



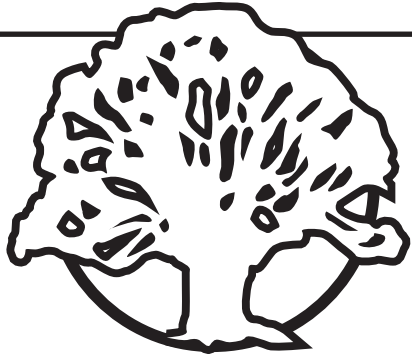
We Welcome You, Lord Jesus!

A CHILDREN'S COMPANION TO *SEEK GOD FOR THE CITY 2013*

We're going to pray for other people in our towns and neighborhoods and schools for forty days in a row. Many Christians all over the world are praying for the people who live in their cities during the very same forty days, using the same Bible verses that we will read as we pray.

When Jesus lived among the people of His town, He helped many of them by God's power. He helped the people who wanted Him and invited Him to make them different. Today, we can be the ones to invite Jesus to visit the people of our neighborhoods and towns. Many of them don't know Jesus yet. But Jesus wants very much to visit them and help them live with God's joy and blessing. Our prayers will help welcome Jesus to come closer to the people so that they can meet Him and follow Him too.

"WEEK" ONE, PART ONE:
FEBRUARY 13 – FEBRUARY 16, 2013



God's Life: The next few days we will pray especially for Christian people to know God better and to live their lives like Jesus. At the end of every time of prayer, we can say a prayer of welcome to Jesus: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

1 **WEDNESDAY**
FEBRUARY 13

**Welcoming Christ...
to call for lost children
to come home**

Read: Luke 15:20-24

Pray: Lord, You are like the father in our scripture story. He loved his sad boy and was happy to see him coming home. The father had a party he was so glad. Father God, You love boys, and girls, men and women all over our city who are far away from You. They don't know You love them. You are the one who can welcome them. You are the one who can make them happy again. Help them to come home to their Father. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

2 **THURSDAY**
FEBRUARY 14

**Welcoming Christ...
to sense His love even though
they can't see Him**

Read: John 14:21

Pray: You are alive now, Jesus. Even though we cannot see You, we know that You are real and near to us. Even though we can't see You, we know that You love us and want us to know You better and better. As we grow in our love for You, You promised to reveal Yourself to us more and more. Without ever seeing You with our eyes, we look forward to knowing You better with our heart. And one day You will come again, and then everyone will see You with their eyes. We'll be ready with hearts full of love for You. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

3 **FRIDAY**
FEBRUARY 15

**Welcoming Christ...
to see the bright glory
of God**

Read: John 11:24-25,40

Pray: Jesus, You really did rise from the grave. The scripture is an amazing true story of how You are so full of life that You bring life to everyone. The life You bring shines in people's lives and makes them happy. We want to answer "yes" to your question because we can't wait to see what You will do next to do beautiful things in our lives and in the lives of the people we know. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

4 **SATURDAY**
FEBRUARY 16

**Welcoming Christ...
to give us a pathway
to live in peace**

Read: Luke 1:76-77,79

Pray: Lord, we thank you for sending Jesus, just as You promised that He would come to forgive our sins. You promised that Jesus would guide many people to walk in a pathway of peace. There are so many things that make people worry and fight. Come and teach us how to walk in Your peace. We pray that our whole neighborhood and our city would become full of Your peace. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

We Welcome You, Lord Jesus!

A CHILDREN'S COMPANION TO *SEEK GOD FOR THE CITY 2013*

February 17 – February 23, Days 5-11: We are in the middle of 40 days of praying for other people in our towns and neighborhoods and schools. During this week we'll be asking God to refresh the spiritual life of Christians. Our prayers will help welcome Jesus to come closer to many others so that they can meet Him and follow Him too.

5 SUNDAY FEBRUARY 17

Welcoming Christ...
**to grow lots of fruit
on our branches**

Read: John 15:1-2,5

Pray: Father God, You are like a farmer who takes care of his vines and tree branches so that they will be healthy and bear lots of fruit. Take care of us and trim away the things in our lives that are not good. We want to follow Your plan so we will be like a healthy tree in Your garden growing much fruit. What kind of fruit will You grow in my life? *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

6 MONDAY FEBRUARY 18

Welcoming Christ...
to bring to life the lifeless

Read: John 5:25

Pray: Lord, Jesus, sometimes people are so busy that they don't realize You are alive and close to them. It's like we are dead to the life that You want us to live. Would You whisper and call and even shout so that we can all hear You and wake up to You? Hearing Your voice in our hearts can be the beginning of a new life for many. Your voice is kind and loving. We trust You. Our ears are listening for You. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

