications with praise to Him! As David urged Asaph and his relatives to proclaim, *“Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised”* (1 Chronicles 16:25). Amen!

## **Suggestions for Leading Prayer in Public Worship**

Whoever engages in the leading of a public prayer has a weighty responsibility on his shoulders. His prayer must be the prayer of all those whom he is endeavoring to lead into the presence of God if there is to be meaning and fellowship during this phase of the worship. Following are some suggestions:

- **Make Some Preparation.** The man who leads should normally be given some time to think about it. He might even jot down some things, and the names of some persons for whom he should like to lead God’s people in prayer.
- **Speak Audibly and Clearly.** Obviously, those present cannot pray with their leader unless he prays loudly and clearly enough to be heard and understood. The use of the public address (PA) system for assisted hearing greatly helps.
- **Address the Prayer to God, the Father.** Do not speak of Him, but to Him.
- **Make it a Reasonable Length.** Not too long is just as important as not too short.
- **Avoid Vain Repetitions.** Some phrases have been used with such regularity among us that they have become meaningless. Use freshness of thought and language.
- **Refrain From Personal References to Your Own Life and Situation.** Do your private praying in private.
- **Refrain From Preaching to God or Man.**
- **Pray in Jesus’ Name, not in “Thy Name”** When Praying to God.
- **Be Sincere and Natural.**

*“Hear my prayer, O Lord. Give ear to my supplications! In thy faithfulness, answer me, and in Thy righteousness”*  
Psalm 143:1