

*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> Those who are **travelling!** We pray for safety and protection on our busy highways and for our policemen and firefighters and their families. The **AGC** office is closed today for the August 1<sup>st</sup> Civic holiday.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Calvary Church, Toronto, ON** as we partner with **Operation Mobilization** for the "Toronto Challenge" July 31 – Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>. This is a one-week intensive cross-cultural mission where we learn the basics of Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and Secular Humanism. We will be doing daily outreaches to our neighbouring communities which is home to over 24,000 Muslims.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> **Meadow Creek Community Church, Hamilton, ON**, as we rejoice with thanksgiving for answered prayers. God is faithful!
- 4<sup>th</sup> **Rev. Laird Crump (Joey)** in his role as **AGC Superintendent** for **Canada East**.
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Outbound City Church, Mississauga, ON (Pastor Jonathan Edralin (Carmi))**, as they look for a new Outbound Centre. The building in which they are currently meeting will be torn down and they are looking for new space.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Those who mourn: **Judie Zettas**, and sons, **David** and **Jonathan** who mourn the sudden passing of their beloved husband and father, **Pastor Basil Zettas**. **Rev. Charles Henri Côté (Lise)**, **Pastor of Église Évangélique de Blainville** and family who mourn the passing of Charles Henri's brother. **John Garner (Peggi)**, **Lead Pastor, Redeemer Bible Church, Niagara Falls, ON**, mourning the passing of John's mother.
- 7<sup>th</sup> **Faith Gospel Church, Hamilton, ON** as we thank God for His continuing faithfulness. We were thankful to welcome new members to our church.
- 8<sup>th</sup> **Isaac Medler** who has joined **Calvary Church, Toronto, ON** as **Associate Pastor (Youth and Outreach.)** We welcome Isaac to our **AGC** family!
- 9<sup>th</sup> Our churches that are holding **VBS** and **Day Camp** programs.
- 10<sup>th</sup> **AGC President, Rev. 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. Pray for Bill and his family as they enjoy a few weeks of holiday time together.

- 11<sup>th</sup> Our staff at **Fair Havens** under the leadership of **Executive Director Liz Thompson (John)**. Please be in prayer for all of our Conference speakers this month: **Rev. Rob Cripps, Rev. Martin Goode, Dr. Rick Reed, Rev. Scott Stein and Dr. Laird Crump**.
- 12<sup>th</sup> **Delburne Gospel Church, Delburne, AB** as new people are coming into our church, that they will be brought into a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ.
- 13<sup>th</sup> **Two Hills Fellowship Chapel, Two Hills, AB**, that we would know the Holy Spirit at work within our lives.
- 14<sup>th</sup> **Rev. Russ Wilson (Sue)** in his role as **AGC Superintendent** for **Canada West**.
- 15<sup>th</sup> **Mount Pleasant Bible Church, Mount Pleasant, ON** - that new people will come through our doors and feel a warm welcome.
- 16<sup>th</sup> **Rev. Glenn Rider (Bonnie)**, ministering as **AGC National Coordinator of Doctrine and Credentials**. **Donna Leung** and **Susan Page** as they minister in their roles at the **AGC** National Office.
- 17<sup>th</sup> **Countryside Community Church, (an AGC Church Plant), Oro-Medonte, ON, (Pastor Josh Davy (Kerri))** as they continue to impact their community for Christ.
- 18<sup>th</sup> The ministry at **Wikwemikong Fellowship, Manitowaning, ON**. That God's presence will be felt and that through the power of His Spirit, hearts and lives will be changed.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Those in our **AGC** family who are facing serious health issues. **Pastor Laird Hamilton (Mary)** from **Grace Community Church, Shawville, QC** appreciates our prayer support as Laird continues to undergo cancer treatments. **Sarah Gaensler**, (daughter of **Pastor Greg** and **Marion Gaensler, Calvary Bible Church, Smiths Falls**) as she has further cancer treatment. **Rev. Denis Arcand (Johanne)** and family as they continue to deal with health concerns. **Rev. Lane Fusilier (debi)**, **Sr. Pastor of Philpott Memorial Church, Hamilton, ON** as **debi** is recovering from cancer surgery.
- 20<sup>th</sup> **AGC Quebec Director, Rev. Del Gibbons (Barb)** as he ministers to our pastors and churches throughout **Quebec**.
- 21<sup>st</sup> The **AGC** search committee as they pray for God's direction in selecting our next **AGC President** (2018).



