

Breakout Prayer Topic: Looking Inward - Staff and Students

Challenge: In this session, we will focus on the challenges encountered by staff, parents and students. For staff, this is a challenging job because of the spiritual, emotional and physical demands placed on each staff member. Our staff constantly pour out their lives to meet the needs of each student and therefore need to be built up and poured into on a regular basis. For parents and students, the challenges can be overwhelming in terms of financial and spiritual poverty, joblessness, violence, health concerns, education failures, broken homes, etc. We will pray that parents and children encounter God and receive His healing and hope for life and that By The Hand Club is faithful in playing our part in this redemptive plan.

Prayer Requests:

- *Strength For Staff:* The work at By The Hand is important and meaningful; however, it is also physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually exhausting. Pray that the Lord will be their strength and that God will constantly fill them up so they can continue pouring out God's blessings to the communities they serve.
- *Staff Encouragement:* Often, staff can be discouraged when there is such great need. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Pray for staff to receive special encouragement from God, By The Hand Club, friends, family and strangers who are called to speak a word or give a blessing. Pray for a full staffing team to help share the burden of work.
- *Restoration For Staff:* Burnout is high in the work we do. Pray that staff will seek God's call and purpose. Pray that they will search out ways to spend time with God through solitude, time of rest, prayer, community - and that there will be space to take time away to restore in order to bring a freshness and new perspective in their work.
- *Parents' Salvation and Spiritual Growth:* Pray that parents will come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior and will be plugged into local Bible-believing churches.
- *Wisdom For Parents:* Pray that the Lord will give parents wisdom for raising up godly young men and women. Pray that parents will lead by example.
- *Employment for Parents:* Many parents are unemployed or underemployed. Pray that the Lord will open up educational and employment opportunities so that parents are able to provide for their families.
- *Parent Partnership:* Pray that parents will partner well with By The Hand Club. Pray for parent involvement at school: supporting teachers regarding student behavior, attending parent conferences and attending parenting classes to better support students.

- *Student Independent Learning:* Pray that students take ownership of their education, desiring to learn so they are able to better themselves. Pray that students will excel in every subject and be encouraged.
- *Students' Home Life:* Pray that students will take what they learn at By The Hand Club and apply it to their home life; that they will not be living a double life style.
- *Salvation For Students And Families:* Pray that students will grow in their relationship with Christ and desire His ways. Pray that students know their worth and value in Christ.
- *Student Relationships:* Pray that students will have healthy relationships with parents and friends. Pray that our students will have mentors that love to walk with them through life and help them develop spiritually and mentally.

Breakout Prayer Topic: Looking Outward - Race and Justice

Challenge: In this session we will focus on the significant issues facing our students, families and communities as related to racial tensions and the call for justice. These tensions affect everything from the quality of education for our students to the safety that our families feel in their own communities. Only God can alter the hearts of men and women to push us towards love and understanding as opposed to continued distrust and fear that are prevalent in so many of our neighborhoods.

Prayer Requests:

- *Valuing People:* Please pray that as a nation we will all be able to see each person's true value as designed by God. Every race was created by the almighty God and has value and purpose and deserves dignity and respect.
- *Local Law Enforcement:* Please pray that God will, first of all, give our law enforcement members an extra level of patience and grace as they perform their duties in our neighborhoods. Second, pray that God will protect them and keep them safe so that they don't undertake their tasks out of fear but out of a true desire to serve and protect.
- *Community Violence:* Please pray that God will heal our land and draw hearts to Him, knowing that when this happens, violence in our neighborhoods will cease, innocent men, women and children will no longer be gunned down and the community will become a place where children can play and grow and feel safe.
- *Government:* Pray for our Illinois budget needs to be passed since it affects our ministry, kids and families. Pray for our new President and those in powerful positions in our country that they lead in a way that is constructive for everyone.
- *Conflict Resolution:* Please pray that forums will be developed for the community, governing bodies and law enforcement to come together and talk to break down the culture of fear that exists. Pray that these groups will somehow be able to work together and create a joint solution for addressing race and justice issues.
- *Education:* Please pray that in the midst of all of this tension fueled by racial injustice and power struggles that God will create a way forward for our public schools. Pray that By The Hand Club will continue to be the hands, love and feet of Jesus to our children attending 16 Chicago public grade schools and that we, by God's grace, can help our students accelerate academically.
- *Moving Everest:* Please pray that as the new charter school works so diligently to educate some of Chicago's youngest citizens, they won't get caught up in the politics but will continue to take the high road of focusing on a high quality education for the students. Pray that the teachers and

administration will continue to show love and care for our students and their families and that the results will be the growth of competent and confident students. Pray that God will allow more high quality charter schools to open in Chicago.

