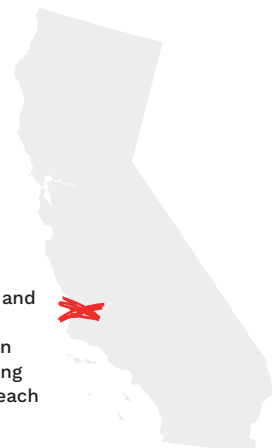


# WEEK OF PRAYER

<b>DAY 1</b>	_____	Cathie Smith
<b>DAY 2</b>	_____	RJ McCauley
<b>DAY 3</b>	_____	Jorge Alvarez
<b>DAY 4</b>	_____	Joseph Brown
<b>DAY 5</b>	_____	Lidia Parra
<b>DAY 6</b>	_____	David Godoy
<b>DAY 7</b>	_____	Week of Prayer



# DAY 1



Cathie Smith

Journey Christian Fellowship, San Luis Obispo

**Prayer Point** - Pray for Cathie Smith and all the women who are seeking to make a difference through women's ministry to reach and equip women in serving the great commission.

**Point to Ponder** - How many women's ministry events have taken place in your church? Or within your association? What a blessing it would be to be able to double or even triple that number to reach even more women within your community.

CSBC Women's Ministry Network held its first ever Leadership Conference at Gateway Seminary on January 14, 2023. The event was a huge success in bringing together diversity (in culture, region, age and church size), vision, encouragement and hope for the future. This event paved the way for future regional events. Women across the state and (even Texas) stepped up to serve and lead. Around 40 participants gathered to hear inspiring teaching on calling by Gateway President, Dr. Jeff Iorg, "Thriving (not just surviving) as a Woman in Leadership" by Dean of Women at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Dr. Terri Stovall as well as great teaching by seminary students Natalie Hernandez and Denise Matthews. Approximately 20 churches were represented with participants coming from the Central Coast, Milpitas area, Bakersfield, Ontario and LA area. Cathie Smith, who oversees the Women's Ministry for the California Southern Baptist Convention strives to reach as many women as possible with her ministry. Through the generous giving to our California Mission Offering, she will be able to expand the reach of equipping women. The event was made possible due to the generous giving to the California Mission Offering. But more is needed to be able to bring great events such as this one to more areas of California, to more women in California.



# DAY 2



RJ McCauley

Magnolia Church, Riverside

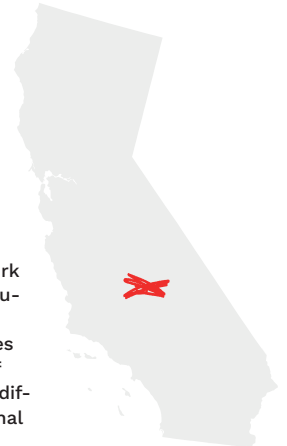
**Prayer point** - Pray for Champion McCauley and Youth Evangelism. That we may see strong commitment to the growth and expansion of our future leadership within the California Southern Baptist Convention.

**Point to ponder** - Do you make an effort to engage and encourage the youth in your church? How do you see efforts being made within your church to fulfill the calling of the next generation of Southern Baptists leaders?

Youth Evangelism in California is on a precipice of extreme growth. Youth Evangelism Champion RJ McCauley knows this first-hand as he has been the guiding force in its development over the last few years. McCauley poses this question "I have been working on building partnerships; California Baptist University is all in, Gateway Seminary is all in, NAMB is all in, but is California all in?" Currently, Youth Evangelism is a subset of the general Evangelism budget and McCauley would love to see Youth Evangelism Initiative fully built out on its own. Not only on paper for funding purposes but also in building out a team. Through giving to the California Mission Offering, "If we don't plan now to invest in the youth, and the next generation of pastors and ministry leaders, there won't be an annual meeting to attend in 20 - 30 years in California," said McCauley. "All of the events we put on right now are offered free, because we don't have the resources to charge a fee," he continued. Ignition is the largest event CSBC Youth currently hosts, in 2023, one has taken place already in early March and the second will be in November. "My goal is to bring a third Ignition conference to the central valley" shared McCauley. "We have started from ground zero, building this mission to reach the next generation. It's gonna take all of us to get it done."



## DAY 3



Jorge Alvarez  
Emanuel Baptist Church, Lindsay

**Prayer point** - Pray for Pastor Alvarez and his ministry through Feeding Those Who Feed Us that he may continue the Lord's work in providing consistency to those he meets facing trials and tribulations.

**Point to ponder** - A physical and spiritual hunger are real realities facing many in California. Consistency in meeting these types of needs can be crucial and in Pastor Alvarez's case makes all the difference in people choosing to walk with the Lord. In your personal life, how has Christ's consistency shown up in your life?

Through the efforts made by both Migrant Ministries and Feeding Those Who Feed Us Pastor Alvarez sees the fruits of his labor carried out in tangible ways for his community. Block parties, grocery and clothing distribution, and vacation bible school are just some of the many ways the ripples of touch work their way through bringing the good news of Jesus and the gospel to this people group. Mr. Alvarez recognizes the theme of consistency as being vital in reaching those that are lost. He continued, "It's not an immediate thing, it's not just one time, meeting one need, and people start coming to church or accepting Jesus into their lives. It takes repeated consistency of meeting needs like prayer, counseling or providing a meal."

