

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 Our churches who are preparing for their **Christmas outreach events**.
- 2nd **Faith Gospel Church, Hamilton, ON**, for God's direction as they continue in their pastoral search. Also, that many in the Rosedale community will attend our Community Christmas Dinner taking place today.
- 3rd **Pastor Tim Wai (Christina)** from **Simply Church, Waterloo, ON** as Tim recovers following his cancer treatments.
- 4th **Countryside Community Church, (an AGC Church Plant), Oro-Medonte, ON**, as they continue to impact their community for Christ.
- 5th Our **AGC** staff meeting taking place this morning.
- 6th **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.
- 7th 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**
- 8th **Rev. Glenn Rider (Bonnie)**, ministering as **AGC National Coordinator of Doctrine and Credentials**.
- 9th Our **Community Dinner** held every Tuesday evening, that we will have opportunity to share the message of Christ. **Calvary Church, Toronto, ON**
- 10th **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. This will be a big change for their children, please pray that God will prepare them for this transition.
- 11th Our staff at **Fair Havens** under the leadership of **Executive Director Liz Thompson (John)** as we praise God for the ministry of **Fair Havens**.
- 12th **Delburne Gospel Church, Delburne, AB**, as we continue to look to the Lord for a Youth Pastor and for our outreaches that are taking place this month.

- 13th **Crossroads Community Church, Calgary, AB** today as we provide many in our community with the only Christmas dinner they will have. That we will demonstrate the gospel, and invite guests to our Christmas Eve services. We anticipate between 170-190 people in attendance.
- 14th For renewal for our church that we may see conversions and new disciples. **Église Évangélique de Deux-Montagnes, Montreal, QC**
- 15th **Garside Bible Church, Hamilton, ON**, that we may be able to reach our community with Christ's love.
- 16th **Meadow Creek Community Church, Hamilton, ON**, as we try to reach our community for Christ and a fresh vision from God about our future.
- 17th **Interim Canada East Superintendent, Dr. Tom Lamshead (Karen)** as he ministers to our **AGC** churches in the East.
- 18th **Mount Pleasant Bible Church, Mount Pleasant, ON** as we move ahead with our interim preaching elder.
- 19th **Rev. Russ Wilson (Sue)** in his role as **AGC Superintendent for Canada West**.
- 20th **Pastor Frank Humphrey (Daria)** and family from **Peoples Church in Montreal**, as they continue to daily trust in God's provision.
- 21st **AGC Quebec Director, Rev. Del Gibbons (Barb)** as he ministers to our pastors and churches throughout **Quebec**.
- 22nd Those who mourn and who will miss their loved ones, especially during the Christmas season. **Dr. Laird Crump (Joey), Lead Pastor, The Campus Church, Aurora, ON** and **Rev. Paul Breiter (Welma), Pastor at Lac Vert AGC, SK**, both grieving the passing of their mothers this fall.
- 23rd Those new to our beautiful country, Canada. That refugees will fill our churches and/or homes and that the gospel of Christ will be displayed by the love we extend to our new arrivals.
- 24th *"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people, today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."*
- 25th *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favour rests." Merry Christmas.*



- 26th *"Come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord."* **Boxing Day**
- 27th **Elva** (wife of **Rev. Wayne Foster**) and family as **Elva** needs prayer for daily strength and encouragement.
- 28th **AGC Canada West Associate Superintendent Rev. Lorne Meisner (Esther)** as he ministers to our churches in **Manitoba**.
- 29th That **Rev. Charles-Henri Côté (Lise)** 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**
- 30th **Two Hills Fellowship Chapel, Two Hills, AB**, that the Lord would oversee and direct us as we engage a pastoral intern until *June 2018*.
- 31st **Happy New Year!** Please pray for our Association as we face many transitions in the upcoming year.

"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*

The Lord's Servant

One never tires of reading the descriptive narrative of our Saviour's birth as outlined in the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke. With every reading comes reflection, bringing new questions, ponderings and discoveries.

The phrase that I find myself focusing on this Christmas is found in verse 38, **"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said."** Mary, a virgin, pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David, was having a miraculous conversation with the angel Gabriel. **"Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you"** said Gabriel. Initially, Mary was greatly troubled as she wondered what on earth was happening. The angel reassured her with the very comforting phrase that is found many times throughout the Scriptures, **"Do not be afraid."** He went on to tell her that **"she had found favour with God."** Gabriel then told this young girl that she would give birth to the Saviour of the world, who she was to name Jesus. Imagine, young Mary, completely bewildered asking; **"How will this be, since I am a virgin?"** The angel answered **"The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God."** The angel then informed Mary that her relative Elizabeth, who was well past child-bearing years, was six months into her own miraculous pregnancy. Gabriel's declaration that **"nothing is impossible with God"** was an understatement, if ever there was one.

It is at this point in the narrative that Mary's statement of acceptance stirs my soul. The portrait of humble submission is significant. Even though Mary was totally perplexed by this unexpected announcement which would totally change her world, she was obedient. She had not asked for this, and it would bring her unbelievable grief as well as great joy. She would face much turmoil including the gossip and judgment that this pregnancy would bring. Mary immediately goes to visit Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's voice, the baby leapt for joy in her womb. Elizabeth blesses Mary for believing that what the Lord had told her would be accomplished. What follows in the narrative is the passage known as Mary's Song, which is a testament to Mary's faith. The culmination of Gabriel's prophecy is found in **Luke 2:7 "Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."**

A young woman, full of faith, who was willing to be obedient even when she didn't understand is a life lesson for us all. Today, we can remember that when we follow God's call, miracles can and often do happen. **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favour rests."** Luke 2:14