



**LEADER'S
GUIDE**

January 2012

week of
prayer

JANUARY 9-15, 2012

Sunday, January 8, 2012

Written by Jamey McDonald - Executive Director, BGC Canada

Key Verse:

Romans 14:11, 12 (NIV), "It is written:

"As surely as I live,' says the Lord,
'every knee will bow before me;
every tongue will acknowledge God."

So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God."

Key Thought:

As we begin the New Year, it's important to get some good exercise. An excellent calisthentic is "knee bending". Eventually we will all be involved in bending our knees as we meet the Lord.

In Romans 14, the word of God alerts us to not be too hard on each other and what we do and don't do. Rather we need to be more concerned about what God thinks of us (not them). It's good advice—ultimately we give an account to God, not each other... and for ourselves, not someone else.

In your prayers today begin with yourself. Not out of selfishness but out of realization that "it's me, it's me, it's me O Lord, standing in the need of prayer".

Key Prayer:

O Lord, at the beginning of this New Year, I seek Your heart. Forgive me for my distractedness and failure to seek You first. I live because of You, and I live for You—not only today but for this year and ultimately for eternity"

Monday, January 9, 2012

Written by Pastor Tim Neilson - City Church, Winnipeg MB

Key Verse:

Jeremiah 29:4-7 (NIV), "This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶ Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. ⁷ Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

Key Thought:

Have you ever looked at a brick building and thought about how each brick is important to its structure? Think about it for a moment, if a brick building was missing even a few bricks the whole building would look poorly cared for, and worse, it could be in danger of collapse.

For many people, our Canadian cities are thought to be a blight of poverty, drugs and gang violence. It is easy to give up and feel that there is nothing that can be done to change the situation. In the book of Jeremiah we are reminded that we can make a difference in our cities by marrying, raising godly families, owning homes, gardening, seeking peace, and working towards the city's prosperity. Most importantly, we are told to pray for our city because as God blesses the city he also blesses us.

Key Prayer:

Lord thank you for the cities of Canada. Show us how we can seek the peace and the prosperity of these urban centres. Help us to be a light to everyone that we come in contact with. Establish your church in the cities of Canada.

Extra thought: The Bible begins the story of God's love for us in a garden and finishes in an eternal city.

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Written by Pastor Charles Stein - Turtleford Baptist, Turtleford SK

Key Verse:

1 Corinthians 3:11 (NIV), "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."

Key Thought:

The New Year brings memories of the past and challenges of the future! But God wants to use each of His children to be builders in the present! We are called to worship the Creator of the Universe, and He has called us to be active members of His kingdom building on the foundation of Jesus Christ!

The challenge of the New Year is "to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." The setting may be large, or it may be small, but God's desire is to have faithful servants where He has planted them. Each one is created and gifted uniquely for the purposes of our Heavenly Father! May He be able to say, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful..." when we appear before Him!

Key Prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, we praise your name for your call to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. May I faithfully serve you in the fellowship that You have placed me in! I pray for those that you have placed in settings that are smaller. I pray for strength, encouragement and faithfulness not only in our small churches, but in all! May your hand be felt and followed throughout our Conference.

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

Written by Linda Ozirney - Director of Women's Ministries, BGC Canada

Key Verse:

Hebrews 10:23-25 (NLT), "Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together...but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

Key Thought:

Today, like never before, women are being pulled in many directions. While the traditional roles for most women continue on, many more roles have been added to their lives. There is a constant need to discern what is important and what is urgent.

It can become easy to neglect what God seems to value as important: motivating one another to love and service!

Pray that women today will keep their focus on our faithful God and that they will not only work toward the God-given potential in their own lives, but also encourage others to do the same.

Key Prayer:

Lord, as we pray for the women of our church, we ask that they would have clarity in purpose each day. We pray that their focus will remain on you, the source of their strength, wisdom and power. And we ask that they find and take opportunities to encourage others around them so that the body of Christ (His Church) will be built up for his glory!

Thursday, January 12, 2012

Written by Pastor Matthew Klippenstein - Ness Avenue Baptist, MB

Key Verse:

Matthew 5:8 (NIV), “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

Key Thought:

Maybe it's not the condition of our eyes that makes it seem like God is invisible to us sometimes, but the condition of our hearts.

