

21 Days for Prayer and Fasting as We Enter a New Season of Ministry (September 10-30/21)

These are challenging times as we deal with COVID, racial tensions, forest fires, Haiti's devastation, the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, the Canadian election, and the increasing opposition to the light of the gospel. Jesus said that, *"Because of the increase in wickedness the love of many will grow cold"* (Mt.24:12). Thank God for His many promises to keep us and use us in these days; promises like: *"So, do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."* (Is.41:10)

As a family of churches, we want to band ourselves together to seek the Lord's strength and help in the days ahead as we deal with three challenges (or as a friend of mine calls them – three enemy armies):

1. **Coming out of this last lock down and wondering what ministry will/should look like this fall:** I don't think we should just rush into this time thinking that everything will go back to normal, but instead seek the Lord for His direction as we move forward. We don't want to copy the error of the Israelites who did not consult the Lord when dealing with the Gibeonites (Jos.9:14,15).
2. **Seeking the Lord's clear direction regarding how we should show hospitality and welcome to the LGBTQS+ community:** At the fall pastor's conference (Sept.28,29), we will begin an open discussion about what the Scriptures teach us about this and what applying these truths look like in our present day. This will be followed by further discussions leading up to our next General Conference, where we will be deciding together where we go from here.
3. **Time to earnestly seek the Lord to make sure our hands are clean and our hearts pure as we move forward:** In Joel 2:12-17 the nation was called to fast and pray and seek the Lord's cleansing so that He could once again bless them. This will also be a time to search our hearts to see if there be any ways we are giving Satan a foothold in our movement, so we can turn from them to be cleansed and empowered, so that a great number of our nation and world would no longer say, *"Where is their God?"*.

Consequently, the National Prayer Team is calling the FMCIC to pray and fast about these concerns the last 21 days of September (Sept. 10-30/21). We realize that we do not have much lead time for this, and it is somewhat of an inconvenient time for such a call, however, we believe this is one of those times when even *"the bridegroom and bride leave their chamber"* to earnestly seek the Lord.

Here are ways you can participate:

1. Personally, lead the way by committing extra time and earnestness to pray about these matters and other matters that the Lord places on your heart.
2. Choose to fast at least a half day each week or one you feel lead to (there is an article on fasting on our website). Joel called the priests to *"weep between the temple porch and the altar"* during their fast.
3. Encourage the members of your congregation to participate and sign up as a church to take one of the 21 days to pray and fast for your personal walk with the Lord, your church, the FMCIC, your community (see Google Sheets for a schedule to

sign your church up and add people from your church:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qSX-cwxJxaX6TeFvtRpLi3TIFcPnzLxWpBQD8aVyMbl/edit?usp=sharing>

4. Read the daily devotionals provided and pray for the matters mentioned (these devotionals were made available during this past General Conference and will be provided in another email soon).
5. Participate in a national prayer meeting held each Wednesday evening at 9pm EDT via Zoom (link to be sent out later).

Ken Roth (National Prayer Team lead)