

ALLEGHENY WEST

THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH



An Invitation to Pray – At Annual Conference and For Annual Conference

My husband and I recently made our first trip to Israel to celebrate his retirement after 38 years of pastoral ministry. We were like children, amazed each day with what we saw and experienced. At the Temple Mount, our tour guide shared the history, already familiar to us, but the Lord emphasized truths to my heart that I've been chewing on ever since:

Matthew 21:12-13, (also Mark 11:15-17) New International Version

Jesus at the Temple

12 Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 13 “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’[a] but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’[b]”

Jesus is actually quoting from two of the major prophets.

“Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations?’ [Isaiah 56:7–8] But you have made it a den of robbers [Jeremiah 7:11].”

The place where Jesus was standing when He overturned the tables of the moneychangers was the court of the Gentiles.

Two ideas have been ruminating in my heart:

1) Jesus said that His house will be called, “A house of prayer.” I mused about what our church was known for...possibly by her friendliness, some might say by my husband’s Biblical messages, others the great meals served by the good cooks in our church!” Perhaps your church is known for a super youth ministry, or children’s program. How many of our churches, though, are known as houses of prayer? Yet, that’s how Jesus wants His Church to be known. ***My prayer is that all our new GMC churches and our new denomination as a whole be known as a house of prayer!***

2). Jesus was probably standing in the court of the Gentiles when this occurred. There was the Holy of Holies, where only the priest could enter. There was a court for Jewish men and a Court for Jewish women, and then there was a Court for Gentiles. God had made provision for ***all*** to come to His Temple, for all to hear His Word, for all to bend the knee and pray, but this is where the money hangers had set up their noisy camp. Jesus quotes both the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah

when He reminds them that the whole purpose of this place is to be a place of prayer for *all* people. ***My second prayer is that the GMC would truly be a denomination to serve our global community, our brothers and sisters in faith around the world!***

1) For those of you present at this Allegheny West annual Conference, please continue to pray that our Father would govern and inspire all that takes place here. You may feel free to use our prayer room at any time for prayer for the conference or for personal prayer. There are members of a prayer team, designated by labeled ribbons who are ready to pray with or for you if you desire.

2) If you are not present, please continue to pray for this assembly!

- That the Father would govern all that occurs
- That the Lord would draw our hearts together in a fellowship of family
- That the Holy Spirit would guide every decision, every speaker, every deliberation
- That our Comforter would bring healing to all brokenness

May we truly be known for our genuine, heartfelt, God-trusting prayer!

Serving Him with you,

Cindy Harvel