

WEEK OF PRAYER
AND FASTING-
DEVOTIONAL



8-15 May 2016

Welcome to the GBC week of Prayer and Fasting!

As we enter this special week of prayer and fasting, let's be reminded of the powerful words in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call unto Me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things which you do not know." What a privilege to be able to stand in the gap for our church, our nation and the world at this critical time in history. Remember the principle: 'WHEN MAN WORKS, MAN WORKS, BUT WHEN MAN PRAYS, GOD WORKS!' May you be greatly blessed and encouraged as you set aside time every day this week to pray.

Yours in Jesus,

Marc.

HOW TO PRAY?

1. Pray with **Faith**- Heb 11:6
"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."
2. Pray with **Expectancy**- Eph 3:20
"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us"
3. Pray with **Perseverance**- Gal 6:9
"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
4. Pray with **Availability**- Isaiah 6:8
'Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Scriptures to meditate on:

Isaiah 1:18, Hosea 14:1, Romans 5:18-21, 2 Corinthians 5:18-21, Colossians 1:21-22

Devotion Day 1:

GOD IS THE GREAT BRIDGE BUILDER

Benny Mostert from Jericho Walls writes, “Our country is ‘burning’. We have drifted far from the ideals we once cherished for the new South Africa. We need bridges to be built over the many chasms dividing us.”

Scripture tells us that God is the Great Reconciler. Through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, God has made a way for us to reconcile to Himself and flowing from that, to be reconciled to each other. Because God has reached out His arms to us, we can embrace one another.

Prayer Points:

- Thank God that the message of Good News reached us here at the Southern Tip of Africa.
- Pray that the message of salvation and reconciliation with God will be shared and preached throughout South Africa and that every person will hear the Good News of Jesus Christ who saves us from the power of sin, death and Satan.
- Pray for the salvation of people you know. Pray that they would be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ.
- Ask God to empower you to become an instrument of reconciliation in South Africa.
- Pray that the church of Jesus Christ would lead the way in South Africa as far as reconciliation is concerned and that this would overcome the spirit of fear, hatred, racism, prejudice and violence in our nation.

Devotion Day 2:

HUMILITY, THE ATTITUDE OF CHRIST.

James, the brother of Jesus writes, “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

Paul explains that the best model of humility is Christ and if we want to represent Him in our troubled country, we need to follow His example. Take some time to prayerfully read Philippians 2:5-11.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Remember, it is to the humble that God gives grace.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to help us as the church of God in South Africa to truly humble ourselves before Him. Ask the Lord to forgive us for our selfish ways and actions.
- Pray that our hearts will be humbled and broken and that there'd be no place for pride, prejudice and selfishness. Make yourself available to follow the example of Jesus when it comes to humility and love for others.
- Pray for political leaders by name. Pray that they will be men and woman of integrity and humility, who will not lie but speak and live truth.

Devotion Day 3

IT'S A NEW DAY!

A problem we have to deal with in our nation and in the church is a reluctance to change, we are trapped in the old mind-sets and paradigms. Of course our history and traditions are important, but we have to adapt.

Jesus specializes in making things **NEW!** He pours new wine into new wineskins. "Therefore" Paul wrote, "If anyone be in Christ, they are a new creation; old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new."

Prayer Points

- Pray for the transformation of how South Africans think and process events. That we will tackle the ever changing landscape with a positive Biblical mindset.
- Ask the Lord to forgive us for a critical and pessimistic spirit and for breaking down rather than building up.
- Pray that the young generation will find constructive ways to help build a new South Africa that will be free from destructive mindsets and paradigms.
- Ask the Lord to empower and enable us to live together as many different races, cultures and languages to the honour and glory of His name.
- Pray that at GBC we would not limit God by a reluctance to change and adapt. Pray that we would be sensitive to the Holy Spirit as He leads us to become the church in Gonubie that He would have us be.

Devotion Day 4:

JESUS IS BUILDING THE CHURCH

Remember, the church is not the building, the church is us! Real, living human beings in love with Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, committed to being salt and light in the world. Despite all manner of challenges, opposition and persecution, the indestructible church of Jesus Christ continues to grow and advance all around the world.

As you pray, be encouraged by the words of Jesus in Matthew 16:18, "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."

Prayer points:

- We are a church that values diversity- different ages and generations, different theological persuasions, different ethnicities and languages, yet we are **ONE** body in Christ. Pray that we would continue to be a **UNITED** church, bound together with cords of love, humility and respect.
- Pray for the pastors, elders and deacons that we would lead wisely and courageously.
- Pray for our children, teenagers and young adults.
- Pray for the elderly and frail, the lonely and bereaved.
- Pray for marriages and families.
- Pray that we would be a church on a mission- constantly looking beyond the building to those who have yet to encounter the love of Jesus.
- Pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit that would bring revival, renewal and refreshing to many.
- Pray for LIA and Living Hope as they seek to bring hope to the poor in the area.

Devotion Day 5:

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

JOHN 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Remember when God loves, He loves the world. When Jesus died, He died for the world. Every human being on this planet matters to God and therefore they should matter to us.

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus gives us, His church, a commission, a mandate to go into **ALL** the world and to make disciples of **ALL** nations. Together with this mandate, God has also given us the power of His Holy Spirit to get the job done! Acts 1:8, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

May our motto be: **The Whole Church, taking the Whole Gospel to the Whole World!**

Prayer Points:

- Pray for Christians suffering intense persecution and even death in countries like Iraq, Syria, North Korea, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan etc.
- Pray that in the midst of chaos, violence and war, many in the Middle East would encounter Jesus Christ as the Prince of Peace and Giver of Life.
- Pray for the refugee crisis in Europe. May God use this crisis to open the hearts of many to the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for missionaries serving in hard places around the world.
- Pray for an outpouring of the Spirit of God upon the unreached parts of the world, resulting in an unprecedented harvest of souls.

