

"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart" (Proverbs 3:3).

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- 1st **Jamie Stinson and her family.** Jamie's husband Robert had open heart surgery and has other medical conditions that make recovery difficult. Jamie is the **Director of Family Ministries at Bethel Church in Kingston, ON.**
- 2nd **AGC Administrative Assistant/Finance Manager, Donna Leung** as she serves our **AGC** staff and our churches.
- 3rd **AGC East Associate Regional Director, Rev. John and Peggi Garner** as John ministers to our churches throughout the East.
- 4th The **AGC Staff Meeting** taking place today. May our team be guided by His Spirit and strengthened in their ministry roles.
- 5th **AGC Quebec Director, Rev. Del and Barb Gibbons** as Del ministers to our pastors and churches throughout Quebec.
- 6th The joint **Good Friday morning service** taking place at **Garside Bible Church** in Hamilton with the addition of the congregations from **Connect Community Church, & Faith Gospel Church.** **Potter's Clay Ministries** will also be joining in this joint worship. A special offering will be collected for those affected by the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey.
- 7th **Good Friday.** *"Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Saviour."*
- 8th Those who may not know Jesus as Lord and Saviour who will be in attendance in churches tomorrow. May the message of hope in a risen Saviour be accepted by many.
- 9th **Easter Sunday!** *"He arose, He arose, Hallelujah Christ arose!"*
- 10th Easter Monday. Pray for **Alpha** programs that are held in many of our churches.
- 11th The planning of the **AGC National Conference**, to be held **May 25 to 27th** in **Banff, AB.** Pray for our **Conference Planning committee** as they sort through the many final details.
- 12th **AGC President, Rev. Bill and Michele Allan.** May God give Bill wisdom, guidance, and strength as he serves our **AGC** National team and our churches.
- 13th **Susan Davis, AGC Compassion and Justice Coordinator,** as she serves our Lord. Praise for congregations that are opening their doors to refugee families.
- 14th **AGC East Regional Director, Rev. Dr. Tom and Karen Lambshead** as Tom ministers to our churches throughout Ontario and Nova Scotia.
- 15th **Pastor Jeff and Alanna Peacock and family (Pastor of Somerset Bible Chapel, Somerset, MB.)** Pray for renewed health and strength for Jeff as he has further cancer treatment.
- 16th **AGC West Regional Director, Rev. Rob and Wendy Cochrane** as Rob gives leadership to our Western churches. Rob is sharing God's Word today with the congregation of **Faith Community Church, Blackfalds, AB.**
- 17th The **AGC East Church Planting Taskforce.** May God direct this committee as they look at possible church planting opportunities.
- 18th **AGC West Associate Regional Director, Rev. Lorne and Esther Meisner** as Lorne gives leadership to our churches in Manitoba.
- 19th Pastors to fill roles that are vacant in the following **AGC** churches in the East: **Bethel Church, Kingston, ON, Bethel Bible Church, Seaforth, ON, The Gathering House, Chesterville, ON, Milliken Gospel Church, Markham, ON, WestVillage Church, Ottawa, ON, Fair Havens Community Church, Beaverton, ON, New Life Christian Assembly, Toronto, ON.**
- 20th **Alex & Amber Bojórquez (Pastor at Maryfield AGC, Maryfield, SK).** Their son Leonardo is improving and we thank God for answered prayer. Continue to pray for this family as Leo will need future surgeries.
- 21st **Tom Lambshead and John Garner** will be visiting our **Bridgewater Open Bible Church, Bridgewater, N.S. and The Peoples Church, Truro, N.S.** over this weekend.
- 22nd The **AGC Quebec Annual Meeting** taking place today.



- 23rd Pastors to fill roles that are vacant in the following AGC West churches:
Bonanza Gospel Chapel, Bonanza, AB, Little Smoky Country Chapel, Little Smoky, AB, Gleichen Community Church, Gleichen, AB, Gladstone Christian Fellowship, Gladstone, MB, McCreary Gospel Church, McCreary, MB
- 24th **Calvary Church, Toronto, ON** under the leadership of **Rev. Daniel Winter** as they praise God for many answered prayers for those who attended their Tuesday evening meals. The meals resume in November. The church runs this ministry during the five coldest months of the year.
- 25th **AOK Church, Aundek Omni Kaning, ON.** Pray that more people will hear and respond to the gospel message and know the love of Christ.
- 26th **Rev. Rob Cochrane** is speaking today at **Living Faith Fellowship, Herbert, SK.**
- 27th **Rev. Dr. Paul and LaFaye Brittain** as Paul ministers in his role as **AGC National Coordinator of Doctrine and Credentials.**
- 28th **AGC Church Relations Coordinator/Benefits Manager, Susan Page** as she serves our AGC staff and our churches.
- 29th **Rev. Tom Lambshead** is sharing today at the elders retreat for **Chinese Gospel Church, Toronto, ON.**
- 30th We welcome **Christopher Joseph** and his wife **Sapna** and family and celebrate his induction as **Pastor of Missions** at the **MET, Ottawa, ON.**

Do you have a prayer concern you'd like to submit to share with AGC churches nationwide? If so, e-mail it to the AGC Office at sue@agcofcanada.com

In Love ... Forgive

The season of Easter is a time when we focus on Christ's sacrifice on the cross. The cruelty that took place before and during His death is hard to contemplate, sometimes nearly impossible. I recall closing my eyes in horror during some scenes in Mel Gibson's movie *The Passion of the Christ*.

I've been thinking about the anguish of Mary, the mother of Jesus. One of the hardest things for a parent to bear is watching their children suffer. I can't imagine having to witness anything like what Christ's cruel torture entailed. Like many moms, I've had my share of trips to the emergency room with my kids as well as a few hospitalizations. I recall being asked to hold my youngest down while an IV was being inserted into her temple. It was almost beyond me. Yet, that was such a small thing compared to what the mother of our Lord went through.

In John's gospel, it says that Jesus' mother Mary was with a group standing within sight of the crucifixion. We can assume they must have been quite close to the cross because we read *"When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, 'Woman, behold, your son!' Then He said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!'" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.*" Without going into the gruesome details, imagine a mother being that close to seeing, hearing, and experiencing her child's torment.

Even in the most unimaginable moments of agony, Jesus took care of His mom. As only Jesus could do, He modelled care, compassion, and willing obedience to death on the cross, all because of His love for the world. Jesus offered forgiveness even in the worst moments of His unjust and brutal punishment, all done on our behalf. *"Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do'"* (Luke 23:34).

How hard it must have been for Mary to forgive those who had so brutally murdered her much-loved son. Yet, she knew that Jesus was the Son of God who was sent into the world to free us from our sins. So perhaps, as difficult as it was, she too, in love freely forgave. As we celebrate our Saviour's death and resurrection, let's remember what Jesus taught and modelled. Through Christ's love, may we also offer forgiveness wherever and whenever it is needed.

"Forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive anyone who is indebted against us."

Susan Page, Church Relations Coordinator