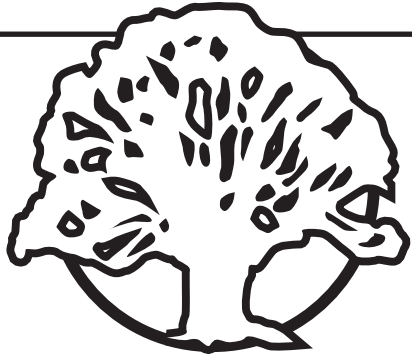
7 TUESDAY FEBRUARY 19

Welcoming Christ...
to surprise us too

Read: Revelation 1:17-18

Pray: Jesus, You surprised Your friend John so much that he fainted at Your feet. Wow. You touched him and told him who You were and not to be afraid. Nobody but You can say, "I was dead" because You really did die and then God brought You back to life. You are amazing and the things You do are always good for us. We want to recognize You and the things You do. Help us, like You did John, to not be afraid when we see You in our lives. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

"WEEK" ONE, PART TWO:
FEBRUARY 17 – FEBRUARY 23, 2013



God's Life: This week we will pray especially for Christian people to know God better and to live their lives like Jesus. At the end of every time of prayer, we can say a prayer of welcome to Jesus: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

8

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 20

**Welcoming Christ...
to clean up our hearts**

Read: Matthew 5:8

Pray: People with pure, clean hearts can see You with the eyes of their hearts, Father God. The not-so-pure things that we do and say and think keep us from coming close to You. We don't want that to be the way our hearts are – all dirty and far away from You. Being able to see You is really the only thing that matters. We can wash our outsides, but only You can clean us up on the inside, so we can shine, squeaky-clean for You. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

9

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 21

**Welcoming Christ...
to stop loving our stuff**

Read: Luke 16:13

Pray: Lord, Jesus, it is so easy to love our stuff – our toys and games and computers. It's easy to think and talk about the things that belong to us. When we think about our stuff, it makes us want to have even more stuff. We want to love You and serve You and not all of our 'stuff.' Help us think about You, Jesus. When we think about You, it makes us want to be even more like You. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

10

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 22

**Welcoming Christ...
to help us join
God's big family**

Read: John 17:22-23

Pray: Lord Jesus, You want everyone who follows You to be part of God's big family. You prayed to Your Father God that He would bring Christians closer and closer together. Please keep bringing all Your people together. Help us learn to love each other and work together like a great big world-wide family. When we work together, doing the things You have called us to do, we can reflect Your goodness and show Your love. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

11

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 23

**Welcoming Christ...
to make us like flowing rivers for
thirsty people**

Read: John 7:37-38

Pray: Jesus, You promise that when we believe in You the living water that satisfies thirsty people can flow from us. You are like a great river flowing through our lives, as if we were drinking fountains for people who don't know You yet. Our words and actions can be like a drink of water for others. When people take a drink of You, they can meet You and become alive in a new way. Let living water flow to our friends. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*



We Welcome You, Lord Jesus!

A CHILDREN'S COMPANION TO *SEEK GOD FOR THE CITY 2013*

February 24 – March 2, Days 12-18: We are in the middle of 40 days of praying for other people in our towns and neighborhoods and schools. This week we will pray especially for the light of God's love to shine on people who do not yet know Him. Our prayers will help welcome Jesus to come closer to many others so that they can meet Him and follow Him too.

12 SUNDAY FEBRUARY 24

**Welcoming Christ...
to bring a brand-new day**

Read: Luke 1:78-79

Pray: Father, many in our city are like people in the dark. They walk around bumping into things and getting hurt because they don't see that You want to bring a new, bright day. Come like a sunny morning into the lives of these people. Bring the light of Your tender love to our city.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

13 MONDAY FEBRUARY 25

**Welcoming Christ...
to open the eyes of people who
don't know God**

Read: Matthew 20:32-34

Pray: Jesus, You felt so sorry for the blind people that You stopped to take care of them. You did an amazing thing: Suddenly, You made their blind eyes to be able to see! There are people in our city who are so far from God that they can't tell that God exists or that He loves them. It's as if their hearts are blind. We pray that You would come to our city and care for the people in our city who are like blind people. They can't sense that God loves them. Please open the eyes of their hearts to see and love God.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

