

THE ARK Christian Ministries



Praying over the Grounds for Summer 2023

Whether you are joining us in person or praying from afar, thank you for partnering with us as we cover the camp in prayer. This prayer list will follow the yellow paths marked on the map leading you to pray in different areas throughout our 50 acre property.

Scripture teaches us that we live and move and have our being in Him. We also are instructed that we are to be joyful always, pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances because this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus. As you commit this time to walk with God, you will be guided to pray for certain things at different intervals and locations, but the real goal during this time is to be sensitive and attentive to the Holy Spirit.

1 Take a couple of minutes to stand in front of the world map. Realize that God is at work in all of these places as you stand here. Think about places you have been and places you would like to go. Pray for the missionaries that are pictured here. Ask God to help you as you are His witness here, there, and everywhere as well.

Prayer: May God bless these missionaries, and those that we mention that are on our hearts like... May those who take the name of Jesus with them be shielded from the evil one, and be filled with the Spirit and have the wherewithal to say no to sin and yes to following Jesus.

Please look at the games, the seating areas, the book shelves, and the fireplace. Our staff has devotions by the fireplace each week. All kinds of groups and individuals rest, relax, and renew their minds in this area. Think of the influence that the authors on the shelves have had on the people who have read and donated these books. What books have influenced you?

Prayer: May these common areas be filled with joy and laughter, introspection and reflection, as well as confession and conversation that leads to repentance, encouragement, and continued life transformation.

Follow the south hall back to the area by the coffee machine. The kitchen staff, the summer staff, and many of our yearly staff meet in this area. Groups tend to find their way to this little corner. Take a moment to thank God for everyone He has called to serve at THE ARK and to visit here for one reason or another. Pray for the conversations that will happen around this table.

Prayer: May God continue to bless the gifts of food and drink, and those who congregate in this area. May there be moments of connection, encouragement, hope, joy and peace while people relax around these offerings of hospitality.

2 As you exit the doors, turn to the right and walk down by the Ark. Noah and his family were rescued from the flood in an ark. Take some time to think and pray for people who need to be rescued right now. Pray for those in need of divine intervention. Pray also for this space as it will be transformed to house a science and nature center that will host school groups from the area.

Prayer: God, we have our struggles, but we have been blessed to live in this country, and we don't constantly fear for our lives, or live under the threat of persecution. Many in this world have no home, have little hope for asylum, and wonder if peace will ever darken their door. We pray for those who struggle, for those in prison, and for those who are on the run. We are grateful for spaces that can be used to remind people of the beauty of what You have created. We thank You that the world is charged with Your grandeur.

Prayer Walk



3 Continue walking out toward the road and around the lake. Cross the bridge to the island and gazebo, if you want to, and keep thanking God for the beauty of creation and the different landscapes that he has shaped and formed. Thank God for his attention to detail. Take a couple of moments to watch the clouds.

Prayer: May our grounds give people the space to escape their everyday routine, and to reconnect with the simple beauty of creation and its manifold witness to the glory of God's continuing creation. May there be places for people to unload their baggage and take up the easy yoke and light burden of a God that offers freedom, hope, joy, and peace—even in the middle of the chaos, the mess, and the trials.

4 As you walk along the road on the south side of the lake, pray for the staff members that live in these houses, for the summer staff that will live with them, and for the log cabin where our missionary for the summer will be housed. Take a few moments to pray for the community on this campus and for God to continually transform those who live here and those who visit here. You will walk by the Thai Huts and then back to the Jungle Huts area. Pray for the students that utilize these smaller camp experiences. At the Jungle Huts area, you will notice the paint-ball field off in the distance. Please pray for those who come here for recreational purposes. Ask that God will use their experiences to continue to draw them to Him. There are also areas to the south of the Jungle Huts where future plans call for an indoor horse riding arena, an Apache village, and an old west fort. (See the attached summer camp schedule to pray for Thai Huts and Jungle Huts leaders.)

Prayer: May people find a place to belong here: a space where they can work out their salvation in synergy, safety, and security. May families become stronger and friends become spiritual companions, while enemies are transformed into teammates that will remain committed to furthering God's kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven and accomplishing our mission. May all of our obstacles be removed, or easily bypassed on the road to true fellowship and partnership.

5 Climb the steps and walk through the Jungle Huts area back north towards the large field. As you cross that field, take note of all of the recreational opportunities that are offered in this central field. As you continue toward the Third World village, take some time to thank God for all of the blessings that you have been given. Spend some time praying for those that are less fortunate than you, as well as for those that are simply raised in different cultures with different experiences. Remember that God wishes that none would perish, and pray that the gospel will find its way to every person regardless of their socio-economic position and ability to interact on a global scale.

6 **Prayer:** May we recognize our blessings and count them daily. May our ability to know how good You have been to us inspire, motivate, and create in us a desire to love and bless the world around us. Make us ever mindful of Your call on our lives and of our responsibility to use what we have been given to make the world a better place.

7 As you leave the Third World village and head west on the property, you will travel along the road by the double decker ropes course, new 2-person zipline, & new 2-person giant swing. You will also notice the high ropes course and climbing wall in the distance. Many people are challenged to face their fears and move beyond barriers in their physical performance, as well as their psychological situations through elements like these. Ask God to break down the walls in the young people who participate and in our lives that keep us from experiencing His superabundance of love, grace, mercy, and peace.

