

Girrawheen Baptist Church

40 Days

Of Prayer and Fasting

1st March – 9th April, 2017

We invite you to join us in prayer and fasting over the 40 days leading to Palm Sunday and Easter. We pray for a miraculous breakthrough of God's LIFE in our nation and revival and transformation for Australia. (2nd Chronicles 7:14)

'If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.'

Five point Prayer Plan – LIFE

1. Call for you to renew your love and life for God.
2. Call for you to make a list of friends you will pray for on each of these 40 days, praying they will find new life in Jesus Christ. Write to each one of them a short note as a sign of God's love.
3. Commit to pray for a release of God's LIFE in our nation.
4. Pray that we will see a culture of life replace a culture of death and that 'respect for life, from conception to natural death will be enshrined in law and public policy.
5. Pray each day for an outpouring of live, revival and transformation for Australia.

PRAYER GATHERINGS

To begin the 40 Days of Prayer & Fasting:

Wednesday, 1st March, 2017 – 7:30PM – Church Hall

Then every:

- **Wednesday** to the 5th of April, Girrawheen Baptist Church Hall at 7:30PM
- **Saturday** to the 8th April, Emmanuel Christian Community School Staff Room from 8:00AM to 9:00AM

Prayer Focus: repentance and submission. (2 Chron 7:13-15, Rom 12:1, Gal 2:20, Col 3:1-3)

- Invite your family/friends/small group to join you in the 40 Days of readings and to share prayer and testimonies of what God does.
- Invite other Christians in your school, workplace or neighbourhood to gather in prayer for those around you.

United in Prayer and Celebration during and beyond these 40 Days...

Why Pray and Fast for 40 Days?

We are servants in God's vineyard from whom He expects fruit.
(*Mark 12:2, Matthew 21: 28-41, Luke 13:6-7, John 15:8*)

Fruit in your Life: As you meditate on God and His Word and abide in deepening intimacy with Jesus Christ, His transforming likeness will become more evident in your life!

Fruit in your Local Sphere of Influence: Pray that those you meet will encounter Jesus and his *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...* through you!

Fruit in our Cities and Nation: Pray for God's Church in your city and the people of your region with Jesus' prayer that we be one with God and each other. As you obey the Spirit's convictions from God's Word - you will see your Father's will done and His Kingdom come!

Fasting for Fruitfulness!: Hunger for God's intervention in our cities! Denying your appetite for something focuses you beyond yourself! You might give up a meal or two per day, or desserts or TV or not eat for two or more days a week or only have fruit juice for 40 days.

Fasting guidelines, information and warnings can be found at:
www.transformingmelbourne.org

Steps for Daily Scriptural Meditation.

Set time aside to meditate on the texts in the Bible allowing a picture to form in your heart/mind.

1. What is today's Word saying to your heart? Invite the Holy Spirit to deeply examine, cleanse and convict you.
Is God asking you to change how you usually think or act?

1. What will your life look like if you fully receive this Word as a seed in your life? Claim God's Word as His promise to you!
Open your heart with expectant faith to the transformation your God can begin in you! (*Mark 4, especially verses 14-20*)

2. How will you actively nurture this Word into new fruit in your life?
Daily focus and abiding will enable your choices, vocabulary, speech and lifestyle to match the new picture that the Word of God is painting in your heart!

3. What would your world (*family, church, community, city*) look like if you act on this Word together? (*Matthew 18:18-20*)
Pray God's will and Kingdom comes on earth! Expectantly release to your world all you have been given

Transformation is a Process that happens through Relationship:

Our shared prayer is that God's fruitfulness transforms us, and through us, our spheres of influence and responsibility -
our families, communities, cities and nations.

