

21 DAYS

PRAYER & FASTING

DEVOTIONAL & PRAYER GUIDE 2019

**STRETCH
FORTH**

© ASSEMBLIES OF GOD NZ INC

Eastside Estate, 15 Accent Drive, Building 2, East Tamaki 2013, AUCKLAND
PO Box 58067, Botany, Auckland 2163

 Phone: +64 9 265 0063 | Fax: +64 9 265 0171  natsec@agnz.org.nz

 www.agnz.org  VISIT US ON FACEBOOK



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Fast officially begins morning 29th March through until evening 19th April 2019.

The guide for this season of Prayer and Fasting is focused to challenge us to “Stretch Forth”. The set prayer dates for the A/G NZ Movement begins March 29th in the morning and concludes on the evening of April 19th.

Remembering this is a guide, the devotionals and prayer points are there to help to give us focus as a Movement throughout the nation. You are encouraged to make this as personal as possible, as an individual or congregation to focus on the particular needs you identify with. Of great importance throughout this time will be the after effects of the recent massacre in Christchurch (which hadn’t yet happened when all of these devotionals were written for this publication).

Note – Things for pastors or leaders of churches to consider during this fast:

You could use the Sunday services during the fast to focus upon evangelism, healing, miracles or outreach. You could also conclude with a major prayer focused event, or combine with other congregations?

How you observe the fast is entirely up to you as to whether it’s food, media, partial or full. Whichever it is, there will be personal challenges to overcome, yet these are the challenges we are to go through to see both personal and corporate breakthrough. Like David said, “I will not offer to the Lord ...that which costs me nothing” (1 Chronicles 21:24)

I trust your time in this season will be a blessing to you personally and to our nation.

Testimonies: Please do not hesitate to share any answers to prayer during or after the 21 Days which you can connect to this time, do not hesitate to email the A/G national office natsec@agnz.org.nz

Serving the King with you,

PASTOR ROB CLAYTON

A/G NZ, WELLINGTON REGIONAL OVERSEER



DAY 1 - Isaiah 54:1-3

God, through the prophet is challenging the nation out of her barrenness and telling them to enlarge, stretch, lengthen and strengthen. However, the enlarging, stretching, lengthening and strengthening all starts with the breaking out of barrenness and bursting forth into prophetic singing, crying out in prayer and travailing in intercession. There is a power in the prophetic song to birth things in the spirit that which will ultimately affect the natural domain where we live.

When God challenged Job, He asked Job some questions: "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the 'morning stars sang together,' and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" The release of the creative power of God and the stretching out of the lines upon the face of the earth were accompanied by a song.

Hannah, when she was about to bring forth her son sang an ode in prayer saying: "My heart rejoices in the Lord; my horn is exalted in the Lord. I smile at my enemies because I rejoice in Your salvation. No one is holy like the Lord, for there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God...."

Similarly, Mary – about to give birth to Jesus the Saviour, sang a song: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour. For He has regarded the lowly estate of His maidservant; for behold henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me. And holy is His Name...." The birth of Samuel was accompanied by

a song, the birth of Jesus was accompanied by a song and the birth of the first church in Europe was accompanied by a song. Before that the church was confined to the middle east. But when Paul and Silas sang in the jail in Philippi the church moved from the east to Europe and that extension and stretching forth to a new continent came with a song.

For the next 21 days, we as a Movement will commit ourselves to stretching forth our hand to God in a corporate fast. We will do that in the spirit of worship, singing and making melody unto our Lord, rejoicing in God our Saviour, praying, interceding, travailing and enlarging the place of our tent; stretching forth the curtains of our habitations, lengthening our cords, and strengthening our stakes.

I encourage you as a church to participate with all of us in stretching forth your hand to God and to people at this time. Let us believe God for souls to be saved, disciples to be made and the supernatural to happen as Jonathan said to his young armour-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised men. Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few." I wish you and your church well; may the Lord bless you richly and perform miracles in your midst at this time and beyond.



PASTOR ILIAFI ESERA
A/G NZ, GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

DAY 1 PRAYER POINTS

- » Pastors Iliafi & Fia Esera – A/G NZ, General Superintendent
- » Missionaries - KENYA
- » Missionaries - MOZAMBIQUE
- » Government- National and Local



DAY 2 PRAYER POINTS

- » Pastor Terry & Rowena Bradley - A/G NZ, Assistant Superintendent
- » Missionaries – MOZAMBIQUE
- » Missionaries – SOUTH AFRICA
- » Educational Institutes

DAY 2 - Psalm 144:7

'Reach down from on high; rescue me and deliver me from deep waters, from the grasp of foreigners' – the Berean Study Bible.

