

For a month I have been reading and praying through Ephesians. As I am personally growing through Ephesians, my monthly prayer from 2:20-22 shaped into a prayer for the Catawba Valley District.

Lord build the Catawba Valley district on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus as our cornerstone. May we be fitted together, growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom we are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

The prayer has become my foundational prayer for our district. I have gathered five others to pray with me. At 7:00 a.m., noon, and 8:30 p.m. this prayer is being lifted up. Our desire is for a spiritual awakening tsunami in all hearts across our district. We are praying for a revival, for the anointing of God to rain down. We pray that the manifold wisdom of God might be made known through the church. We pray that the world will see hope and that lives will be changed. We pray that we will see growth in the body, building itself up in love.

God is doing mighty work through you across our district. Thank you for your committed service. But, there is still much more work to do. We have several tasks force formed preparing to launch plans that will come alongside your ministries.

Mental and Physical Health Awareness: Clergy and laity across our district will be trained in Mental Health First Aid. MHFA is an eight-hour course that gives people the skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The evidence behind the program demonstrates that it does build mental health literacy, helping the public identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness. MHFA training will help a person assist someone experiencing a mental health crisis such as contemplating suicide.

The Invested Life: Who discipled you and who are you discipling? The Invested Life is clergy and laity who will pour out their spiritual and emotional wellness into the lives of others by making disciples. Kim Shockley will be leading seminars on sharing your faith journey. You will understand why telling your faith story is essential in today's culture. And you will learn active listening skills.

Kingdom Man: Kingdom Man will provide men with a radical, passionate challenge to be great for the Kingdom of God. The ultimate goal is to help grow godly men of integrity and faith. A task team of men across our district is making strategic plans to launch this ministry in winter 2018 – 2019.

The legacy of Freedom: Legacy of Freedom is helping us to have a general understanding of diversity, ways to be inclusive and to value/treat all people with compassion and acceptance and how to lead in the area of sensitivity and diversity. I will be facilitating

sessions on sensitivity and diversity as well as developing courageous conversations in communities.

We are partnering with the Gaston YMCA to plan a Legacy of Freedom Tour February 20-22, 2019. We will tour the Legacy Museum, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, Edmund Pettus Bridge and the King Center in Atlanta. Please see the attached brochure. Please note scholarship monies are available. Please contact the district office if you are interested in joining us in February.

Thank you again for your dedicated service in ministry. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.