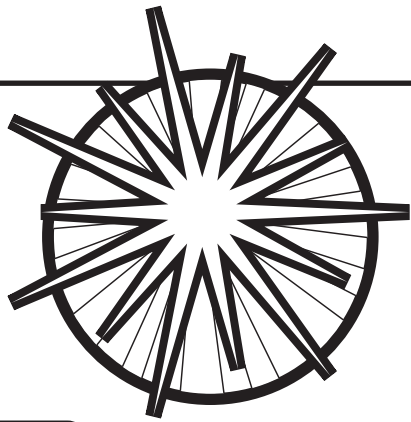
14 TUESDAY FEBRUARY 26

**Welcoming Christ...
so we can understand**

Read: Luke 24:45

Pray: Father, You wrote an amazing book – the Bible. It is full of the stories and mystery and history of people that You love. When we read it we know how much You love us. Open up our minds so that we can understand even more of the scriptures. Do this for the people in our city too so we can all know Your plans for us. We trust You to teach us Your words. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

**WEEK TWO:
FEBRUARY 24 – MARCH 2, 2013**



God's Light: This week we'll pray for those who don't know God. It's as if they have been living in darkness, so they are blind to God and His goodness. We'll pray for God's light to shine in their lives. At the end of every prayer, we're going to say a prayer of welcome to Jesus: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

15 WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 27

**Welcoming Christ...
so we can see who He is**

Read: John 9:36-38

Pray: Jesus, You said, "It's really me!" to the man who had been blind when he asked if You were the one who healed his blind eyes. It is good to know that You answer us when we ask questions, that You love to tell us what is true. Tell the people in our city who You are and how much You love them. We ask that many will come to know and believe in You. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

16 THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 28

**Welcoming Christ...
to show people the way
out of the dark**

Read: John 3:19, 21

Pray: Father, right here in our city people live as if they are in a dark prison. The sin and darkness in their hearts blocks out the light of Your truth and love. Sometimes they even like it because they can hide bad things easier in the dark. Please change their hearts, Lord, and make them want truth instead of the darkness of lies and sadness. Show them Your love and how much You long for them to live with Your light shining on them. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

17 FRIDAY
MARCH 1

**Welcoming Christ...
to be the winner
over the enemy**

Read: John 12:31-32, 36

Pray: Jesus, You are the winner over the enemy that we can't even see because You died on the cross for us. You won over the powers of darkness and evil long ago. We trust You to keep showing the people we care for how to come to Your side. Be the light shining in darkness for everyone to see so that they can run to You. May many men and women and children come to the light of Your love. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

18 SATURDAY
MARCH 2

**Welcoming Christ...
to shine out like
a lighthouse**

Read: John 8:12

Pray: Lord, we want You to be seen by the people of our city like a lighthouse set up on a hill. People can find their way in darkness and avoid the rocks of trouble when they see the beacon of light. We believe You are who You say You are: The Light of the World. Help us all to see You clearly and be drawn into the path that You have for us to follow. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*



We Welcome You, Lord Jesus!

A CHILDREN'S COMPANION TO *SEEK GOD FOR THE CITY 2013*

March 3 – March 9, Days 19-25: We are in the middle of 40 days of praying for other people in our neighborhoods and schools. This week we will pray for God to be known and praised as the gospel comes to all the people groups in our city. Our prayers will help welcome Jesus to come closer to many others so that they can meet Him and follow Him too.

19 SUNDAY MARCH 3

**Welcoming Christ...
to make God's name famous**

Read: Luke 11:2

Pray: Some people are famous for doing bad things. Other people are famous for pretending to be someone else, like in movies or on TV. Jesus wanted His Father God to be known and loved for who He really was. Everything Jesus did pointed to the wonderful things God was already doing in people's lives. Help us be like Jesus. We want our friends to know how good and loving God really is. We want our Father God to be truly famous all over our community. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

20 MONDAY MARCH 4

**Welcoming Christ...
so God won't be a secret**

Read: John 12:28

Pray: Jesus, You helped people to understand Your Father God so clearly that they could honor and praise Him. Today in our city, there are many people who don't know You at all. Many people believe things about You that aren't true. It's like You are a big secret. If people truly knew how good You really were, they would be so thankful and glad. That's why we are praying like Jesus did. We want many to come to see how wonderful You are and what You have done for them already. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