It is the pure in heart that will see God. The word “see” here is in the future continuous tense, therefore it could read, “shall certainly, continually see God for themselves.”¹ The world also refers to seeing as knowing intimately and experiencing.

So how can we pray, lead, and challenge the younger generation to experience God intimately? If it is their desire to “see” God, we must show them what it looks like to purify our hearts. For many people, this process starts with purifying what is consumed in the media—purifying the TV shows, music, video games, internet searches, movies, books, and magazines that are allowed into our hearts. God's standard of purity is high. Purify our hearts and we will “see” God. We will see him working in our lives, in our hearts, and in our prayers. We will hear his voice, be led by the Spirit and have meaningful life transforming encounters with Jesus our King.

Key Prayer:

Jesus I ask for you to purify the hearts of the young generation. Protect the hearts of the children from the impurity of our society. Give courage and boldness for our youth to live counter-culturally, and give them a deep desire for purity in their hearts so that they will continually see You, experience You, and know You intimately.

¹ Source for Greek translation and quote: www.preceptaustin.org/matthew_58.htm

Friday, January 13, 2012

Written by Pastor Josh Pantoja - The Gathering Church, Edmonton AB

Key Verse:

Matthew 2:13 (NIV), “When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. ‘Get up,’ he said, ‘take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.’”

Key Thought:

We all know that Joseph, Mary and Jesus were granted “immigrant visas” by Arabs in Egypt. Just like the “first family” of the first century, many people today in various countries, including Canada, needed to leave their homes and homelands due to war, violence, oppression, hunger, or economic desperation. We need to ask God that these people will not only find a better life in their new country but also find eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Key Prayer:

Father in Heaven, in the name of Jesus, we pray for those who leave their homes in search for new beginnings and possibilities. May they find a need of a Saviour through Jesus Christ our Lord. May they know your presence with them. In the name of Jesus, we pray and ask that those who seek to make a home in this country, may find us—your children—welcoming and willing to help them in their new endeavours. We pray that our legislators, as they craft new immigration and legislation laws, may find the wisdom and courage to enact new policies that do justice for everyone. We pray that those who fan the flames of fear and discrimination against the undocumented may be touched with your divine compassion. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Saturday, January 14, 2012

Written by Trevor Newton - Board Chair, BGC Canada

Key Verse:

Proverbs 27:17 (NASB), "Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another".

Key Thought:

It has been said, 'that if we win the man to the Lord, we win the whole family!' Men's ministry is of critical importance to the church body and needs to be deeply supported. It is crucial to create and develop an environment that first encourages men to the Lord but also a ministry that teaches, trains, and holds men accountable to the biblical responsibilities they have.

Effective and well-organized mentoring and discipleship programs are an important part of making this happen. Many churches have great outreach programs in Alpha and Freedom Sessions etc., but we must focus also on 'folding our men in' and moving them along in their spiritual journeys.

Both mentoring and discipleship are most effective when we lead by example. This is where "iron sharpens iron" truly occurs. Are you mentoring and discipling others?

In your prayers today, pray for the men who attend your church—not only that they will meet the Lord but also that He will raise up other men to mentor and disciple them.

Key Prayer:

O Lord, help Christian men to lead by example; to be very sensitive to winning men for Christ and to do everything in their power to see that men are "sharpened" by providing them with powerful opportunities for mentoring and discipleship!

Sunday, January 15, 2012

Written by Abe Funk - Abbotsford, BC

Key Verse:

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 (NKJV), "Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, 'Because I bore him in pain.' And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, 'Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!' So God granted him what he requested."

Key Thought:

With likely a poor self image, Jabez, whose name in Hebrew sounds like "pain," was not used to praying big prayers. All that changed the day he called on God to bless him. His prayer was not selfish, nor did he impose conditions. He wanted God's blessing, His hand with him, to keep him safe, and to make him a blessing.

Key Prayer:

"Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" Pray this prayer regularly for yourself and for all of Canada. God will answer your prayer as surely as He did for Jabez.