

“Ready my heart for the birth of Emmanuel, ready my soul for the Prince of Peace. Heap the straw of my life for His body to lie on. Light the candle of hope, let the Child come in. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Saviour is born.” - Lois Farley Shuford

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1st Pastors to fill roles that are vacant in the following **AGC** West churches: **Cornerstone Gospel Church, Mossbank, SK, Biggar Associated Gospel Church, Biggar, SK, Living Hope Bible Church, Prince Albert, SK.**

2nd **AGC West Associate Regional Director, Rev. Lorne and Esther Meisner** as Lorne gives leadership to our churches in Manitoba.

3rd **Alex & Amber Bojórquez (Pastor at Maryfield AGC, Maryfield, SK).** Their son Leonardo is improving with prayer appreciated for the medical decisions to determine the next steps towards surgery. Alex and Amber thank you for your prayer support and for God’s provision during their trip to Mexico.

4^t The community dinners taking place every Tuesday night at **Calvary Church, Toronto, ON.** *“Pray for the safety of our guests and for spiritual conversations with our 30 plus volunteers from Calvary Church.”*
Rev. Daniel Winter, Senior Pastor

5th The **AGC Staff Meeting** taking place today. May our team be guided by His Spirit and strengthened in their ministry roles.

6th **AOK Church, Aundek Omni Kaning, ON.** Pray that more people will hear and respond to the gospel message and know the love of Christ.

7th **Blainville Church, Quebec** (re-establishment) and **Rockland Church**, as in each case we need a worker/missionary to come along and support each French church project. Pray for the growing Rockland community, the outreach program for the year and the incorporation process.

8th **AGC Quebec Director, Rev. Del and Barb Gibbons** as Del transitions from his role with the **AGC.** We thank God for Del’s dedicated 13 years of service to our Quebec churches and pastors. He will be missed.

9th **AGC East Regional Director, Rev. Dr. Tom and Karen Lambshead** as Tom ministers to our churches throughout Ontario and Nova Scotia. Tom will be sharing God’s Word tomorrow with the congregation at **Maple Creek Community Church, Dunville, ON.**

10th **AGC West Regional Director, Rev. Rob and Wendy Cochrane** as Rob gives leadership to our Western churches. Pray for **Rob** as he shares today at **Cornerstone Gospel Church, Mossbank, SK.**

11 **Pastor Jeff and Alanna Peacock and family (Pastor of Somerset Bible Chapel, Somerset, MB.)** Pray for renewed health and strength for Jeff as he continues to struggle with serious health issues related to cancer.

12th **Rev. Dr. Paul and LaFaye Brittain** as Paul ministers in his role as **AGC National Coordinator of Doctrine and Credentials.**

13th The **AGC planning committees and staff** who are meeting and planning the details for the **2024 AGC East and AGC West Regional Conferences.**

14th **AGC East Associate Regional Director, Rev. John and Peggi Garner** as John ministers to our churches and pastors throughout the East.

15th Pastors to fill roles that are vacant in the following **AGC** churches in the East: **Bethel Bible Church, Seaforth, ON, Milliken Gospel Church, Markham, ON, WestVillage Church, Ottawa, ON, Fair Havens Community Church, Beaverton, ON, New Life Christian Assembly, Toronto, ON, Calvary Church, Blind River, ON, Maple Creek Community Church, Dunville, ON.**

16th **AGC President, Rev. Bill and Michele Allan.** May God give Bill wisdom, guidance, and strength as he serves our **AGC** National team and our churches.

17th **AGC Administrative Assistant/Finance Manager, Donna Leung** as she transitions from her long-term position with the **AGC** into a new opportunity that she is passionate about. We are so thankful for Donna’s 24 years of service to our association of churches. She will be missed.
Please be in prayer for God’s choice of the right person to undertake this vitally important role.

18th **Susan Davis, AGC Compassion and Justice Coordinator**, as she serves our Lord. Eight new refugee applications are being processed before the end of 2023. Please pray that they will be successful and that all the applicants will be able to arrive safely to Canada.

19th Those who are enduring the hardships of war throughout this world. May our Prince of Peace reign.

20th Those who find the holiday season an especially difficult time. Pray for shut-ins, those in hospital or hospice and for those who serve the most vulnerable.



- 21st Those who mourn, that they may be comforted.
- 22nd The **AGC office** will be closed until **January 3rd**. Please pray that the staff may have a good time of rest and safe travel to and from their families.
- 23rd The many churches who do outreach at Christmas through concerts or additional services.
- 24th *And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.*
- 25th *For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. WE WISH YOU A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS DAY!*
- 26th *And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.*
- 27th *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,*
- 28th *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!*
- 29th The many who are travelling to visit family throughout this holiday season.
- 30th **AGC Church Relations Coordinator/Benefits Manager, Susan Page** as she serves our **AGC** staff and our churches.
- 31st The **New Year's Eve** celebrations or services that take place. May we end the year with thanksgiving as we reflect on our blessings and on God's protection and provision. **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Do you have a prayer concern you'd like to submit to share with AGC churches nationwide? If so, e-mail it to the AGC Office at sue@agcofcanada.com

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

There is a deep and significant meaning and history behind the Christmas Carol, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. The hymn was originally written in Latin, and it wasn't until the year 1940 that the full English version officially appeared in the hymnal of the Episcopal Church. The hymn in its entirety (7 stanzas) refers to the deep yearning of Israel for Christ's first coming and our longing for our Saviour's second coming.

The tune associated with this carol by Thomas Helmore (1851) captures the plaintive mood of our longing, aching, yearning hearts. Yet, the emotion completely shifts to powerful bursts of joy when at the end of each stanza comes the resounding praise "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."

Just like Zechariah, Elizabeth, Simeon, and many other biblical saints we too might wonder when the waiting will be over, especially considering current world events. Yet, we wait with faith and hope as it says in Scripture, "... through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope" (Galatians 5:5).

Let's not be afraid to stop in the hustle and bustle of this season to grieve, because somewhere deep inside we must get past the tinsel and glitter and express our deep longing for a new tomorrow. As we celebrate Emmanuel, God with us and wait in expectation, we also rejoice and celebrate His birth because Christ will come again and make all things new. "He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" (Revelation 21:5)

As we rejoice in Christ's birth and anticipate His coming, consider making the last two stanzas of this beautiful Christmas carol your prayer.

*O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Additional verses trans. H. S. Coffin (1916)