

*Let us pray for one another! As you pray for the requests listed, perhaps you will be inspired to send an e-mail of encouragement to someone.*

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Pastor Tim Wai (Christina)** from **Simply Church, Waterloo, ON**. Tim and Chris have really appreciated your prayers. He is now cancer free ... praise God!
- 2<sup>nd</sup> We pray for those who mourn. Please remember **Rev. Wayne Foster and family**, as Wayne's beloved wife **Elva** passed away in early January.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> **Delburne Gospel Church, Delburne, AB**, for continued spiritual growth in the lives of the people in our congregation.
- 4<sup>th</sup> **Countryside Community Church**, (an **AGC Church Plant**), **Oro-Medonte, ON**, as they continue to impact their community for Christ.
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Rev. Jonathan and Carmi Edralin**, of **Outbound City Church, Mississauga, ON** as they follow God's call to ministry on Manitoulin Island by Sept. 2018. Pray for employment for Carmi in education and for Jon's role to be developed. Also pray for the right place for them to live.
- 6<sup>th</sup> **AGC President, Dr. Bill Fietje (Lois)**. May God give Bill wisdom, discernment and guidance as he leads and gives direction to our **AGC** National team and to our churches throughout Canada. Bill & Lois are enjoying some vacation time.
- 7<sup>th</sup> The **South-Western Ontario Ministry Leaders' Gathering** taking place today at **The Rock** in **Woodstock**.
- 8<sup>th</sup> The **Niagara/Hamilton/Burlington and area Ministry Leaders' Gathering** taking place today at **Calvary Church, St. Catharines**.
- 9<sup>th</sup> **Interim Canada East Superintendent, Dr. Tom Lamshead (Karen)** as he ministers to our **AGC** churches in the East. **Mount Pleasant Bible Church, Mount Pleasant, ON** as we move ahead with our interim preaching elder.
- 10<sup>th</sup> **AGC Quebec Director, Rev. Del Gibbons (Barb)** as he ministers to our pastors and churches throughout **Quebec**.
- 11<sup>th</sup> We rejoice as an Association of churches as we welcome **Grace of God Christian Church, Calgary AB** into our family. The induction service for their Pastor, **Gerrad Fortaleza** will be conducted today by **Rev. Glenn Rider**.
- 12<sup>th</sup> That **Rev. Charles-Henri and Lise Côté** will accomplish God's will for their missionary work in Quebec. Also pray that the Blainville Church will be blessed with more disciples. **Église Évangélique de Blainville, QC**
- 13<sup>th</sup> **Pastor Frank Humphrey (Daria) and family** from **Peoples Church in Montreal**, as they continue to trust in God's provision.
- 14<sup>th</sup> **God is love!** May the world see that we are Christians by our love.
- 15<sup>th</sup> **Garside Bible Church, Hamilton, ON**, that we may be able to reach our community with Christ's love.
- 16<sup>th</sup> **Rev. Russ Wilson (Sue)** in his role as **AGC Superintendent** for **Canada West** **Russ** is speaking at a **Winter Men's Retreat** in **Saskatoon, SK** this weekend.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Our staff at **Fair Havens** under the leadership of **Executive Director Liz Thompson (John)** as we praise God for the ministry of **Fair Havens**. **Stepping Stones** interviews are taking place today at **Compass Point Bible Church, Burlington, ON**.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Continued wisdom for our leadership and clarity of vision and purpose among our congregation as we begin a time of transition and search for a lead pastor. **Northside Community Church, Kitchener, ON**
- 19<sup>th</sup> We praise God for new families and for a believer who has shown an interest in baptism. We thank God for His provision and protection. **Église Évangélique de Verdun, Verdun, QC**
- 20<sup>th</sup> Our **Community Dinner** held every Tuesday evening, that we will have opportunity to share the message of Christ. **Calvary Church, Toronto, ON**
- 21<sup>st</sup> The **GTA Ministry Leaders Gathering** taking place today at **The Campus, Aurora, ON**.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> The **Eastern Ontario Ministry Leaders Gathering** taking place today at **The Met, Ottawa**. **Rev. Russ Wilson** is speaking in MacGregor Manitoba at Valleyview Bible Camp Winter Men's Retreat this weekend.