- A person, city or nation is transformed to the extent we consistently reproduce God's likeness - the fruit of His character: *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.* (*Galatians 5:22-23*)
- By their choice of fruit, Adam and Eve lost intimacy with God. (*Genesis 3*)
- Restored intimacy with God is necessary for fruitfulness. (*Exodus 33:14 -16, 1John 4:9-10,16-17, Galatians 3:26-28*)
- Salvation is our Father's gift of restored relationship - through Jesus. Transformation is Jesus' gift within relationship - through His Spirit. This transformation process is freshly described in The Message: (*Psalm 46:10, 2 Corinthians 3:16-18, Romans 12:1-2, Mark 12:29-31, John 10:10*)
- We can only be fruitful for God if we abide in Jesus, The Vine. (*John 15:5*)
- As we abide, beholding God and allowing Him full reign in us:
 - we are drawn to meditate with wonder at who our God is
 - to worship Him, rest in Him and love Him with our whole self
 - we become aligned by obedience as God's presence dwells in us
 - we are pruned to be free, prepared and focused
 - Jesus reproduces the fruit of His Spirit - His likeness - in us.
- The world knows us (*Matthew 7:18-20*) and God (*Matthew 5:16, John 14:7-11*) by the fruit we continuously bear. For them to know Christ, He needs to be visible in us. (*Galatians 3:16,19,29, 1 Peter 1:23 1 John 3:9*) We are to be faithful in generously sowing and trusting God to bear fruit in the lives of others, even if we don't see results. (*Hebrews 11:10,13-16, Mark 4*)

Week 1

ABIDING IN CHRIST AS YOUR VINE

Pray for a revelation of who Jesus is and who you are in Christ.

- **Wednesday, 1st March**, Jn 15:4-8, Ps 127:1, Heb 4 Rest in dependence on Jesus. Pray for His fruitfulness in you to bring glory to your Father.
- **Thursday, 2nd March**, Jn 15:9-11, 10:10, 1 Jn 3:1 Remain in the fullness and joy of God's love for you. Tell Him what this means to you.
- **Friday, 3rd March**, Jn 15:12-17, 1 Cor 11:25, Reflect prayerfully on what it means to be God's servant, friend and child Lk 5:36-38 in the new covenant.
- **Saturday, 4th March**, Jn 3:16-17, 1Jn 4:16-17 Reflect prayerfully on your belief, trust and reliance on God's great love through Jesus.

Week 2

PRODUCING FRUIT THAT LASTS - SOW LOVE

What would your world look like with God's love flowing through it?

- **Sunday 5th March**, Ps 5:7, Heb 4:16 Fearlessly and boldly enter the consuming power of God's loving and merciful presence.
- **Monday 6th March**, Jn 14:15,23,31, 2 Jn 6 To love is to obey. Pray for revelation on ways you can abide deeply by doing only what the Father commands.
- **Tuesday, 7th March**, Jer 31:3, Mk 12:29-30 Pray by name for others in your sphere of influence to be drawn by their Father's love.
- **Wednesday, 8th March**, Matt 22:39, Matt 5:44 Pray with forgiveness and love for your 'neighbours' and 'enemies.'
- **Thursday, 9th March**, Jn 13:34-35 Will local people know Jesus' love through how they see you love other Christians in your region?

- **Friday, 10th March**, Heb 12:14-15, Eph 4:15-16 Pray with repentance and humility for the Church to love as our Lord loves us.
- **Saturday, 11th March**, Isa 9:6-7, Jn 16:33 Worship the Prince of Peace! The increase of His peace will not end! Reflect on what this means to you.

Week 3

PRODUCING FRUIT THAT LASTS - SOW JOY and PEACE

Be God's joy and peace in your world.

