

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:

- 1st All our churches who are planning Christmas outreach events.
- 2nd Our **Community Dinner** held every Tuesday evening, that we will have opportunity to share the message of Christ. **Calvary Church, Toronto, ON**
Rev. Bill Allan is speaking today at **Connect Community Church, Hamilton, ON**.
- 3rd The **relief efforts** of churches and aid agencies throughout the world.
Rev. Tim and Susan Davis, AGC National Compassion and Justice
- 4th The **AGC Staff meeting** today. May God lead our team in the mission and ministry to which they have been called. Pray that the team gets some rest and refreshment over the Christmas break.
- 5th Our weekly **Children's and Youth Ministry**. 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**
- 6th **Countryside Community Church, (an AGC Church Plant), Oro-Medonte, ON**, as they continue to impact their community for Christ.
- 7th **AGC East Regional Director, Dr. Tom and Karen Lamshead** as Tom ministers to our churches throughout Ontario. Tom's father, Joe Lamshead passed away last month.
- 8th **Pastor Mark and Rhonda Kotchapaw of Bethel Church, Kingston, ON** mourn the passing of Mark's parents in early October. His mom Doreen passed on Oct. 4th and his dad Colin passed away on Oct. 8th. The memorial service took place in November.
- 9th **AGC West Associate Regional Director Rev. Lorne and Esther Meisner** as Lorne ministers to our churches in **Manitoba**.
- 10th Our **Hope Project** street ministry. Every Thursday we go downtown Hamilton and serve those in need. We meet people who are homeless, others who struggle with mental illness and/or addiction. They are loved by God and as a church we share the message of the gospel with them.
Garside Bible Church, Hamilton, ON
- 11th **Executive Director of Fair Havens Ministries, Liz Thompson and John** as Liz continues to work alongside her staff in this important ministry.
- 12th **Rev. Russ and Sue Wilson** in his role as **AGC West Regional Director**. Continue to pray for Russ and his family as his health issues are resolved. Russ's mother recently passed away.
- 13th We praise the Lord that we are now one church under the name **Connect Community Church, Hamilton. (Formerly Hill Park & Meadowcreek.)**
- 14th **Rev. Glenn and Bonnie Rider** as Glenn carries out his responsibilities as **AGC National Coordinator of Doctrine and Credentials**.
- 15th The **AGC National Board** as they work together with the **AGC Staff** to fine tune new policies and procedures.
- 16th **Pastor Frank Humphrey, wife Daria, and their family** from **Peoples Church in Montreal**. We pray for families who care for those with long-term illness. **Rev. Jim and Carolyn Houston and family**, as Jim has been put on a list for a liver transplant. In the meantime, he has been receiving treatment.
- 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 **AGC Quebec Director, Rev. Del and Barb Gibbons** as Del ministers to our pastors and churches throughout **Quebec**.
- 19th **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**.
- 20th **Rev. Charles-Henri and Lise Côté**. We moved to our new home in St André d'Argenteuil. We have started a home church. I am preparing to do missionary work in the Laurentians. **Église Évangélique de Blainville, QC**
- 21st **AGC President Rev. Bill and Michele Allan**. 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.
- 22nd We praise God for our new **Lead Pastor** and his wife, **Steve and Michelle Boctor. Northside Community Church, Kitchener, ON**



O Holy Night

23rd We are so thankful that the Lord has enabled us to draw in 18 new teenagers from our community into our new Youth Program. Continue to pray for **Pastor John** and **Debbie Miller** as they reach these young people for Christ. **Delburne Gospel Church, Delburne, AB**

24th *“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”*

25th *“And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”*

26th *“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”*

27th *“When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”*

28th *“And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.”*

29th *“And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.”* Luke 2: 11-20 ESV

30th **Rev. Mike** and **Heather Mileski**, as Mike leads **Benediction Church**, an **AGC** church plant in **Hamilton, ON**. For new folks to join us who can not only share the load but who also are eager to join in our vision.

31st God’s guidance and peace upon us as we enter a New Year seeking His direction. *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.”* Prov. 3:5,6 ESV

“O holy night! The stars are brightly shining; it is the night of our dear Saviour’s birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared, and the soul felt its worth.”

It’s hard to imagine that these lyrics were written in 1847, and yet, they have survived the test of time. The relevance of this beautiful Christmas carol touches my aching heart this Christmas.

As the words; *“A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn”* run through my mind, emotions spill and tears flow. The significance behind these lines sinks into the core of my soul. This has always been one of my favourite Christmas carols, but today it takes on a whole new meaning.

In these past days the world is grieving the tragedy that took place at the *Tree of Life Synagogue* in Pittsburgh. Just imagine if the place where you worship your God was turned into a killing field. *“Long lay the world in sin and error pining”* ... could we express it any better?

The lyrics to this most beloved carol were written in France at the request of a forgotten parish priest, by a poet who would later split from the church. The music was written by a composer of Jewish ancestry, and in fact, this beloved hymn was at one time uniformly denounced by the church. It was later brought to America to serve as a tool to highlight the sinful nature of slavery. *“Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains He shall break, for the slave is our brother; and in His name all oppression shall cease.”*

On Christmas Eve 1906, Reginald Fessenden spoke into a microphone and for the first time in history, a man’s voice was broadcast over the airwaves. In a clear, strong voice he read the account of the birth of our Saviour from the gospel of Luke. He then picked up his violin and played *“O Holy Night”* which was the first song ever sent through the air via radio waves.

Perhaps the most meaningful of all the lines of this hymn may be ... *“Fall on your knees, O hear the angels’ voices ... O night divine, O night when Christ was born.”*

There it is ... the **sweet hope**, the **deep joy**, the **ever- constant, never-ending, unchanging truth** of the gospel! We can rise from our knees, from our pining, from our grief, from our despair, and with one voice sing: *“Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise His holy name. Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever, His power and glory evermore proclaim. His power and glory evermore proclaim!”*

Have a blessed and peace-filled Christmas,

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