21 TUESDAY MARCH 5

**Welcoming Christ...
to answer prayers
in surprising ways**

Read: Luke 5:26

Pray: Everybody was so surprised when You, Father, answered the prayers of regular people who trusted and believed in You. All they could do was say how they had seen a really neat thing and You were glorified. Do that in our city – answer even the littlest prayers of people so that they can be astonished when You care enough to meet their needs. Do amazing things so nobody will doubt that it is You who answers their prayers. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

**WEEK THREE:
MARCH 3 – MARCH 9, 2013**



God's Glory: This week we will pray for God to bring the good news about Jesus to people all over our community. As Jesus changes people's lives, they begin to thank God and give Him glory as never before. Every time of prayer can end with a prayer of welcome to Jesus: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

22 WEDNESDAY
MARCH 6

**Welcoming Christ...
so leaders will know Him**

Read: Matthew 2:8-11

Pray: Jesus, when You were born wise kings came from far away to honor You. But the leader of the land wanted to kill You. We pray for the leaders of our land today. Some are afraid of You and some want to fight against the things that are right. Some leaders really seek for Your wisdom so they can be good leaders. Would You be a guide to them, like the star over the stable was to the Wise Men? As they come to honor You, our whole city will shine for You like never before.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

23 THURSDAY
MARCH 7

**Welcoming Christ...
to spread the good news**

Read: Luke 8:39

Pray: Jesus, You told this man to go home and tell everyone what had happened to him, how You had changed his life. He did – and You were able to impress the whole town. We want this to happen in our city. Please heal people with broken lives or sick bodies. Change their lives so that they tell all their friends about You. Come in such a new way in the lives of many people that stories of Your goodness and love are everywhere. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

24 FRIDAY
MARCH 8

**Welcoming Christ...
so that people would
run after Him**

Read: John 12:19

Pray: Many people all over the world have realized that it is You that they want. It's like they are running toward You. But You aren't running away. You are happy to be found by them. All over the world people are bringing their friends and family along because they all want to be with You. Would You let the people in our city run after and catch You too, and would You make them into strong and faithful followers?
Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

25 SATURDAY
MARCH 9

**Welcoming Christ...
to bring more worshippers**

Read: John 4:23

Pray: Father, You are already looking all over our city to find people to worship You. You want people to worship You with all their heart. And You want to love them back in such an enormous way that it is hard to imagine. What would that look like – to have many people in our town honoring and loving You with their worship? Jesus said that a time was coming when You would find the worshippers that You have always wanted. Bring that day soon in our city.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus.



We Welcome You, Lord Jesus!

A CHILDREN'S COMPANION TO *SEEK GOD FOR THE CITY 2013*

March 10 – March 16, Days 26-32: We are in the middle of 40 days of praying for people of our communities. God loves to help people learn to live like Jesus. This week we'll pray that God will help many people do what is good and choose what is right in God's sight. Our prayers will help welcome Jesus to come closer so that many others will want to follow Him too.

26 SUNDAY MARCH 10

**Welcoming Christ...
to stand right and true**

Read: Matthew 3:15

Pray: Jesus, one day You were with many people who were being baptized with water to show how much they trusted God to wash them clean from the wrong things they had done. Jesus, You always did what was right and true in God's sight. You didn't need to be baptized. But You were baptized to show that everyone could trust God to not only wash away their sins of their past, but to give them hope to live right and true in their future. We want You to give many people of our city a new start and a hope of living rightly. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

27 MONDAY MARCH 11

**Welcoming Christ...
to help us pray
with persistent faith**

Read: Luke 18:7-8

Pray: You will find faith on the earth, Jesus, because we will be praying. You are somehow making our hearts want to pray more and more. We will keep praying for justice to be done and for Your kingdom to come in our lives and in our city. Let the faith that is built up in our hearts when we pray be pleasing to You. You give us courage to be persistent day after day. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

28 TUESDAY MARCH 12

**Welcoming Christ...
to make us hungry
for what is right**

Read: Matthew 5:6

Pray: Sometimes things in our world seem so unfair and not right. We get tired and worn out with all the bad things that happen. How can all the wrong things be made right? Even the best people can't fix problems very well. But You can heal and help anyone. You have promised to make many of the bad things right again. Knowing about Your promises make us hungry and thirsty for You to come and make our world like You want it to be. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

WEEK FOUR:
MARCH 10 – MARCH 26, 2013



God's Righteousness: This week we're praying in hope for what God calls "righteousness," when many people follow Jesus and begin to do what is good and choose what is right in God's sight. At the end of every prayer time, we can welcome Jesus with hope, saying: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

