

Let us pray for one another! "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." James 5:16

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- 1st **AGC President Rev. Bill and Michele Allan.** May God give Bill wisdom, discernment and guidance as he gives direction to our **AGC National team** and to our churches throughout Canada.
- 2nd **AGC Administrative Assistant/Finance Manager, Donna Leung and AGC Church Relations Coordinator/Benefits Manager, Susan Page** as they minister in their roles at the **AGC National Office**. Please pray for **Donna's husband, Wayne** as he recovers from heart surgery.
- 3rd Our **Hope Project** street ministry. Every Thursday we go downtown Hamilton and serve those in need. **Garside Bible Church, Hamilton, ON**
- 4th Our weekly **Children's and Youth Ministries**. Many of the youth who attend are unchurched kids. We pray that many young people will come to faith in Christ through these ministries. **Biggar AGC Church, Biggar, SK**
- 5th Our Faith Families have been active hosting dinner guests. Please pray that we will see ourselves as missionaries, and that God will open doors for us to bless our neighbours. **Benediction Church, Hamilton, ON**
- 6th For the preparations for Easter Celebrations, as we enter this season of **Lent**.
- 7th Those who mourn. **Retired AGC Pastor Tom Swan** recently passed away. Please pray for his wife **Holly** and family. Also pray for the family of **Rev. Doug Boyd** especially for his wife **Mary Jane** as Doug passed away in late December at the age of 67.
- 8th **AGC East Sr. High Annual Retreat – STRIVE**
- 9th **STRIVE** – Pray for speaker, **Rev. Mike Rutledge**, Emcee **Nick Pegg** and the **Worship Team**.
- 10th **AGC East Regional Director Dr. Tom and Karen Lambshead** as Tom ministers to our churches throughout Ontario. **Tom** is preaching today at **Chinese Gospel Church, Scarborough, ON**.
- 11th **Executive Director of Fair Havens Ministries Liz and John Thompson** as Liz and the staff gear up for another season of ministry.
- 12th The **AGC Staff meeting** today. May God lead our team in the mission and ministry to which they have been called. The **AGC National Board** as they work together with the **AGC Staff** to fine tune new policies and procedures.
- 13th **Rev. Charles-Henri and Lise Côté**. We ask prayer for His wisdom to fulfill His will in caring for the **Francophone churches in QC and ON** and pray for **Lise** as she will have surgery to remove her thyroid. **Église Évangélique de Blainville, QC**
- 14th **Rev. Glenn and Bonnie Rider** as Glenn carries out his responsibilities as **AGC National Coordinator of Doctrine and Credentials**.
- 15th Our **Community Dinner** held every Tuesday evening, that we will have opportunity to share the message of Christ. **Calvary Church, Toronto, ON**
- 16th For the congregation at **Grassy Plains Gospel Church, Burns Lake, B.C.** under the direction of **Pastor Alain Vitela-Campos (Teresa)** as they continue to be a light in their community, a community still suffering from the effects of the forest fires.
- 17th **Two Hills Fellowship Chapel, Two Hills, AB**, as we look to God for direction in choosing a pastoral intern to serve with our current lead pastor.
- 18th The **relief efforts** of churches and aid agencies throughout the world. **Rev. Tim and Susan Davis, AGC Compassion and Justice**
- 19th **AGC North Central Alberta Pastors Café in Wetaskiwin, AB**.
- 20th **AGC Quebec Director Rev. Del and Barb Gibbons** as Del ministers to our pastors and churches throughout **Quebec**.
- 21st **AGC West Associate Regional Director Rev. Lorne and Esther Meisner** as Lorne ministers to our churches in **Manitoba**.
- 22nd **Pastor Frank Humphrey, wife Daria and their family** from **Peoples Church in Montreal**. **Rev. Jim and Carolyn Houston and family**, as Jim has been put on an elevated list for a liver transplant.

- 23rd **AGCO Annual Council Meeting.**
The Gathering House in Chesterville will be celebrating 25 years in Dundas County on March 25th. We will be celebrating with an Open House to the community today and a special service tomorrow.
- 24th We praise God as our new **Lead Pastor** and his wife, **Steve and Michelle Boctor** minister to our congregation.
Northside Community Church, Kitchener, ON
- 25th **Delburne Gospel Church, Delburne, AB** as God blesses us with more young people in our youth and Sunday School that God will supply enough mature leaders to work with our **Pastor of Family Ministries, John Miller.**
- 26th **AGC Eastern ON Ministry Leaders' Gathering** at the **Met, Ottawa.**
- 27th **AGC South Western ON Ministry Leaders' Gathering** at **The Rock, Woodstock, ON.**
- 28th **AGC Greater Toronto Area Ministry Leaders' Gathering** at **Parkway Bible Church, Toronto, ON.**
- 29th **Rev. Russ and Sue Wilson** in his role as **AGC West Regional Director.**
Continue to pray for Russ and his family as he appreciates our prayers for healing.
- 30th **Rev. Bill Allan** is speaking this weekend at the **Missions Conference** at **Grace Gospel Church, Niagara Falls, ON.**
- 31st For our **AGC Regional Directors** and **Conference Committee teams** who are planning our **AGC 2019 Regional Conferences.**
Rev. Tom Lamshead is speaking today at **Grace Gospel Church, Paris, ON.**

SACRIFICE

As we enter the season of Lent, I was reminded of a devotional from several years ago, so with some re-working ... I offer it once again.

I recently read this posting on Facebook: ***YEAH, I am a winner at Roll up the Rim! I won the invitation to "Please Play again." Comment: You misread it ... it says please pray again.***

We can easily fall into the draw of advertising campaigns, jumping at the thrill of the purchase especially if there's a possibility of winning something. Like what, a free donut? Free? Pardon my sarcasm. It's interesting that *Roll up the Rim* is all the rage during the same time frame as our Christian Celebration of Lent.

Lent in the Christian tradition, is the period of the liturgical year leading up to Easter. The traditional purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer through prayer, penitence, and self-denial to prepare for commemorating the death and resurrection of Jesus. Traditionally, it is forty days in length, representing the time that Jesus spent in the desert, where He endured temptation by Satan. Lent may be marked by fasting and prayer. Some people give up a vice, increase their devotional time, and some give money saved from their self-denial to charity.

It's easy for me to say that I could give up a Tim's coffee for Lent because I strongly dislike coffee. What could I give up for Lent? Dark chocolate ... well that might be a sacrifice on some superficial level. I guess the real question is, whether giving something up during Lent has any deep spiritual meaning. It is a very personal thing, as is fasting. When you really think about it, our idea of sacrifice is so narrow. In North America, we really have no concept of what true sacrifice is. People will barely give up space on the road to allow another car to enter their lane. Entitlement is more of a common practice than sacrifice. Yet, when we read this portion of scripture from Isaiah 53, we cannot help but think about our Saviour's ultimate and complete sacrifice.

"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely, He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—everyone—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter."

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 or mail it to 1500 Kerns Rd., Burlington, ON L7P 3A7