- **Sunday, 12th March**, Phil 4:4-9, Isa 26:3 Reflect prayerfully: Will you let God's peace transform your heart and mind in Christ Jesus?
- **Monday, 13th March**, Ps 16:11, Rom 15:13 Praise our God of hope who will fill you to overflowing with all joy and peace as you trust him.
- **Tuesday, 14th March**, Heb 4:12-13, Heb 12:2-8,11,14 Seek trust in your Father's pruning for the privileged joy Matt 10:34-39 of being His son or daughter!
- **Wednesday, 15th March**, Hab 3:17-19 In the midst of your trials intentionally rejoice in your Lord and see what He will do!
- **Thursday, 16th March**, Neh 8:10(b)-11, Zep 3:17 Pray by name for those in grief and depression –that the joy of the Lord will be their strength and stronghold.
- **Friday, 17th March**, Heb 13:17 Honor your leaders (civic, church, workplace, etc.) and pray their work will be a joy.
- **Saturday, 18th March**, Ps 23:esp 6 Rest in your Lord in all the ways described in this Word and reflect how each attribute benefits your life.

Week 4:

PRODUCING FRUIT THAT LASTS

patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

- **Sunday, 19th March**, Jam 1:2-5,12 Seek the fullness of maturity in God's righteousness; His wholeness producing a fruitful harvest in your life.
- **Monday, 20th March**, Matt 11:28-30 Enjoy rest, relief, ease, refreshment, recreation and blessed quiet for your soul in Jesus' gentleness.
- **Tuesday, 21st March**, 2 Pet 1:4-8, Heb 12:14-15, Tit 2 Ask the Holy Spirit to convict you of new ways to live with self- control and in gentleness toward others.
- **Wednesday, 22nd March**, Deut 7:9, Lam 3:23 Pray for those in need of the Lord's fresh mercy every morning; His abundant stability and faithfulness.
- **Thursday, 23rd March**, Hos 11: 4 Pray for strength and recompense for those who provide care and kindness to people with great needs.
- **Friday, 24th March**, Cor 9:6-15 In a practical way today sow deeds of justice, goodness and benevolence to those in need.
- **Saturday, 25th March**, Gen 1:28-30, 2:15, Ps 8 :3-9 Reflect prayerfully concerning your responsibility to care for the land that belongs to your Lord.

Week 5:

WORKERS IN GOD'S VINEYARD

You are a servant with responsibility to produce fruit in your sphere of influence.

- **Sunday, 26th March** Jn 15:8, Matt 21:28-41 Will you trust in your Lord's expectation that He can produce fruit through you?
- **Monday, 27th March**, Matt 9:35-38, Isa 6:8 Pray for harvest workers - that we as the Church - will be faithful vineyard servants calling people to Jesus.
- **Tuesday, 28th March**, Acts 20:24, Jn 17:18, 2 Cor 5:20 Pray for the opportunity today to tell someone your testimony to God's goodness, mercy and unfailing love to you...and Jesus' invitation to them.
- **Wednesday, 29th March**, Phil 2:esp 5-11,19-24 Pray for and encourage young adults to become servant-hearted leaders in the Body of Christ.
- **Thursday, 30th March**, Jn 17:20-23, Eph 4:1-6 Reflect prayerfully: Will you intentionally unite with others in prayer and mission to your local area?
- **Friday, 31st March**, Matt 9:17 What new wineskin might be needed to accommodate what God is doing in your local sphere?
- **Saturday, 1st April**, Matt 11:20-24, 23:37, God's judgment is not just of individuals. Jesus reproached whole cities and wept for His city. Rev 1:11, Lk 19:41-42 Have you identified with the Body of Christ across your city and loved the people of your city?

Week 6:

PRODUCING FRUIT THAT TRANSFORMS A CITY

Invite Jesus to transform your city - starting with you!