29 WEDNESDAY
MARCH 13

**Welcoming Christ...
to fulfill God's promise to change
many people's lives**

Read: Luke 4:18-19, 21

Pray: Jesus, You read a promise from the Bible that God would put His Spirit upon a special person to do wonderful things for many people. And then You announced that You were the One who would fulfill all that God had promised. God promised that He would bring the blessing of new life to many people. Ever since the day You read that promise out loud, You have been keeping God's promise by giving new life to many people. Keep on fulfilling God's promise! Bring blessing for many people of our city.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

30 THURSDAY
MARCH 14

**Welcoming Christ...
to help us to be brave**

Read: Luke 1:74-75

Pray: Jesus, there are enemies around today and we still need to have courage to face them. We want to be brave and to serve You without fearing what others might think or say. Not just us, but many people in our city need to be saved and rescued from their fears in order to be free to worship You. Would You come in our lives, Lord, so that we could serve and love You without worrying about terrible things? Thank you for giving us courage and strength. We trust You.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

31 FRIDAY
MARCH 15

**Welcoming Christ...
to help people make wise
decisions**

Read: John 7:24

Pray: Jesus, You want us to choose what is right in God's sight. But sometimes it's hard for us to tell the difference between what's right and wrong. Will You please help us make wise decisions? Will You help us think with Your brain, to be strong with Your strength, and feel with Your heart? We really do want to please You. And we know that You really want to help us live like You. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

32 SATURDAY
MARCH 16

**Welcoming Christ...
to bring His kingdom**

Read: Matthew 6:33

Pray: Someday, Lord Jesus, You will come and bring all the glory of heaven to fill all the earth. It will be Your kingdom and You will be King. Thank You for inviting us to Your heavenly kingdom. We love You now as our King. You help us live right and true. Before You come at the very end, You promised to make some things on earth to be a little bit like Your coming kingdom. We can hardly wait. Please cause more people to want to follow You now and enjoy a right life with God.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus.



We Welcome You, Lord Jesus!

A CHILDREN'S COMPANION TO *SEEK GOD FOR THE CITY 2013*

March 17 – March 23, Days 33-39: We are in the middle of 40 days of praying for other people in our neighborhoods and schools. This week we will pray for God's peace to come in and change all of those places where there are troubles. Our prayers will help welcome Jesus to come closer to many others so that they can meet Him and follow Him too.

33 SUNDAY MARCH 17

Welcoming Christ...
to help us see the great coming
day of blessing

Read: John 8:56

Pray: Long ago God told Abraham that a great day would come when all the people on earth would be blessed. As Abraham looked as far as he could see with eyes of hope, he became very glad, because he saw that God would give us Jesus. He knew Jesus would bring wonderful blessings for all the tribes, peoples, and countries. We are watching with our eyes of hope to see how You will bless many people with peace. We pray that Your promise of blessing will be fulfilled soon. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

34 MONDAY MARCH 18

Welcoming Christ...
to make our ways Your ways

Read: Luke 19:42

Pray: Father, it seems like we have blinders on sometimes – so we only see certain things. We usually think about ourselves and the stuff we want. Thinking about ourselves makes us blind to Your desire for everyone to live in peace. You have a bigger picture that You want us to see. You want us to become a part of making it all come true. Take off our blinders and teach us to see and walk in Your ways. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

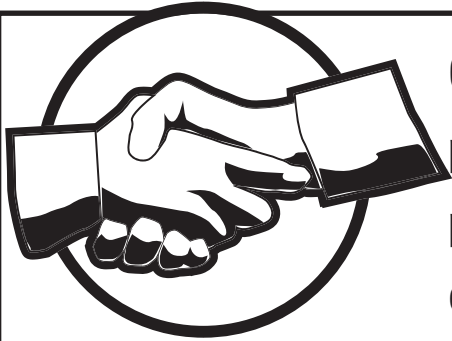
35 TUESDAY MARCH 19

Welcoming Christ...
who loves children

Read: Mark 10:13, 16

Pray: Jesus, it's fun to think of You praying for the children so long ago. What were Your hopes for each of them? You called them by their names and they listened to Your prayers for them. Today many of our own parents have given us to You like the people long ago. We're giving You our lives, too. You want the very best for us. We also pray for our friends and children in our town. Bless them too! What kind of plans do you have for all of us – the children of this generation? How can we join in Your dreams for this time in history? *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

WEEK FIVE:
MARCH 17 – MARCH 23, 2013



God's Peace: This week we will pray for God to bring changes in the way people live all over our city. God wants to heal hurt relationships and help people change so that they can live in His peace. Every time of prayer can end with a prayer of welcome to Jesus: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

