

When God Answered a Simple Prayer

by Keith LaRoy



“Do you think I could go and ask them for water?” Heather pointed to a cement truck that was parked on the side of the road.

“Sure, go for it, you never know,” I responded.

I had also noticed the cement truck park earlier on the side of the road, just outside the hotel parking lot. It seemed rather odd that he had parked in that particular location at this time of night.

Our ministry, Wings of Life, was in the middle of a short-term mission project in Costa Rica with a group of teenagers and chaperones from Walla Walla Valley Academy. We had just finished supper and our evening worship. It was Friday night, and a large group sat in a common semi-outdoor area at the hotel.

But there was a smelly problem on our hands.

There was no water. Meaning no water for showers, toilets, and sanitation. After having worked outside under the tropical sun in 90-degree temperatures on our building project, showers were a definite necessity for us, not a luxury.

From the hotel manager, we had learned that further up the road, a water pipe had burst and that no one in the area had water. While we heard that local crews were working on restoring the water, it had already been many hours, and there was just no guarantee when we’d have water again. Tonight? Tomorrow? We just didn’t know.

Ignoring the backed-up toilets and the grimy, sweaty feeling, our group of 44 volunteers and 10 Wings of Life staff gathered for a heart-moving time of worship together. As our voices raised in song, our spirits were encouraged. At the end of worship, several testimonies were shared by people about God answering the prayers of His people for water. We remembered the story of Elijah during the time of no rain. Inspired, Bob, the volunteer group leader, asked if there was a volunteer to pray for water for our group. Another chaperone responded and led the group in a simple but moving prayer asking God to provide water for our group. Worship over, we all were relaxing as best we could.

Sometime later, I was watching as Heather spoke with the cement truck driver. To my amazement, I noticed the truck driver start his engine and begin to back down the hotel driveway into the parking lot. Parking the truck, he got out and went to the back of his truck. Unfurling a garden hose from the side of his vehicle, which was connected to a pressurized water holding tank, he opened the nozzle. A group of students gathered around as someone shouted, "It's shower time!"

Quickly changing into swimsuits and grabbing shampoo and soap, our group gathered around for a large open-air shower courtesy of the cement truck driver. In fact, there were so many students that he called a colleague who also drove up with another cement truck. While most were showering, others quickly took buckets to run and fill/flush the various toilets. Finally, the water ran out of both cement trucks. But everyone was now clean.

We all stood back in amazement. Not long before, we had prayed for water, and the Lord had answered in a most dramatic and creative fashion. We were praising the Lord! But we wondered about the rest of the surrounding community. We had prayed that the Lord would provide water for them also.

As we all started to make our way to bed around 9pm, some 20 minutes after the cement trucks had left, another shout went up. "The water is on!" Sure enough, all the water was back on. Not only did the Lord provide water for our group, but He also provided water for the whole community that night. And a very meaningful memory for the student volunteers.

Keith LaRoy is president of Wings of Life, a non-profit ministry dedicated to sharing God's love in Central America. This story has been shared with permission of Time to Get Ready Ministries. For more information and to read more stories like this, please visit www.time-to-get-ready.org.

ONEVOICE27

MISSION FOR ALL



We are one year away from the official launch of OneVoice27, a worldwide evangelistic campaign that will focus on Jesus, The Messiah. As we begin our monthly countdown to September 2027, we will begin sending out prayer requests for each of the 13 Divisions and attached fields. If your church or conference is planning something special for OneVoice27, please let us know and send in your prayer requests and it may be featured in an upcoming monthly mailing. We will also be including a special heart preparation Bible study each month that you can do individually, as a small group, or even with your church family. This monthly study will focus on helping us prepare as a people to share with One Heart and One Voice the message of Salvation. The first study titled *PREPARE: It's Time* is included in this mailing as a separate download.

Preparing for OneVoice27

World Church Prayer Requests

SEPTEMBER 2026

- **East-Central Africa Division:** Pray for the Spirit of Unity. Pray for God to align our entire membership, churches, households and institutions to move forward as one body, moving with One Mission, One Purpose, and One Message.
- **Euro-Asia Division:** Pray for the completion of the long-term construction projects of chapels, especially in the city of Vladivostok.
- **Inter-European Division:** Pray for creativity and passion to reach the secular and post-modern population of Europe with the Gospel.
- **Inter-American Division:** Pray that God will strengthen church members to be faithful witnesses in increasingly secular societies and that He will open more hearts to the Gospel.
- **North American Division:** Pray for the leaders and laypeople as they learn to pray like Jesus on a daily basis.
- **Northern Asia-Pacific Division:** Pray for wisdom, courage, and protection for church leaders, pastors, and members as they share Christ in challenging circumstances.
- **South American Division:** Pray for the strengthening of our four strategic priorities for this quinquennium: identity, leadership, new generations, and discipleship.
- **South Pacific Division:** Pray for Trans-Pacific for Christ, a series of public preaching harvest programs in multiple locations. Pray for the nurture and multiplication of new disciples in Jesus.
- **Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division:** Pray that God will bless churches, schools, and ministries as they serve their communities and share the hope of Jesus with faith and compassion.
- **Southern Asia Division:** Pray for the training of the pastors in this division. Pray that they will be fully surrendered and dedicated to serving Jesus in their families, friendships, homes, and churches.
- **Southern Asia-Pacific Division:** MissionReach26 – Please pray for this division-wide initiative to reach the unreached people groups across the SSD territory. We ask that the Holy Spirit will prepare hearts, provide divine appointments, and inspire every member to actively participate in sharing the everlasting gospel.

- **Trans-European Division:** Pray for the Education department, specifically the high schools of Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway, the UK, Serbia, and Croatia. Pray that these will serve as mission outposts among the young people of these countries.
- **West-Central Africa Division:** Pray for the West Central Africa Division as they recognize their need for the Holy Spirit in revival and reformation among the pastors and members.
- **Chinese Union Mission:** Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in China, a historically difficult field to work in.
- **Middle East and North Africa Union Mission:** Pray for mission expansion and the multiplication of churches, house churches, small groups, and friendships for the glory of God.
- **Ukrainian Union Conference:** Pray that the political circumstances in which the church finds itself will be a steppingstone to deeper dependence on Jesus and that it will contribute to the physical and spiritual growth of the union.
- **Israel Field:** Pray for the continued growth of the Back to the Altar lifestyle among the members in this territory. Pray for the success of the 2026 initiatives: both the Global Prayer Initiative and the systemic study of Desire of Ages across all the families in the Israel field.