I recall some years ago, leading an open meeting when someone stood up and said, 'I have something to say'. I knew by the rapid drop in temperature that what was coming was not going to be good for me.

In that brief moment I was able to fire off a quick, 'Oh God, I need Your help right now?' Instantly, like the 'cone of silence' we remember from the Maxwell Smart TV series, God's peace became an impregnable wall of comfort and strength all around me.

Truly God is faithful to His word, protecting us from a rapidly rising tide, and from a spirit that's foreign to His Spirit.

As we embrace the theme of us 'stretching forth' in faith, remember equally, that God Himself is always that present help in time of need. That He wants us to pray and believe for Him to stretch forth His hand and save, over any and all our circumstances. Praise God!

PASTOR TERRY BRADLEY

A/G NZ, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

DAY 3 - Ephesians 1:15-23

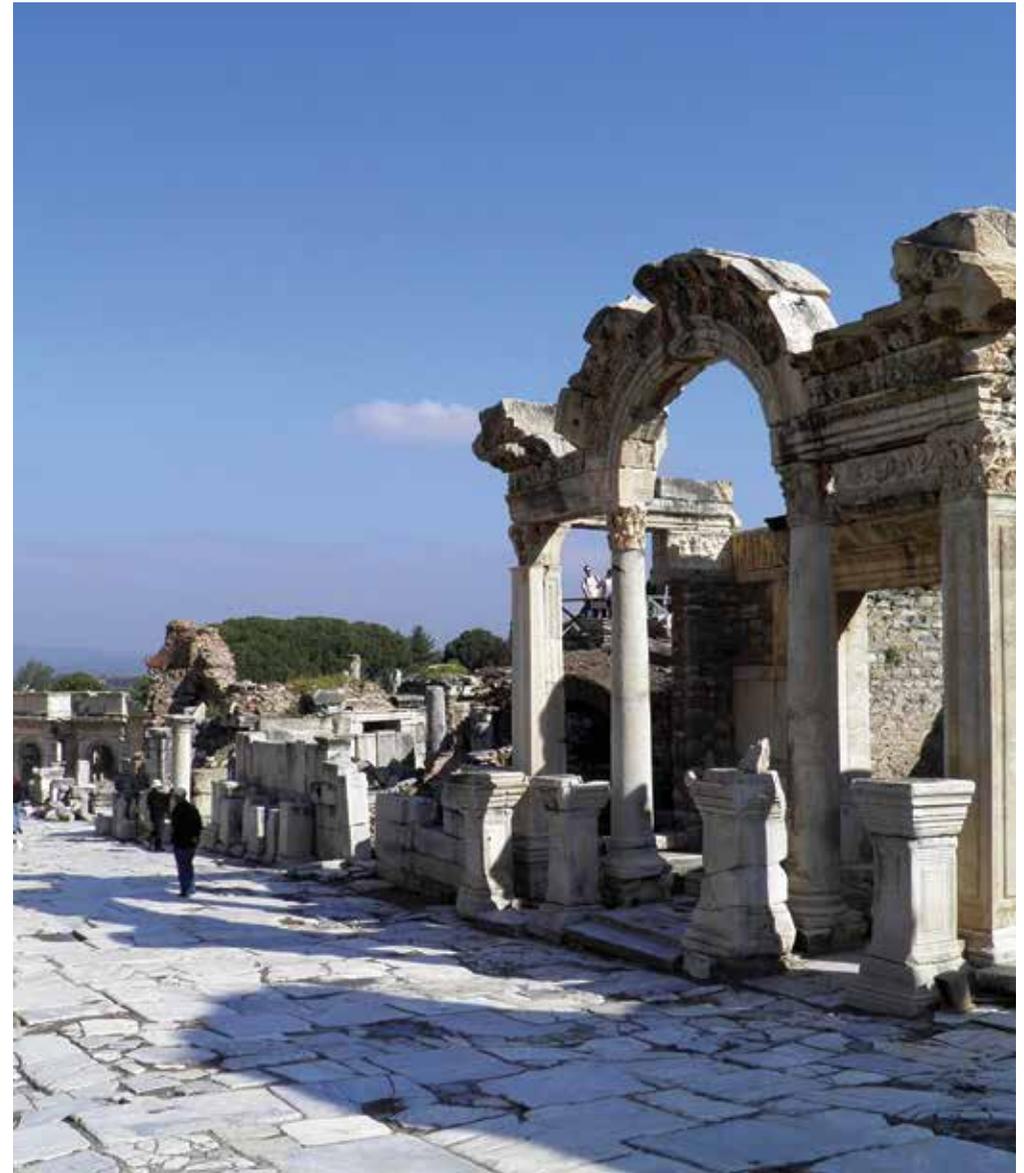
Over the past twenty years I have had the privilege of walking the streets of the great and ancient city of Ephesus about twelve times. Sometimes with groups of pilgrims and at other times just quietly by myself reflecting on the work of the Lord that took place there, through Paul's ministry. It always amazes me how the work of the Holy Spirit was manifested so powerfully in the homes and on the streets that it caused the whole region of Asia Minor to be impacted by the church that was established there.