- **Sunday, 2nd April**, Jer 29:7, Prov 11:11, Ez 22:30 God asks us to pray for our cities. Will you commit to pray and stand for Jesus' kingdom in your city?
- **Monday, 3rd April**, Neh 2:17, Isa 62:6, Jer 51:12, Eph 6:10-18 Identify others you could join in a movement of united passionate prayer for your city. (See: back page)
- **Tuesday, 4th April**, Matt 7:15-23, 12:33-35 Prayerfully reflect on the spiritual condition of the Church in your city. Ask for discernment to recognise and produce Godly fruit. Pray the Body of Christ will function fruitfully to bless your city.
- **Wednesday, 5th April**, Matt 6:9-10,33, Rom 14:17,1 Cor 4:20 Prayerfully reflect on what your city would look like with God's likeness – His Kingdom evident in it.
- **Thursday, 6th April**, Deut 7:9-14, Ps 85, Isa 26:esp1-2 Pray for and actively support God's kingdom being manifest in all the domains of your city: *church, government, business, justice, health, education, charity, sport, media, creative arts.*
- **Friday, 7th April**, Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8 Pray for the gospel to reach all the people groups in your city: across all generations, ethnicities and sub-cultures, especially those who are missing from the church (*young, uneducated, single, divorced people.*)
- **Saturday, 8th April**, Heb 11:10,16, 13:14, Lk 22:17, Rev 21:1-5 Palm Sunday: Reflect with anticipation on the Holy City of God – the dwelling of God with man. Worship Jesus our King of kings,

- **Sunday 9th April – Palm Sunday**

“Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.”

James 5:17-18

PRAYERS

1. **The Lord's Prayer** (Matthew 6:5-15). Jesus taught this classic lesson in prayer to his disciples. We'll consider the Lord's Prayer phrase by phrase as a pattern for our own praying.
2. **Moses' Prayer for Israel in the Wilderness** (Exodus 32:9-14). Incredible examples of Moses pleading with God to preserve his own name and character and not destroy Israel. We examine the question: Does prayer actually change anything?
3. **Abraham's Prayer for Sodom** (Genesis 18:16-33). An example of intercessory prayer which finds its basis in God's character.
4. **David's Prayer for Pardon and Confession of Sin** (Psalm 51). When we sin against God, how can we pray to restore our fellowship? David's prayer is a classic prayer of repentance.
5. **David's Prayer at the End of Life** (1 Chronicles 29:9-20). A short psalm of praise and David's prayer for his son Solomon to build the temple.
6. **David's Psalm of Surrender** (Psalm 139). David struggles with God's intense knowledge of him, marvels at God's intricate formation of him in his mother's womb, and then prays a prayer of surrender to God's searching, knowing, probing, and refining.
7. **Hezekiah's Petitions for Deliverance and Healing** (2 Kings 19:14-19; 20:1-7). Here's a godly king about to see his nation conquered and destroyed by the mighty Assyrian army. Then he who has just heard from a prophet that he should prepare to die soon. How does he pray?

8. **Daniel's Confession on Behalf of His People** (Daniel 9:1-19). When Daniel realizes the 70 years of exile are ended, he offers a prayer of confession in which he (though personally a righteous man) identifies with the sins of his people and asks for God's mercy.
9. **Nehemiah's Prayer for Success** (Nehemiah 1:1-2:9). Nehemiah hears of the suffering of the returned exiles. After grieving in fasting and prayer, Nehemiah prays for success -- and commits himself to God's will for his life.
10. **Jesus' Prayer of Submission at Gethsemane** (Luke 22:39-46). Jesus asks for the cup (crucifixion) to be bypassed, but then prays for the Father's will to be done most of all. How do you pray an authentic prayer of submission?
11. **Paul's Prayers for the Ephesian Believers** (Ephesians 1:15-23; 3:14-21). Here are Paul's prayers for the Ephesian Christians -- and for us -- to really understand the heights and depths of Christ's love for us.

All together praise our Father for His blessings.

- His Grace, Mercy and Goodness.
- For the opportunity to serve Him in Girrawheen.
- For our families.
- For our Pastors and their families.
- New Australians to the congregation.
- For His provision in so many different ways.
- For the many different ministries.
- Pray for each other in the room.
- Pray for revival in the land.

