



SMBC Prayer Diary December 2024

“Worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.” Psalm 96:9 NIV

This month we are using Psalm 96 as a frame for our SMBC Prayer Diary each day. We trust that you find it helpful.

Sunday 1 December

“Sing to the LORD a new song” Psalm 96:1a NIV

Today is the first day of a new week, a new month, and one day after our 2024 Graduation Service for SMBC and The Bridge. “Sing to the LORD a new song” in thanks for all those going out to take the light of Christ to a dark and needy world.

Monday 2 December

“...sing to the LORD all the earth” Psalm 96:1b NIV

“Sing to the LORD” in prayer today giving thanks for all those around the world who are graduates of SMBC, alongside other Kingdom workers, who know restored relationship with God through the Lord Jesus’ death and resurrection for “all the earth”, and through his Spirit are making Christ known to the ends of the earth.

Tuesday 3 December (Giving Tuesday)

“Sing to the LORD, praise his name” Psalm 96:2a NIV

No, today is not “Black Friday”, but Giving Tuesday, a global initiative that encourages people and organisations to donate their time and money to charitable causes. “Sing to the LORD and praise his name” today for his faithfulness and provision for SMBC for 108 years. Praise him for SMBC and for financial partners who generously steward and share their resources with a Kingdom mindset. Pray for the provision of the remaining \$200,000 to the SMBC General Fund over this month to meet our 2024 budget (see smbc.edu.au/donate).

Wednesday 4 December

“...proclaim his salvation day after day.” Psalm 96:2b NIV

Please pray today for SMBC alumni involved in children’s ministry, proclaiming “his salvation day after day”. In the lead up to Christmas, there are so many great gospel opportunities in schools, in church, on holiday camps and programs – give thanks for these tremendous opportunities to share Jesus with kids and pray that his salvation will be clearly proclaimed “day after day”.

Thursday 5 December

“Declare his glory among the nations” Psalm 96:3a NIV

As a missionary College for 108 years, SMBC is committed to the declaration of “his glory among the nations”. Pray for the Lord to raise up many more harvest workers to train and prepare to “declare his glory among the nations”. Pray for the Lord’s prompting and leading on people who have been to one of our Info Sessions or made enquiries and are considering study with us in the coming year.

Friday 6 December

“...his marvellous deeds among all peoples” Psalm 96:3b NIV

Pray for SMBC alumni today right around the world and in the remote corners of Australia sharing “his marvellous deeds among all peoples”. Give thanks for the beautiful, gracious, merciful, truthful message of the gospel.

Saturday 7 December

“For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;” Psalm 96:4a NIV

Pray for SMBC alumni involved in Bible translation work among all peoples translating and sharing the message of how “great is the LORD and most worthy of praise”. Pray for partner organisation Wycliffe Bible Translators and their strategic work in translation of the good news of Jesus.

Sunday 8 December

“... he is to be feared above all gods.” Psalm 96:4b NIV

In the midst of many conflicts around the world, including the Middle East, and Ukraine, and the fear, and insecurity and uncertainty many live with directly or indirectly, how great it is to dwell on our LORD who stands alone and “is to be feared above all gods”. Pray that somehow, even in these conflicts, that His name would be glorified. Give thanks for God’s powerful message of hope in all circumstances.

Monday 9 December

“For all the gods of the nations are idols,” Psalm 96:5a NIV

Pray today for the movement of the Spirit of God in our land of Australia. Pray for spiritual revival in our post-modern country....that many more will be saved by the Lord Jesus Christ, and that the name of the Lord will be known and honoured in our cities and towns and communities.

Tuesday 10 December

“but the LORD made the heavens.” Psalm 96:5b NIV

Give thanks today for God our Creator – the LORD who made the heavens, who humbled himself “by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross”, and exalted him to the highest place, that we could come into personal relationship with God our Father through acknowledging Jesus Christ as Lord.

Wednesday 11 December

“Splendour and majesty are before him;” Psalm 96:6a NIV

As we head towards a celebration of Christmas later this month, give thanks and praise that “splendour and majesty are before” the incarnate Christ.

Thursday 12 December

“strength and glory are in his sanctuary.” Psalm 96:6b NIV

“Strength and glory are in his sanctuary” – dwell today in prayer upon the grace and love manifest in your location and beyond in every inch and centimetre of his creation. Pray for SMBC workers making his grace and love known in their culture context of service.

Friday 13 December

“Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations,” Psalm 96:7a NIV

Give praise today for the rich diversity of SMBC community – “the families of nations” centred on the Bible. Pray for students transitioning – graduates to new ministries and missions; new students preparing to transition to study at SMBC or The Bridge in 2025.

Pray too for staff busily working now and throughout January to prepare the College for the 2025 academic year.

Saturday 14 December

“ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.” Psalm 96:7b NIV

Pray for all SMBC alumni today, wherever they serve, that they may continue to know the daily strengthening, wisdom, and enabling of the Lord as they serve Him, and that only He would have the glory. Pray for our current students too – particularly our part-time students as they juggle work and study.

