

# **Community Bible Church**

# Transitions and New Beginnings Prayer Guide 2023

After many months of prayerful and patient searching the LORD has blessed CBC by calling John Richard to be our next Senior Pastor.

Pastor John, his wife Jamie and seven of their nine children will be making the long move from the West Coast to the East Coast sometime in June of 2023.

Although they are leaving many friends and family in California, we are trusting that God will provide new friends and a new church family as they transition into ministry and make their home here in Northern Virginia.

As CBC prepares to welcome the Richard Family, we are asking that everyone continue to pray for this approaching transition. In this guide you will find scripture you can pray from, focus as to what to pray for and a special section provided by Pastor John and Jamie as to how CBC can be praying for them.

We are so thankful for the faithful and steadfast prayers of the church throughout these long months since our search for a new pastor began. As a church we have faced many challenges and deep sorrow, but in every possible way – God has sustained us by His grace and continued to bless and use CBC to preach the Gospel, love one another well and to seek Him in dependence and faith.

God deserves all the glory and all the thanks for the works which He has accomplished in us, through us and for us. All praise goes to Him!

Serving for the Gospel with you

The Elders of CBC

Bryan Casey Joe Kaleda John Clark

> "Behold, I am going to do something new, Now it will spring up; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert."

> > Isaiah 43:19

# **First Things First**

## **Everyday**

**Focus:** Cleansed hearts, renewed spirits, ready minds, effective prayer

Psalm 139:23-24 Psalm 51:10-13 1 John 1:9.

**Pray** that all of us at CBC would remain close to the LORD with hearts that are continually cleansed by Him.

**Pray** that the Holy Spirit would stir the entire congregation at CBC to be alert to personal sin and areas of temptation or compromise and respond with a spirit of repentance and humility before the LORD.

**Focus:** Glorify God as we prepare to welcome Pastor John, Jamie and their children into our church family.

### **Ephesians 3:20-21**

**Pray** that God would be glorified throughout this transition as we seek Him in prayer and faith for all that is needed – both for the church and the Richard Family.

# Day by Day for our Elders

### Abiding

John 15:1-8

**Pray** for our Elders to abide in Jesus as they continue to oversee the spiritual health of the church and the ministries within CBC before and during the upcoming transition.

### Wisdom

Proverbs 2:6-8 Matthew 6:33 Psalm 127:1

**Pray** for our Elders to seek God's wisdom first and foremost as they help the church prepare to welcome our new Senior Pastor and his family. Pray that God would cause our Elders to make decisions and plans with the wisdom God provides.

### Discernment

### Philippians 1:9-10

**Pray** for God to bless our Elders with discernment as they help the church to remain focused on preaching and sharing the Gospel.

### **Patience**

Psalm 130:5-6; Galatians 5:22-23 Colossians 1:11; Lamentations 3:25-26

**Pray** for our Elders to continue to embrace God's timing in His calling and transition of Pastor John. Pray that they

would experience patience as they balance ministry needs, work, family and community commitments.

### Trust

Proverbs 3:5-6 Philippians 4:19

**Pray** for our Elders to steadfastly trust the LORD as they undertake each step of helping the church and the Richard Family come through this transition in a way that glorifies God and leads to stability within the church and relationships.

### Protection

### Ephesians 6:10-11

**Pray** for God's protection over our Elders and their families with the knowledge that change, and transition can create anxiety and uncertainty and present opportunities for Satan to sow fear, discord and distraction.

**Pray** for God's protection over our church and its ministries in this season of new beginnings and transition. Thank the LORD for all He has done and is doing to sustain the preaching of His Gospel and the stability and health of His church at CBC.

#### Peace

Philippians 4:6-7 John 16:33

**Pray** for the peace of God to permeate the hearts and minds of our Elders as they continue to respond to the needs of the

Body and carry out their calling as those who oversee the spiritual health of the church.

### **Unity and Confirmation**

Romans 15:5-6 Philippians 2:1-2

**Pray** for God to bless the Elders with a strong sense of unity and one-mindedness at each stage of the upcoming transition of Pastor John and his family into CBC.

### **Endurance**

#### Galatians 6:9

**Pray** for our Elders to remain focused and energized as they lead CBC in anticipation of Pastor John transitioning into full time ministry – **Ask** the LORD to bless them with His spiritual, mental, physical and emotional endurance.

# Day by Day for our Church

### Steadfast in God's Word

1 Peter 1:13-25 Isaiah 55:10-11

**Pray** for our Elders and our congregation to remain steadfast and daily anchored in God's Word as we seek the

LORD and learn to trust His Word more and more in all things.

### Focused on the Gospel

### Romans 3:19-26

**Pray** for everyone in our church to remain focused on knowing and sharing the Good News of the Gospel - that Jesus came to save sinners from the just wrath of God - through His sinless life, His substitutionary death and His sovereign resurrection from the dead.

### Remain Close to the LORD

Romans 12:1-2 Psalm 25:4-5 Matthew 28:18-20

**Pray for CBC** to reflect the authentic attributes of a healthy, Gospel-centered church in our teaching, preaching, prayer, worship, discipleship, fellowship and evangelism throughout this upcoming time of transition.

### Love One Another Well

Ephesians 4:1-3

**Pray** that those who call CBC home would seek to obey God's command to love one another and maintain a spirit of unity as we prayerfully and practically support the transition of Pastor John, Jamie and their family. into CBC.

**Pray** that God would give all at CBC *a fullness of love for our pastor and his family* – trusting God to have prepared Pastor John for His calling to shepherd our church.

# Day by Day for our Pastor

This section has been prepared and provided by Pastor John and Jamie...

Prayers for Richard Family:
We would treasure prayer for our family in the following ways:

### A. Biblical Mindset:

Colossians 3:1-2 Philippians 4:6-8

There are many thoughts that come to our minds each day, as we wonder what life will be like in Virginia, what schools we may go to, where we will shop, and so on. Needless to say, our minds are filled with many deliberations, so our prayer is that in all those good questions and challenging ones, we would always set our minds on the things above.

Considering the challenges and unknowns, our prayer is that we would be anxious for nothing, but pray with thanksgiving, setting our minds on our glorious Lord and Savior.

### B. Wisdom with Every Decision:

James 1:5-7 Proverbs 2:3-6

We greatly need the Lord's wisdom, greatly need discernment for many decisions, so our prayer is that the Lord would grant us wisdom in all of this, for both the 'large' and 'small' decisions.

### C. Faithfulness to Draw Near to the Throne of Grace:

### Hebrews 4:16

There is so much do as we are preparing to move. Each day it seems that our 'To-Do' List is exponentially expanding, so our prayer is that we would continually go to the Lord, who gives grace and mercy in our time of need. He is so good and gracious to provide help.

### D. Faithfulness to the end of our time in California:

### 2 Timothy 4:7

When Paul wrote his final epistle to Timothy, he looked back at his life and concluded with a clear conscience that he finished his course, that he kept the faith. Our prayer is that we finish well here in California, that we make the most of our opportunities that the Lord gives us, that we proclaim the gospel to as many people as we can.

### E. Glorification of our Lord:

### **Romans 11:36**

### 1 Corinthians 10:31 1 Peter 4:11

Our prayer is that our Lord, our Savior would be greatly glorified in all that we do. More than anything it is our passion that whether at home, school, church, work, in the community, our Lord is exalted, so we would treasure prayer to this end.

April 9, 2023