

Church/Faith

- Pray for revival in our churches and a deeper love for Jesus.
- Pray for increased attendance in our services.
- Pray for an increase in assimilating young family's in our churches.
- Pray for wisdom and unity for the leadership in our churches.

Healthcare

- Increase in Primary Care Providers who will see MediCal and MediCare patients.
- Reduction of use of hospital ERs for primary care (ISI level 4,5s), allowing for better use of resources and improved timeliness of care for those patients who truly need emergent care.
- Increase in Hospice Care and intermediary care facilities where patients can be discharged from the hospital after an acute episode heal in a more comfortable environment. Studies show that the longer a patient is kept in a hospital, the more likely they are to contract a secondary infection and the longer the recovery time for the patient is.
- Clean up the air in Kern County, specifically Bakersfield. Bakersfield air quality is one of the worst in the nation and the incidence of childhood asthma one of the highest. This leads to poor school attendance, higher attention deficit disorders, and ultimately a higher rate of drop outs.
- Instead of weekly late start dates and early release dates for the Bakersfield City School District to consider longer recess for primary grades and planning periods for teachers. Outside recess (when air is clean) encourages physical activity, increases blood flow allowing children to be healthier, more settled, better learners.



The KLA Pray prayer focus guide facilitates informed prayer, promotes cooperative focus, and allows us to monitor measurable results and hoped-for transformation in Bakersfield and Kern County.

For more information about KLA Pray, please visit our web site at www.kernleadershipalliance.org.



Prayer Focus Guide
1st Quarter • 2016

Government

- Decrease in gang-related shootings. (60 gang-related shootings in City of Bakersfield in 2015 as of 12/15/15; 9 in November 2015. The great majority of our gang shootings involve people who are lifelong members of criminal street gangs, from areas of our city where gang membership is often an accepted way of life. While gang members make up less than 0.05% of our city's population, they are responsible for nearly 50% of the gun violence in Bakersfield.)
- Increase in state funding for persons with disabilities. (\$100 million needed for approximately 300,000 people with disabilities, such as in BARC; facilities are closing; 10% increase in the budget cycle; budget is submitted in Jan 2016 and voted on in June 2016.)
- Decrease in infant mortality resulting from unsafe sleeping practice. (lost 19 babies in Kern County as a result of unsafe sleeping in 2015 as of 12/21/15. There are efforts countywide to ensure that new moms when leaving the hospitals are equipped with pack n plays or other items for a safe sleeping environment.)
- Decrease in number of near fatalities as a result of child abuse (1 life lost in Kern County as a result of child abuse in 2015, but many near fatalities).
- Decrease in deaths associated with diabetes.
- Decrease in officer-related shooting deaths.

Family

- Pray for marriages in the church, that we would hold fast to the original design and "strengthen what remains" so that our marriages would glorify the Lord. Pray wisdom, courage, and protection for our church leaders to stand firm in the defense of biblical marriage.
- Pray for the prodigal sons and daughters who are lost and bound to sexual immortality, or drug addiction. Let us display the love of Jesus by representing His love and forgiveness, and that they would have an encounter with Christ and be restored.

Family continued...

- Number of abortions: The number of abortions reported to the CDC in the United States reached a record low of 730,322 in 2011 (the most recent year this data is available). According to Planned Parenthood's annual 2014-2015 report, they performed 324,000 abortions last year.

Reasonable goal to decrease abortion in 2016: Pass pro-life legislation. Nearly 50 pro-life state laws were passed in 2015 (none in California, where most US abortions are performed). Currently, pro-life groups in California are laboring to collect enough signatures to get the Parental Notification and Child and Teen Safety Initiative on the ballot in November (Sadly, few protestant/evangelical churches appear interested in this effort).

- Number of U.S. adoptions in 2015: Approximately 135,000 (most come out of the foster care system).

Reasonable goal to increase adoptions in 2016: Education that will make the adoption process less stigmatized for the birth mother and more uniform in terms of rules and regulations for all involved.

Education

- Pray for the safety of our staff and students so they may focus on educational achievement.
- Pray for the involvement of parents in their child's education.
- Pray for school bus drivers and staff to transport students safely to/from school and field trips.
- Pray for school boards / trustees so that they make wise decisions based on the needs of students and families.
- Pray for our special education students so that they feel included and achieve their potential.
- Pray for our youngest students in preschool and transitional kindergarten so they may develop the skills they need early on to succeed in their academic careers.
- Pray for plans for a new "state of the art" Career Technical Center proposed to be built and completed in 2019.
- Pray for blueprints being drawn by architects, the 25 acre parcel has been purchased.
- Pray for \$24 Million in GEO bonds available for this center, however projected costs will likely be upwards of \$80 Million. Please pray for funding of this project.

Business

- Pray for weekly and daily prayer meetings to launch in businesses in Kern County in 2016.
- Thank God for the rain that He sent in answer to our prayers and pray for more rain to completely end the drought.
- Pray for wisdom concerning state policies and regulations that govern the use of existing water supplies.
- Pray for our farmers to have wisdom and creative ideas to resolve problems and pray for their agricultural products to be protected from blight and pests attacking Kern crops.
- Pray for continued economic recovery for our business community. Pray for new business ventures and job providers.
- Pray for a single digit unemployment rate.
- Pray that God gives wisdom and clarity to the current decisions, and that his creative insight will be given so that oil can be produced and utilized with ever lessening environmental impact.
- Pray for business leaders to use their time, resources and gifting to impact Kern County for Christ and not just to look to their own prosperity and safety. Help all of us to 'seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness' knowing that all good things will flow to our city and county if we put God first in every thought, word, and action.

Media/Entertainment/Arts

- Pray for the attendees of Bakersfield's 36th Annual Bakersfield Prayer Breakfast. Karen Covell, founder of the Hollywood Prayer Network and the breakfast's keynote speaker, is challenging the hundreds of attendees to pray for Hollywood as the world's most influential mission field.
- Pray for the Christian Youth Film Society and their efforts to equip and encourage young people to creatively express their Christian faith through making movies. Pray for the support, participation, and success of this year's Christian Youth Film Festival on March 6, 2016.
- Pray for the innovators, visionaries and entrepreneurs who monthly launch new channels of distribution for series, specials and movies. They are continually pushing the envelope in the digital space and offering more and more programming to the world through streaming, downloads and phone apps! There are many new companies creating new technology for the world, and all of them need our prayers for wisdom, and God's creativity!