

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 **Laird Crump** as he teaches a Discipleship seminar at **Calvary Church, St. Catharines, ON**
- 2nd **Mary Hamilton** of **Grace Community Church, Shawville, QC**. Mary appreciates our prayer support as she and her family mourn the recent homegoing of **Laird**. Pray also for the church congregation as they have lost their beloved pastor and friend.
Lauren Redinger, former AGC pastor who authored the *book A Tree Well Planted*. **Lauren's wife, Dorothy** passed away last month. We grieve with those who grieve.
Pastor Timothée Jovin (Beatrice) and family, **Chapelle Évangélique Emmanuel, Montreal**. Timothée's mother passed away on January 6th.
- 3rd **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.
- 4th **Lise and Charles Côté**, that health and strength will be granted so that they can work fully for the Lord as church planters in Quebec.
Église Évangélique de Blainville, QC
- 5th **Outbound City Church, Mississauga, ON (Pastor Jonathan Edralin (Carmi))**, as they seek guidance for the future of the church, including new meeting space need by March.
- 6th **Meadow Creek Community Church, Hamilton, ON**, as we try to reach our community for Christ and a fresh vision from God about our future.
- 7th Those in our **AGC** family who are facing serious health issues: **debi, (wife of Rev. Lane Fusilier, Sr. Pastor of Philpott Memorial Church, Hamilton, ON)** as she waits to hear whether she will need further cancer treatment.
Pastor Frank Humphrey (Daria) and family from **Peoples Church in Montreal**. **Elva (wife of Pastor Wayne Foster)** and family as **Elva** needs prayer about a decision regarding further cancer treatment.
- 8th Our church, that we would know and follow the Spirit in the direction of our ministry and congregational life.
Two Hills Fellowship Chapel, Two Hills, AB

- 9th **Donna Leung** and **Susan Page** as they minister in their roles at the **AGC** National Office. **Rev. Glenn Rider (Bonnie)**, ministering as **AGC National Coordinator of Doctrine and Credentials**.
- 10th **Faith Gospel Church, Hamilton, ON** as we thank God for His continuing faithfulness.
- 11th **Rev. Russ Wilson (Sue)** in his role as **AGC Superintendent for Canada West**.
- 12th **Black Diamond Gospel Chapel, Black Diamond, AB** as they rejoice together and celebrate the **Ordination of Associate Pastor, Bryce Letkeman (Karen)**. We rejoice today that we are given the opportunity to contribute to the **AGC Church Planting Love offering**.
- 13th **Rev. Laird Crump (Joey)** in his role as **AGC Superintendent for Canada East**.
- 14th **Happy Valentine's Day!** God is Love ... may His love be seen in us.
- 15th Wisdom for the leaders of **Église Évangélique Deux-Montagnes, QC (Pastor Jean-Michel Juste (Muriel))**. Pray for new conversions and a renewed ministry.
- 16th The **AGC Executive** Conference call meeting taking place today.
- 17th Our staff at **Fair Havens** under the leadership of **Executive Director Liz Thompson (John)**. We appreciate your prayers. There are **Stepping Stones** interviews taking place today.
- 18th **Delburne Gospel Church, Delburne, AB**, as they are in need of some ministry workers for their children and young people. Pray that the right individuals will feel called to the task.
- 19th **Biggar Associated Gospel Church, Biggar, SK** as they rejoice together and celebrate the induction of **Rev. Doug Motz (Joan)**. Pray that God will provide the Motz family with housing and settling into the community. We rejoice today that we are given the opportunity to contribute to the **AGC Church Planting Love offering**.
- 20th **FAMILY DAY!** – The AGC office is closed. Let's pray for our family members who have not yet given their lives to Jesus.

- 21st **AGC Quebec Director, Rev. Del Gibbons (Barb)** as he ministers to our pastors and churches throughout **Quebec**.
- 22nd The **AGC Search Committee** as they seek God's direction in selecting our next **AGC President** (2018).
- 23rd Our **Community Dinner** held every Tuesday evening, that we will have opportunity to share the message of Christ. **Calvary Church, Toronto, ON**
- 24th **Canada West Associate Superintendent Lorne Meisner (Esther)** as he ministers to our churches in **Manitoba**.
- 25th **Garside Bible Church, Hamilton, ON**, particularly for our Wednesday ladies group, prayer meeting and family night.
- 26th **Mount Pleasant Bible Church, Mount Pleasant, ON** - that new people will come through our doors and feel a warm welcome.
- 27th **Countryside Community Church, (an AGC Church Plant), Oro-Medonte, ON, (Pastor Josh Davy (Kerri))** as they continue to impact their community for Christ.
- 28th The **AGC** as they continue to investigate a Sponsorship Agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) **Contact: support@agcrsi.org**

*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*

Beneath the Wrappings

There is much to learn in life. There are people, places and circumstances that totally open your heart and mind to new truths. There are exceptional moments that reach deep into one's soul. Sometimes, you just need to get beneath the wrappings.

Many lessons have literally snuck through the cracks of our office door during our day to day interaction with a group of very precious people. There is a *Community Living Program* for developmentally disabled adults that operates in the classroom across the hall. Since I face the window which has a great view of the hallway, I see the comings and goings of the students and return many enthusiastic greetings. Over time, relationships have developed which have come to mean so very much to me.

There is a special young lady, who once a week has a fixed lunch date with me, and I had better not forget it! Initially, I wasn't sure how deep I could go with her, but God has startled me with new insights. My special friend came in a couple of days before Christmas jumping up and down with excitement. She had a gift in hand for me, and before I could get it opened she was giggling and saying, "Say thank you, say thank you!" I replied, "I will, first let me see what it is." However, it was too hard to wait, so before the wrappings came off, I heard her say with great enthusiasm, ... "It's an ornament, say thank you, say thank you!" Well, the element of surprise was gone, but oh, what joy flooded my heart. Here was a bubbly young woman, who couldn't even communicate with me a few years back. Love and acceptance breaks down so many barriers.

Sometimes, we make the mistake of calling our special friends "the kids". We do that in part, because they display many childlike qualities, like unabashed displays of love and childlike humility.

In God's Word, Jesus says ... "**Unless you become as little children ...**" I would suggest that children are more capable of sharing emotions that our adult self often suppresses. Think about this. How wonderful is it to hear the unrestrained giggles of a youngster or feel the tight hug and sweet kiss of a young adult with Down Syndrome? Why do we hesitate to freely share the simple message of love with the healing words ... I love you, you're beautiful, you're valued, please join us? Do we express or repress our true feelings for one another? My special friends have no inhibitions when it comes to displaying their love. Vulnerability at its purest is deeply moving.

Jesus said: "**Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:3).**" Jesus goes on to say that we must humble ourselves like a child. So, throw wide your arms, drop your guard and love with abandonment. Who knows what lies beneath the wrappings!