Sunday 15 December

“Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;” Psalm 96:8a NIV

We “ascribe glory to the LORD” today by thanking him for his goodness – that he alone is the source of all good things, and we live proclaiming and knowing his sovereignty in all our varied challenges and joys in life. Pray with thanks and all glory to God for sending out SMBC students, staff and faculty into various ministries over the summer vacation period.

Monday 16 December

“bring an offering and come into his courts.” Psalm 96:8b NIV

Pray for a good response to the 2024 Graduation Appeal being held during December, that the Lord will move many to give generously to the SMBC General Fund. Give thanks for sacrificial, kingdom focussed giving for the sake of His Holy Name.

Tuesday 17 December

“Worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness;” Psalm 96:9a NIV

Pray for the LORD to teach us today what it means to “worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness” – that as we reflect, he might show us how our attitudes and actions bring him honour or dishonour and bring these to him in prayer.

Wednesday 18 December

“tremble before him, all the earth.” Psalm 96:9b NIV

Pray today for much “trembling before him” of all the SMBC community – Trembling before our God in awe and reverence for who he is, and trembling before him of those who hear the gospel of the Lord Jesus, (wherever they are around the world) and through his Spirit are prompted to place their faith and trust in him for eternity.

Thursday 19 December**“Say among the nations, the LORD reigns,” Psalm 96:10a NIV**

Give thanks today, whatever your circumstances, for the calming impact of the gospel of the Lord Jesus, which lifts us up. Join his people in celebrating his might and reign. Thank God for all those serving in the SMBC community prepared to “say among the nations, the LORD reigns” – making known that at the cross, Christ has dealt with all our sins and the judgement that we deserve.

Friday 20 December**“The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;” Psalm 96:10b NIV**

Pray today that the nations of the world will acknowledge this profound declaration of the awe-inspiring presence of God- his sovereignty over all creation and his warning that the earth and all world must recognize his authority and respond to this righteous fear individually and corporately – “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”.

Saturday 21 December**“...he will judge the peoples with equity.” Psalm 96:10c NIV**

Giving thanks today for the righteousness of God. We look forward together to the day when “he will judge the peoples with equity” – all injustices will be met with justice; all wrongs will be righted; all unrighteousness will be replaced with his kingdom of righteousness. Rejoice today giving thanks together for this biblical truth and pray that many more will know this as a hopeful reality and be ready for his return.

Sunday 22 December**“Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;” Psalm 96:11a NIV**

Pray today for the leadership of church communities, including your own. Pray that they will continue to grow spiritually, deepening their relationship each day with the Lord Jesus as they humbly guide and serve. Pray with thanks for our students, staff and faculty who are in leadership roles in the local church.

Monday 23 December**“let the sea resound, and all that is in it.” Psalm 96:11b NIV**

Please pray today for those SMBC alumni involved with ministry to seafarers and marine workers, making the gospel known to those who travel the sea that resounds with the majesty of our Creator.

Tuesday 24 December**“Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;” Psalm 96:12a NIV**

Give thanks today, in jubilation, for all those who pray for SMBC and shroud the College in reliance upon our Lord and King and not on our own designs and desires. Pray for the growth of regular prayer support for the College.

Wednesday 25 December**“let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.” Psalm 96:12b NIV**

Join with all God’s people in celebration of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. “Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy” for his coming into the world to save sinners. Pray for all the SMBC family around the world on this Christmas Day.

Thursday 26 December**“Let all creation rejoice before the LORD,” Psalm 96:13a NIV**

Pray for all SMBC alumni and current students today wherever they are in God’s created world. Pray for their strength, resilience, and faithfulness in service, that in their service they will along with all creation “rejoice before the LORD”. Pray for beach and Inland missions taking place soon!

Friday 27 December**“Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes,” Psalm 96:13a, b NIV**

Give thanks for the enduring hope that we all share in the coming of the LORD – and as Paul teaches us in 1 Thessalonians concerning the day of the LORD – “since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.” Pray that we may all encourage and build one another up in this truth.

Saturday 28 December**“Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth,” Psalm 96:13a, b, c NIV**

Give thanks today that we can “rejoice before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth.” Pray for all those sharing this great hope in Australia and around the world – give thanks that we, the hopeful, can look forward with eagerness, not fear, to the coming of Christ.

Sunday 29 December**“He will judge the world in righteousness” Psalm 96:13d NIV**

Pray for the SMBC family of believers throughout the world, particularly those who are experiencing significant sufferings and hardship – pray for steadfastness in faith. Pray for alertness and sober mindfulness for all the SMBC community as we look forward to our Lord’s kingdom of righteousness.

Monday 30 December**“and the peoples in his faithfulness” Psalm 96:13e NIV**

We are asked by some our SMBC alumni on the field to pray for brothers and sisters in Christ in East Asia. More and more Christian leaders are being detained and questioned. Pray for the Lord's protection, that they will stand firm in faith and be courageous and wise in living for Him.

Tuesday 31 December**“... in his faithfulness” Psalm 96:13e NIV**

As this year draws to a close, give thanks with the Psalmist for God’s supreme rule over all the earth, and his faithfulness to all who trust in him and honour his holy name.