CHURCH MINISTRY

- Church Council. Pray for each other – For the spirit of wisdom and revelation from above – Ephesians
- Sunday School Ministry.
- Emmanuel Christian Community School. Provision of a High School.
- Music Ministry.
- Craft Ministry. (Non- Christian ladies.)
- Youth and children’s ministries.
 - Girls Brigade. A new start to this ministry.
 - Junior Christian Endeavour. Helpers and Teachers.
 - laywah ministry
 - Cool group
 - Soccer ministry.
 - Play group – Non-Christian mums. Mrs. Margaret McCarthy
- Senior ministry.
- Men’s ministry
- Chin & Karen Fellowship. Sudanese Nuer Fellowship.
- Offering and tithing. Increase our trust in God.
- Home groups Bible study. Growth in people’s lives.
- Church elderly. Especially those who live alone.
- Pray for the unemployed people looking for work.
- Myanmar fellowship. Pastor Alan and his leadership.
- Protection for the Church’s facilities.
- Transport for Junior Christian Endeavour on Fridays. Safety
- Baptism classes.
- Lorelle McLevie – Ministry Coordinator – Creation Ministries.
- Young couple’s ministry.

- Bookroom Ministry – Mrs. Jean Harris.
- Bus drivers – there is a need of more drivers – safety
- Widows of this congregation.
- Care Shop – (Need of someone for the Op Shop Ministry)

COMMUNITY MINISTRY

- Chaplaincy ministry
- Mentors ministry in the state schools.
- District Council of churches.
- Special Religious education teaching in the state schools. Teachers from our Church – Faye Gabrielson, Grace Phillips.
- Life Ministry – Dwight Randall – Andrew Lansdown
- Luke Simpkins
- Dr. Anne Aly– Federal member for Cowan
- Joe Bullock
- Margaret Quirk – Local Member for Girrawheen
- Pathways counselling.
- Baptist Theological College. (Vose College)
- Trinity Theological College
- The Challenge newspaper. Carl Carmody (Editor)
- The Advocate Newspaper
- Baptist Union Ministry Centre.
- Baptist Care Ministry.
- Pregnancy House Ministry – Lucy Musgrave.
- Christian Schools across Australia
- OAC Ministry – Rob Adams – Geoff Westlake

OVERSEA MINISTRY supported by the Girrawheen Baptist Church.

- Vaughan and Cathy Pirie – Thailand
- Wilmott family – Pilbara region of W.A.
- Crane family in Malawi
- Christmas project 2014-2015 – Serving in Mission (SIM)
- Global Inter Action (ABMS) ministry.
- HCJB (Heralding Christ Jesus Blessings) World Radio Australia ministry.
- Antony Dandato – Zimbabwe
- Overseas Mission Fellowship OMF -Ken Ridge State Director WA

FEELING UNWELL OR RECOVERING

- Audrey Grahame
- Dawn Mielens
- Elyse Stonehill (Gordon Pereira's sister)
- Lucy's sister – Stanis Hill
- Marion Murray
- Peter Musgrave
- Ron Morrison

“The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-2

PRAYER AT GIRRAWHEEN

- Missionary prayer meeting on every first Sunday. 1:00PM
- Men's Prayer fellowship focussed on families and general Church needs. SATURDAY 8:00AM
- Triplet Prayer fellowship focussed on families and Church needs.
- Pastoral Prayer fellowship.
- Congregational Prayer during Church services.
- Emmanuel staff daily prayer. 8:00AM
- Emmanuel Children's prayer network. WEDNESDAY 12:15PM
- Once a term Church Council Prayer meeting. SATURDAY 7:00AM
- Every Sunday evening group prayer before the evening service. 5:30PM
- Prayer chain – specific prayer when there is a need or urgent prayer requests.
- Thursday afternoon ladies prayer and Bible Study. 1:00PM
- Youth meeting prayer. TUESDAY 8:00PM