Prayer: May these grounds be a place where people confront their fears, and are always encouraged to take the next step in their mental, physical, social, psychological, and spiritual well-being. May You open our eyes that we might see, open our ears that we may hear, and open our hearts that we can understand. May our souls have the courage to expand, and to leave the old ways for the higher and better way.

Prayer Walk



8

Turn right into the wooded area and head north past the picnic shelter. In the wooded area to your right, there are a number of low-ropes group initiatives that help groups learn to think and work together as a team. You will also notice the main camp campfire area where all kinds of stories weave together into God's beautiful tapestry. Before you leave the prayer garden, take a few moments to simply be in solitude and silence with God. Let God guide you in that silence and experience the embrace of His love and passion for you.

Prayer: May we always make and take the time to be still, wait patiently, and know that You are God. May we stop rushing ahead of You, and always remember to trust in Your slow work that is reconciling all things unto Yourself.

9

As you are ready, continue north along the road, or through the grass past the Dome house where our Facilities Manager and his family live. Climb to the top of the Cave and spend a couple of minutes simply looking around. Thank God for what you see. Pray for the groups that choose to use this small group area of THE ARK. Pray for those who use the vehicles and trailers. Pray for the tools and the staff that utilize those tools to maintain these spaces for God to be glorified and to reveal Himself to everyone that finds their way on to these grounds. Thank God for the place to store things in the warehouse. Notice the pool and new waterslide; see if you can still hear the joy of children and students playing, the water splashing, and the refreshing gift that water activities bring on hot summer days. This water also provides the space for many to be baptized into Christ. Remember your baptism, the baptisms that have occurred there, and the baptisms that will take place there this summer.

Prayer: May we use the things that You give us, the gifts and talents You have blessed us with, and the spaces that we live, and move, and have our being in to glorify You. May we also allow others the space and grace to experience You, and to be transformed and transfigured into the likeness of Christ so that we all might leave behind our old, death-dealing ways and continue to rise and walk in the newness of life.

10

As you walk toward the pond, please notice the old chapel in the distance and thank God for a shop that provides space for more tools, more creative outlets, and a place to keep our vehicles and maintenance items ready and available for services of all types. Pray for the future plans of a building to the north of that shop that will expand shop maintenance needs and will eventually provide additional staff housing. Continue walking around either side of the pond. Thank God for the students and adults that will fill these cabins throughout the year. Ask that lives will be changed and that God's kingdom would be furthered through the conversations and experiences there. Recognize also that there are smaller cottages that can be used for personal retreat. Pray for those who will find their way here for solitude and silence while seeking spiritual and vocational direction.

Prayer: May all who enter these grounds, and stay for any period of time, rest well in the embrace of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. May their nightmares cease, and may their dreams be infused with the peace of God that transcends understanding that will guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. May they stop listening to the lies of the Devil, and hear forever the truth of The One who calls them beloved, and longs to rescue them and see them live unfettered and free.

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

Matthew 6:9

Prayer Walk



11

As you pass the south side of the pond by the volleyball court, please pray for our future bi-level year round Lakeside Lodge that will be built in this location. It will allow us to host different kinds of groups as we continue to move toward our goal of being a year-round facility that will be able to meet the needs of larger and more varied groups. As you continue by the barn, take a moment to thank God for the variety of life that shares this earth with us. Thank him for pets that you have, or have had, and for the companionship that can be experienced through the gifts of the animal kingdom. Please pray for Riann and Gary Creech and the volunteers who work with them who lead the Horse Camps.

Prayer : May we ever expand our opportunities to serve and love more of our neighbors by providing spaces that will help us serve as better hosts and stewards of that with which God has blessed us. May we also love life, as You love life, and do a better job sharing this earth with all living things. Help us be sensitive, caring, and attentive to all of life.

12

As you walk across the parking towards the Conference Center, please notice the areas for recreation, the shelters for gathering, and the canteen area. There is no shortage of life-change that happens in these spaces as community springs up all around these spaces. As you enter the Conference Center, continue into the main session area. Thank God for the work that He is doing in your life. Pray for those who will organize main sessions and group activities. Pray for the speakers, the musicians, and all of those who will enter this area. May God meet people in this area and change hearts and minds. Also, take a minute to thank God for the opportunity to gather around tables to taste and see that the Lord is good, and for all of the meals that will be served here. (Please see the names of the leaders/deans of the other camp sessions on the schedule at the back of this packet.)

Pray together: We ask that You would sanctify this space, and all of our spaces, and that You would help us consecrate ourselves to be faithful and true followers of Jesus who will love You with all of our heart, with all of our soul, with all of our mind, and with all of our strength as we love our neighbors as we love ourselves. May the food of our tables, and the food of the Word of God always be set in this space, and in all of the tables of our lives. May we ever practice communion and community in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit as You complete the good works that You have begun in each of us. Amen.

Thank you for joining in prayer for the Holy Spirit to move in unhindered ways this summer. Thank you for joining in being consecrated by God in preparation for this place to be Holy Ground.