

Prayer Guide for the Ole Miss & NWCC 2021 - 2022 Academic Year

Monday 8/16: Please pray for our students as they face anxiety.

- **Philippians 4:6 - 7** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- **Anxiety:** As our students prepare for school this Fall, their lives are rife with opportunities to worry and feel anxiety. Whether they be a new student who is unsure of what to expect from their first year, or a returning student who is worried about returning to the rigorous academic demands of a full-time students' schedule, Satan will actively work to inspire crippling anxiety in our students. Please cover them with prayers that God's peace which passes all understanding will rest upon them.
- **A Prayer from Dale for our students:** Dear Lord, we are thankful for the college students that are coming to us soon and we want to intercede for them with a prayer of protection for the freshman, transfers and returning students. Lord we all know that these are exciting times for them but also, they are times filled with so many things to be anxious about so we pray that they will have the discipline to balance work, study, and rest. We also pray that the students who feel overcome with anxiety will seek help from our counseling ministry. Lord we know that relationships are so important and we also know that Satan wants to destroy all he can so we pray that you will surround the students with people who love you and will help guard their hearts against the crippling effects of anxiety. Thank you for giving us a way forward in this broken world so we can hand our worries over to you. In Jesus Holy name, Amen.

Tuesday 8/17: Please pray for our students as they participate in God's mission to our college campuses.

- **Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
- **Mission:** The campus is a place where the powers of sin and darkness reign. And while this means it is a place where students need prayers for protection against the evil one, it also means they have great opportunities to be shining lights and bring freedom to those who are enslaved to the powers of sin. Please pray for our students to proudly bring the Spirit of God with them on to campus, that their fellow students may encounter the transformative love of God.
- **A Prayer from Matt for our mission:** Father, we pray that you equip us through your Holy Spirit to be salt and light on our college campus. Let your presence be so evident in our lives that people on campus recognize Jesus inside of us. We know that you call us to be your hands and feet, despite our imperfections, and we pray that your power is made perfect in our weaknesses and that we can submit to being transformed into the likeness of your Son. Protect us from being drawn into the temptations that try to get our attention, and help us draw encouragement and strength in one another as a community of believers. Amen.

Wednesday 8/18: Please pray for all of the incoming freshmen to Ole Miss and NWCC.

- **Proverbs 3:5 - 6** Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.
- **Freshmen:** Periods of transition are always difficult. Please pray for our freshmen as they enter a new stage of life filled with uncertainty, new challenges, and new choices that they may lean into the Wisdom of God as they find their path in this new, exciting, and challenging time.
- **A Prayer from Adam for our freshmen:** O Lord, I come before you now seeking your peace for our college freshmen. I ask that their anxieties be removed and for strength to cope with the pressures of campus in a manner that pleases you. Allow them to face the unknowns of the semester with confidence in the realization that you ultimately are in control rather than themselves. Help them to lean upon your understanding and not my own. I ask you Lord for their confidence to try and your peace to prevail should they fail. In Christ name, Amen.

Thursday 8/19: Please pray that our students will find and form Christ-centered community and relationships.

- **Ecclesiastes 4:9 - 12** Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

- **Community and Relationships:** We know that God created us to be in community with others. As students come to Oxford they are often leaving their church communities and families for the semester and it can be easy for them to feel isolated or lonely. Please cover the RFC community with prayer that God would build a welcoming and inviting community for new and returning students.
- **A Prayer from Durward for our students:** Dear Lord, as students experience the freedom of guiding themselves, will you grant them wisdom beyond their years to navigate their minut and big decisions with a resolute Godly purpose. Help them be good stewards of time, sleep well, not be stressed or overwhelmed, and flourish amid interruptions. Give them the ability to shun distractions, retain life giving information, and ability to avoid emotions whispering words of discouragement. Help them manage task and burdens beyond their skill set with ease. Help them not fear failure but embrace it as opportunity for growth. Give them insights to discern between good and evil and courage to stand for your definition of good. Interconnected with the daily grinds of school, may all find a good balance in life so that their physical, mental, and spiritual needs are meet in a healthy way. Most of all God, will you surround them with friends who inspire them to draw closer to you, provide steady quality friendship, encouragement in times of highs and lows, and help them be a person that draws their strength from YOU. In Jesus Name, Amen

Friday 8/20: Please pray for our students as they learn to balance priorities.

- **Psalm 119:125** I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes.
- **Balance and Priorities:** Part of the reason students often feel overwhelmed is the many different roles and responsibilities they have on campus. Balancing this in a new environment can be challenging and straining on mental health. Pray for students to have the resolve and strength to handle the many challenges they face, as well as the necessary discernment to determine how to best spend their limited time and energy.
- **A Prayer from Daniel for our students:** Father, we are thankful for college students who come here to learn and to hone the gifts that you have given them for solving problems that face our world, organizing and prioritizing their time, and building meaningful relationships. All of this can be overwhelming! Please work through your spirit within them to encourage them to strive for growth, to persevere in the face of challenges, and to see the world through eyes informed by your love. Please surround them with friends who will stretch them and help them keep their eyes on you when it can be so tempting to discard the faith of their youth. Please give these young people wisdom and discernment so that they can make good use of the time given to them and help them to remember you as the source of their lives and of all good things. Please give them the peace that comes from trusting in you. Finally, please use our students to reach out to others and show them what it looks like to live an imperfect but authentic Christian life in a culture that continually beckons us to focus only on ourselves.

Saturday 8/21: Please pray that our students will find and grow in their identity in Christ.

- **1 Peter 2:9 - 10** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
- **Identity:** As students make the transition to college life, it can be easy to feel disoriented, lost, and confused about who they are and what they want out of life. There are many competing stories on campus that will encourage students to place their identity in everything from grades, to resume items, to relationships. Please pray for our students to firmly root their identity in Christ, so they may experience life, and life to the full.
- **A Prayer from Eric for our students:** Dear Father, we come to give you thanks for the students who are coming to study this fall. Father, we know that many distractions will arise, keeping them from seeing their true identity as those who have been made in your image, so we beseech you to set guarding angels to protect them. We invite you to prompt them by your Holy Spirit to come to a full knowledge of the grand purpose you have for them. O Lord, instill in every minute of their day the sense of being redeemed by the blood of the lamb, of being forgiven every sin, of being holy and blameless, blessed with every spiritual blessing, sealed with the Holy Spirit, raised up with Christ, your friend, your child and precious in your sight. May they come to see themselves as servants for your glory and be filled with joy and peace as they trust in you, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit they may spill hope on all with whom they come in contact. May it be for you glory. We pray through Jesus, AMEN.