36 WEDNESDAY
MARCH 20

**Welcoming Christ...
to teach us to love
and pray for enemies**

Read: Matthew 5:44-45

Pray: You are the supreme example of love. You prayed for the people who were mean to You and hurt You, those who didn't understand You and persecuted You. Sometimes others are not kind, and we feel like being mean right back to them. But we really want to be like You. Teach us Your ways, give us loving hearts. We choose today to pray for our enemies. We lift them up to You. Give them the gift that none of us deserve: the forgiveness and blessing of Your love. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

37 THURSDAY
MARCH 21

**Welcoming Christ...
to love red, and yellow, black
and white**

Read: Matthew 12:21

Pray: People from many nations are living in our town. Every day we see children who are different from us, whose skin may be another color or whose clothes are from somewhere else. Sometimes they are living here because of wars or danger in their home countries. In the song "Jesus Loves the Little Children" we sing about how precious all children are to You. Would You, Jesus, bring peace to places where there is war and in our town help us to love one another? *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

38 FRIDAY
MARCH 22

**Welcoming Christ...
to bring all people together**

Read: Mark 11:17

Pray: Lord, You said that You want Your house to become a place where people from every language and country can know You, worship You and sing songs to You. We can't wait to see how You will bring all kinds of people from all over the world to love You. Teach us how to be a part of bringing people together to pray and worship You in our city. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

39 SATURDAY
MARCH 23

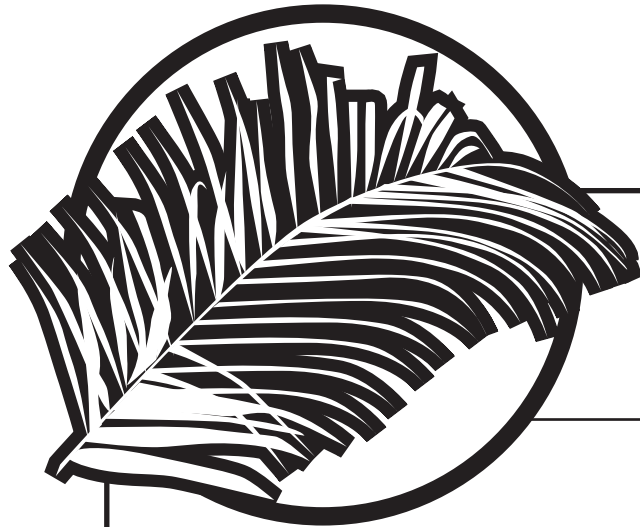
**Welcoming Christ...
because we've all
been waiting**

Read: Luke 8:40

Pray: We don't know when You are coming back, Jesus, but we are excited that You are. We are happy that You want to come in our hearts and lives. What will that be like – when we all see You face to face? We're going to keep watching and keep waiting until You come. Will you invite others from our city to join us in looking forward to Your coming? Will You speak to their hearts in quiet ways and loud ways that will make them excited about Your coming too? *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

We Welcome You, Lord Jesus!

A CHILDREN'S COMPANION TO *SEEK GOD FOR THE CITY 2013*



Today is the final day of 40 days that we have been praying for people in our towns and neighborhoods and schools. Our prayers will help welcome Jesus to come closer to many others so that they can meet Him and follow Him too.

**When He came near...the whole crowd of disciples
began joyfully to praise God in loud voices
for all the miracles they had seen:
“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”
“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”
Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus,
“Teacher, rebuke Your disciples!”
“I tell you,” He replied, “if they keep quiet,
the stones will cry out.”
- Luke 19:37-40 (NIV)**

**PALM SUNDAY:
MARCH 24, 2013**

**40 SUNDAY
MARCH 24**

**Welcoming Christ...
so that many will desire Jesus to visit us**

Read: Luke 19:37-40

Pray: As interesting as it would be to watch the stones worship You – we'd like for the crowd of worshipping people to be so loud that they don't need to cry out. As we celebrate Palm Sunday in our homes and churches, Lord, we pray that You would visit us and every town with Your goodness and love. We pray that many hearts would be tuned in to You in the middle of all the joyful welcome. May millions and millions of people come to know You and Your great love for them and be saved and changed by You this day. Led by children and followed by grown ups would today's celebration of Your coming be a picture of the ways You want us to live the lives You have blessed us with. It's all about You. Let peace be as great as Your glory.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus.