

## **Excellence in Morals**

*Virtue: The righteousness of Christ woven into our souls so we can resist and overcome temptation, enabling us to make the right choice of obedience every time.*

“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith **virtue** [moral excellence]” (2 Peter 1:5).

“Faith is essential; but the inspired word says, ‘Add to your faith virtue.’ Those who are seeking for eternal life, and a home in the kingdom of God, must lay for their character building the foundation of virtue. Jesus must be the chief cornerstone. The things that defile the soul must be banished from the mind and life. When temptations are presented, they must be resisted in the strength of Christ. The virtue of the spotless Lamb of God must be woven into the character till the soul can stand in its integrity. ‘Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.’ . . . And the Lord will be with every soul who adds the precious grace of virtue, and who fears to transgress the law of Heaven” (*Peter’s Counsel to Parents*, pp. 16, 17).

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry” (Colossians 3:1-5).

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works” (Titus 2:11-14).

“It is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13).

### **Intercession Focus: Major World Cities**

Pray for God to work mightily in metropolitan areas around the world. Specifically, ask for:

- Seventh-day Adventists living in these cities to be thoroughly converted, filled with the Holy Spirit, and actively involved in reaching others for Jesus
- God to break the devil’s strongholds in the cities
- Secular people to recognize their spiritual need and be open to God’s leading
- Church leaders to develop and implement wise plans for reaching the cities for Jesus
- For God’s people to work effectively in a variety of comprehensive message to reach people’s needs

Pray especially for the Mission to the Cities comprehensive outreach activities planned by each division for major cities in their territory during 2013-2014:

1. East-Central Africa Division: Kinshasa, Dar-es-Salaam, Addis Ababa, Kampala, Kanaga, Lodwar, Kigali, Lubumbashi, Goma, Magara, Juba
2. Euro-Asia Division: Moscow, Kiev, Kishinev, Kharkob, Minsk, St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Khavarovsk, Rostov, Tbilisi, Almaty
3. Euro-Africa Division: Geneva, Prague, Hamburg, Munich, Vienna;
4. Inter-American Division: Mexico City, Caracas, Bogata, Nassau, Bahamas; Belize City, Georgetown, Guyana; Cali, Colombia; Cayenne, French Guiana; Guatemala City-Quetzaltenango; Port-au-Prince, Haiti; Tegucipalpa; Merida; Mexico City, Mexico; Puerto Rico; Santiago de los Caballeros; Maracaibo, Caracas
5. North American Division: New York City
6. Northern Asia-Pacific Division: Tokyo
7. South American Division: Buenos Aires
8. South Pacific Division: Sydney, Christchurch, Port Moresby, Suva
9. Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division: Luanda, Angola
10. Southern Asia-Pacific Division: Metro Manila
11. Southern Asia Division: Mumbai, Kochi, Bidar, New Delhi, Coimbatore, Surat, Imphal, Vijayawada
12. Trans-European Division: London
13. West-Central Africa Division: Lagos, Nigeria; Doula, Cameroun; Calabar, Nigeria; Accra, Ghana; Abuja; Lome, Togo; Freetown, Sierra Leone

## **Excellence in Morals / Major World Cities**

While I work on the plan of **addition** . . . God is working on the plan of **multiplication!**

Dear Lord, during the next 24 hours, I feel You calling me to add this grace to my life: \_\_\_\_\_

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In Your strength and by Your power, I choose to: \_\_\_\_\_

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These are the ways I saw God multiply His grace to me today:

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## **Excellence in Morals / Major World Cities**

### **Suggested Plan**

#### **Introduction—5 Minutes:**

- Remind people of general guidelines for united prayer as explained in United Prayer Guidelines (available on [www.tendaysofprayer.org](http://www.tendaysofprayer.org)).
- Introduce the day's prayer topics: virtue / excellent morals and prayer for major world cities.
- Have each person select five intercession cards at random from the intercession box to pray over during the supplication time. Make sure they return these to the box at the end.

### **United Prayer Time**

#### **Praise—10 Minutes:**

- Praise God for making us new and giving us His goodness and moral excellence. Use the scriptures on the theme sheet to guide your praises.
- Answers to prayer should be shared during this time as praises to God. Pray your praises.

#### **Confession—5 Minutes:**

- Silent prayer and confession time: Invite people to ask God to show them the sin in their lives and spend some time confessing those sins to Him and accepting forgiveness.

#### **Supplication—30 Minutes:**

- Pray for our church members to display Christ's righteousness in their lives. Especially pray/claim the promises on the theme sheet.
- Claim the outpouring of the Holy Spirit promised in God's Word.
- Spend time praying for each of the major world cities listed in the Intercession Focus. This could be done in small groups, giving each group one or more divisions to pray for.
- Divide people into groups of two or three to pray for the individuals/situations listed on the five cards they chose from the box.

#### **Journal Page Time—5 Minutes:**

- During this silent time, participants ask God how to apply the day's prayer theme in their lives during the next 24 hours. They also write down their prayer goal and blessings.

#### **Praise—5 Minutes:**

- Thank God for granting us His excellent virtue and success in reaching the cities!

**Suggested Songs to Use:** "Holiness"; "Refiner's Fire"; "Sanctuary"; "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" (SDA Hymnal #567); "Create in Me a Clean Heart"; "Amazing Grace" (SDA Hymnal #108); "Thank You, Lord, for Saving My Soul"; "Power in the Blood"; "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" (SDA Hymnal #290); "Jesus Saves" (SDA Hymnal #340).