- 23<sup>rd</sup> **Two Hills Fellowship Chapel, Two Hills, AB**, that our intern, **Caleb Semenyina**, will be led by the Lord as to what to do after his internship is completed at the end of June.
- 24<sup>th</sup> **Waterford Bible Church, Waterford, ON** has a theme verse this year: ***“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord Almighty!”*** Zechariah 4:6 Their prayer for 2018 is for a great outpouring of God’s Spirit.
- 25<sup>th</sup> We rejoice with **Winona Gospel Church, Stoney Creek, ON** as they celebrate the induction of **Family Ministry Pastor, Greg Sinasac (Janet)**.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Presidential candidate **Rev. Bill Allan (Michele)** as he prepares for the upcoming conference vote and begins preparations for a transition.
- 27<sup>th</sup> **Rev. Glenn Rider (Bonnie)**, ministering as **AGC National Coordinator of Doctrine and Credentials**.
- 28<sup>th</sup> **AGC Canada West Associate Superintendent Rev. Lorne Meisner (Esther)** as he ministers to our churches in **Manitoba**

*“Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”*

*Do you have a prayer concern you'd like to submit to share with **AGC** churches Nation-wide? If so, e-mail it to the AGC Office at [sue@agcofcanada.com](mailto:sue@agcofcanada.com)*

### The Smoking Gun

I’ve been reading the book *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership* by *Ruth Haley Barton* and it has been inspirational! Consider the following excerpt and let it sink to a deep level as you ponder the story’s true meaning.

*Theophane, a Cistercian monk residing at St. Benedict’s Monastery in Snowmass, Colorado, tells a striking story.*

*I saw a monk working alone in the vegetable garden. I squatted down beside him and said, “Brother, what is your dream?” He just looked straight at me. What a beautiful face he had. “I would like to become a monk,” he answered. “But brother, you are a monk, aren’t you?” “I’ve been here for 25 years, but I still carry a gun.” He drew a revolver from the holster under his robe. It looked so strange, a monk carrying a gun. “And they won’t – are you saying they won’t let you become a monk until you give up your gun?” “No, it’s not that. Most of them don’t even know I have it, but I know.” “Well then, why don’t you give it up?” “I guess I’ve had it so long. I’ve been hurt a lot, and I’ve hurt a lot of others. I don’t think I would be comfortable without this gun.” “But you seem pretty uncomfortable with it.” “Yes, pretty uncomfortable, but I have my dream.” “Why don’t you give me the gun?” I whispered. I was beginning to tremble. He did, he gave it to me. His tears ran down to the ground and then he embraced me.*

Ruth Haley Barton goes on to explain that most of us have a gun – some way of protecting ourselves under the robe of our leadership persona. This applies to us all, because in one way or another we are all leaders. Whether you are a parent, an older sibling, a long time confidant to a dear friend or a manager in a local business, you lead.

This book centres around the life of Moses, a man whose “smoking gun” may have been his insecurities over his upbringing, his lack of confidence, or his temper. He had issues, yet God chose Moses to lead His people. Moses argued, God insisted, and God supplied Moses with what he needed as he battled crisis after crisis.

I grew up believing that you hid your “smoking gun” and you kept it well hidden. Anything that you struggled with was not something you talked about. Talking about it would compromise your testimony, your reputation, your family. As God has so graciously shown me through the battle scars of my own crisis, there is no freedom in shame. Allowing the hidden gun to be revealed to the Lord and to other trusted individuals, is what ultimately sets us free. God whispers ever so gently, why don’t you give me the gun? As we lay it at His feet with tears coursing down our face, ... we can say, “thank you Jesus for freedom!”, because who the Son sets free, is free indeed!