"Just after Easter this year we had seven baptisms, when we normally have only one or two" shared Alvarez. Recounting the many ways his ministry touched and worked in the lives of these seven and finding their way to commit to Christ. "If it were not for the funding this ministry receives through the California Mission Offering, we would not be able to provide the consistency that is needed to show and demonstrate the Lord's love to all" stated Alvarez.



## DAY 4



Joseph Brown  
The View Church, Menifee

**Prayer point** - Pray that Minister Brown and The View Church continue to see and experience both measurable and immeasurable blessings to the church as they reach into their community to tell people about Jesus.

**Point to ponder** - Has your church faced decline in attendance or engagement? Are you concerned about the overall health of your church? Do you or your church leadership know about Count the Cost and how it can help your church move in a more positive direction? Count the Cost is provided without charge to participating CSBC congregations.

The California Mission Offering has benefited Minister Brown's ministry at The View Church in a number of ways. The funds from CMO have helped to undergird the outreach efforts this year and allowed him and his congregation to serve their community through evangelism efforts such as neighborhood canvassing and helping to fund a Community Day of Hope. They were able to bless over 300 families due to funds received through CMO.

Minister Brown has seen the impact first hand as being a Count the Cost Champion also. Count the Cost has been an invaluable tool to help ensure The View Church's ability to rebound from the COVID pandemic. The pandemic drastically changed the church attendance and member engagement. They faced the greatest challenge to the health of their congregation in their 26-year history. Without the funding from the California Mission Offering, to help programs like Count the Cost extend and serve as a resource for churches, this outcome of growth and rebuilding would not have been possible. "I am encouraged and excited about what CMO can do for countless churches throughout California. It can help support and mobilize countless churches to stay true to the great commission and continue to make an impact for the kingdom of God" shared Minister Brown.



## DAY 5



### Lidia Parra Iglesia Bautista Emanuel, Hughson

**Prayer point** - Vacation Bible School does serve as a great evangelistic campaign for both the large and local churches throughout the state. Pray for Lidia and the countless other Vacation Bible School leaders that put so much effort into sharing the gospel teachings of the Vacation Bible School curriculum. Pray for the continued contributions to the California Mission Offering so that we may continue to see those fruitful rewards of their labor.

**Point to ponder** - Does your church offer a Vacation Bible School at your church? If not, do you see this as being something beneficial to the surrounding community, a factor to help growth in the church? If you do offer VBS at your church, what outcomes have you seen because of this curriculum being offered?

Did you know that the California Mission Offering funds the training our leaders receive both within the state and nationally? Lidia Parra is a California leader within the Vacation Bible School ministry. She knows firsthand how important training for leaders is. "Even though we do this every year there is always something new to learn. The training opens our minds and allows us to visualize what God will do in the present year in each Vacation Bible School but also in the future" Lidia shared. "We communicate the vision and opportunity to have a great evangelistic campaign for the local church." Parra sees Christ opening the hearts and minds of attendees of Vacation Bible School when they receive Him, and this is the very spirit of holding Vacation Bible School in California she believes. "Thank you for investing in us who serve and are able to train in the national training, as it is a blessing for our life. Every dollar used for Vacation Bible School never returns empty, God multiplies what we do and what we invest for His kingdom" expressed Parra. "When we support and invest monetarily on a large scale, God sees our hearts and lets us see the fruit of our effort and our sacrifice. Thanks to the investment made in Vacation Bible School, we can better serve knowing that we have the support of California Mission Offering.



## DAY 6



### David Godoy Parkside Church, Oceanside

**Prayer point** - As Southern Baptists of California our goal is to create opportunities for the gospel to be heard, and church plants are one of the most familiar places where these opportunities and conversations can get started. Pray for our current church planters and for more to be called to plant churches throughout California. Pray that California may see an increase through CMO funding that supports these church planters.

**Point to ponder** - Has God called you to plant a church? Have you contemplated and prayed over that being the next step for your life? What difference can you make in becoming a church planter, or supporting someone else that has this calling?

David Godoy serves as the West Region Champion for Send Network Español of the North American Mission Board and has extensive years of service and experience in church planting. "California Missions Offering is key to supporting church planting in particular for the ability it has at reaching the lost from different cultures, tongues, and backgrounds who all call California home" David pinpointed. His involvement with church planting has taken him near and far, having preached on five different continents, and traveled to 39 countries, he has seen a lot and experienced how crucial funding for new church plants can be. "CMO allows our state convention to resource churches, equip the saints, and mobilize the body of Christ to preach the gospel, make disciples, and start new churches in all 58 counties of California. Together, we can take the gospel to men, women, and children," he said, "together, by giving to the CMO, we can play a vital role in the salvation of millions of people that desperately needs Jesus. One day, a multitude, that no one could count from all over our state, will be standing before the throne and before the Lamb, as described by Revelation 7:9, as a result of the sacrificial giving of our churches."

# DAY 7



**Prayer point** - Through the efforts made all across the state, reaching the lost and strengthening relationships with God is one of the primary focuses our ministries place emphasis on. Pray that the combined efforts from all of our church family may see a tipping point in giving to the California Mission Offering in 2023!

**Point to ponder** - How will you individually make a difference towards CMO this year? Will you become involved in one of these ministries? Will you decide to give or increase what you have previously given to help further these ministries and others like it?

As your designated week of prayer ends for our California Mission Offering, please keep each of these featured leaders, their ministries, as well as all of our ministries that exist or are furthered because of the funding from the California Mission Offering in prayer. Pray that our churches meet or exceed their individual goals so that we as a state may also meet or exceed our California Southern Baptist Convention goal and that we can all continue to build and grow the Great Commission.