## Sparkle with Joy

- 22<sup>nd</sup> The **AGC** as they continue to investigate a Sponsorship Agreement (SAH) with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). Questions? **Contact:** [support@agcrsi.org](mailto:support@agcrsi.org)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Those who are enjoying **vacation time**, for safety and refreshment.
- 24<sup>th</sup> The **Church of Jesus Christ** worldwide. Especially pray for those who face persecution because of their faith in Christ.
- 25<sup>th</sup> The salvation of Quebec's people – 8.3 million lost souls. That our brethren at **Église Évangélique de Blainville, QC** may be faithful in their walk with the Lord.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Our **churches, pastors, boards** and **staff** as well as **volunteers** as they begin to prepare for the busy fall launch of church ministry programs.
- 27<sup>th</sup> **Refugees** who are being warmly welcomed into many church homes. Pray for God's provision for these families as they adjust to life in Canada.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Those who are involved in **hospital visitation** and **visitation** to **shut ins** and **elderly**.
- 29<sup>th</sup> **Pastor Frank Humphrey (Daria)** and **family** from **Peoples Church in Montreal**. Frank is having difficulty operating his computer because his movement is less. Please pray that the technical people will be able to find a solution to the problem.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Back to school preparations. For **teachers, students** and  **moms** saying good-bye to little ones for the first time.
- 31<sup>st</sup> Our **country**, our **Prime Minister** and our **world leaders**.

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

There are times and seasons of life where we may not feel very joyful. However, there are so many places in Scripture where the word joy is used. One of my favourites is **"The joy of the Lord is my strength."** When I plug the word joy into *Bible Gateway*, it brings 242 results. Joy is listed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the fruit of the Spirit, after the word love. It's easy to be joyful when the road is smooth and our burdens are light. It becomes more difficult when life is full of suffering and challenges. Or does it? That's a very good question. One that is worth thinking about.

Something that lifts my spirits is being outside and being active. You could say, it brings me much joy. A recent event of putting my back out of alignment has slowed me down significantly. Does that alter my joy? Well, I readily admit that it is challenging to be joyful when one is in pain ... but not impossible.

I recently heard a wonderful sermon on the topic of joy. The text was from Nehemiah. The Israelites were listening to the Word of the Lord being read and they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. They were weeping as they heard the Word of the Lord. And **THEN** in Chapter 8 *Nehemiah said to them: "This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.*

Who wants to be around people who are constantly joy-less? Who wants to be around people who are miserable, grouchy, negative and gloomy? How do we impact our world for Jesus or attract people if we are not joyful? While it's true that we need to be authentic Christians, sometimes it may be appropriate to fake it? I know that goes against the grain, but I always use the saying ... do the right thing and the feelings will follow. Fake smiles often turn into real smiles because it is so awkward that it becomes laughable! We need to prime the pump of joy! Spending time with our Lord will prime that pump. Our joy comes from Jesus. He loves us, He chose us, He has forgiven us and He gives us His Holy Spirit who infuses us with joy. Bubbling over!

After jotting down these thoughts, I opened to my regular reading and this was the focus verse: **"The LORD, their God will save His people on that day, as a shepherd saves his flock. They will sparkle in His land like jewels in a crown. How attractive and beautiful they will be." Zechariah 9:16-17a**

May we all sparkle with the joy of the LORD!