- *Our local churches:* Please pray for unity in and amongst the church. Pray that truth will prevail and the church will rise up in support of those things that matter to God.

Breakout Prayer Topic: Looking Forward - Mission and Expansion

Challenge: By The Hand Club is serving over 1,200 children today at five clubs in four of Chicago's most under-resourced neighborhoods. We are thankful for every student God brings our way, but there is much work yet to be done. Our streets are violent, schools are failing, families are broken, neighborhoods are faltering and our kids are perishing – physically, educationally and spiritually. God is calling us to take more kids by the hand. At our newest location, By The Hand Club – Moving Everest (ME), we will add 90 more students – a new grade – each year for the next six years until we reach capacity of 810 students. Also, God willing, we will open another By The Hand Club – Moving Everest (ME) school/after-school in 2019 and then a new one every four years (2023 and 2027). Following this model, By The Hand will serve nearly 3,000 children in the next decade.

Praise Report:

- *Revenue FY 2016:* Praise God, we finished our fiscal year ending August 31 in the black. With 180 new students last year, this was our greatest growth year ever. With God's faithfulness and the generosity of many, we grew our revenue by 21 percent and finished the year in the black!
- *Capital Funding:* We also recently paid down the capital debt on our 415 N. Laramie Austin building and have paid down the debt on our new Moving Everest building to a level where rent payments will service the debt. Praise God!
- *Seed Funding:* Finally, God provided through a generous donor a \$3.5 million seed grant for capital for the next By The Hand Club – ME building for the 2019 expansion.

Prayer Requests:

- *Wisdom:* Pray for God to go before us and lead us to grow according to His perfect will – that we will not get ahead of Him or lag behind. Please pray specifically for God's guidance and favor for a Purpose Built Community in West Garfield Park.
- *Political Environment:* Pray for favor with Chicago Public Schools, parents, churches, businesses, politicians to open additional charter schools. Pray for protection from teacher union attacks.
- *Infrastructure:* Pray that we will have the physical assets and systems for support functions in place to grow. This includes everything from IT, facilities and finance, and related policies and procedures.
- *People:* Pray that God brings us the right staff and volunteers who will serve our students effectively. We also desire to develop people in their roles and are working toward aligning our actions with our cultural values. Please pray

that everyone connected to By The Hand in a paid or volunteer position would stay close to God and continue in faith, purity, righteousness, wisdom and joy, and that our board of directors will remain godly, wise and committed as they lead the organization.

- *Volunteers:* Pray that people's hearts all across Chicago would be stirred to make an impact in our kid's lives through volunteering.
- *Funding:* Please pray that our operating revenue will continue to grow at a healthy 12 percent or more rate, that God would bless us with over \$2M for our Spring Benefit on April 20, 2017 and that it will bring glory to God. Also, please pray that God will provide over \$2M needed for strategic operating growth over the next five years for mission expansion, as well as millions of additional capital funds to help us expand to serve kids in new neighborhoods.
- *Cost structure:* Please pray for creativity and wisdom on how to be an excellent steward of the money that God provides - the ability to maximize use of financial resources and reduce our cost per child while increasing quality, expanding services and improving results of programming. Pray for God to help us achieve our ultimate objective of serving more children with whatever funding He provides.
- *Property:* Please pray that God would remove the liquor store and In & Out Market in Austin and provide additional property there for needed expansion.

God-sized Vision:

That EVERY By The Hand Club student will receive Jesus as Savior and allow God's Word and grace to flow through him or her to home, school and neighborhood.