In verses 15-23 Paul exhorts the Ephesian church and all of us to come to spiritual maturity. This maturity is evidenced not so much by our love for God but by our love for God's people; Love for people is evidence of God's work in our lives.

If we are to know all that we have in Jesus Christ it will take the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit. Paul uses a wonderful expression "that the eyes of your understanding be opened", meaning that the very core of our lives would know God and His ways – the very nature of God Himself. Paul goes on to encourage us to come to understand that we have within us the power of resurrection life. We see an example of this operating when we share the Gospel with someone and they respond with repentance and joy.

Let us rest in the assurance, that Christ is the head of His body, the Church and we are seated with him in heavenly places above every power, might and dominion. Isaiah describes it another way by calling this position a "Highway of Holiness" where no lion or ravenous beasts can travel but only the people of God. (Isaiah 35:8-9)

PASTOR GUTHRIE BOYD,
A/G NZ, EAST COAST REGIONAL OVERSEER



DAY 3 PRAYER POINTS

- » A/G NZ National Office
- » Missionaries – UGANDA
- » Law Enforcement
- » Media



DAY 4 PRAYER POINTS

- » Pastors La'u & Nancy Faletutulu – A/G NZ Executive
- » Missionaries – UGANDA
- » Missionaries – SOUTH AFRICA
- » Local Business Community

DAY 4 - Joshua 8:18

Our past defeats do not have to define our future success. Joshua was prepared to 'Go again' at the Lord's command, even after having just been defeated.

We are being called as a Nation and a movement to 'Go again', we are being called to stretch forth in faith, leaving behind past defeats, discouragements and old ways of doing things, God has given us our Nation.

Its time to 'Go again' time to stretch forth in faith and obedience at the Lord's command.

What is holding you back from stepping out in faith? What is holding you back from going again? Is it because past defeats have begun to define the future? Weariness, fear, hurt?

Stretch forth what is in your hand, for the Lord will give us this Nation.

As you pray today, pray for fresh vision, for fresh faith, then for the faith and obedience to stretch forth what is in your hand and to be prepared to go again.

REBEKAH CHAPMAN

A/G NZ, YOUTH MINISTRY CO-FACILITATOR - WITH HUSBAND JAMIE

DAY 5 - Psalms 68:31

“Envoys will come out of Egypt; Ethiopia will quickly stretch out her hands to God.”

Let’s consider what we long to see in the way of outcomes from our seasons of prayer: a harvest of souls, communities transformed and a nation turned.

We are often reminded that Egypt is figurative of a ‘world’ we have been saved out of and a verse we may quote, ‘we are now representatives of the King, and ambassadors of Christ’ (2 Cor 5:20).

Also, Ethiopia at the time of the prophet’s writing was the ends of the earth as far as nations go. We are familiar too with the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:27-40) whose hunger to know and understand the words of Isaiah he was reading. He quickly stretched out his hands to embrace the Messiah and without hesitation was baptised.

We hear nothing more of this man, but history has a church planted early in Ethiopia (although this remained unknown until a source was found from the 1800’s that mentioned it). This followed on the heels of a great move of God in Samaria and is the hinge pin to the next chapters in Acts which lead to the Gentiles coming into the church.

And now is our opportunity to stretch out our hands in intercession for those who are yet to stretch out their hands to God and become zealous ambassadors of the Kingdom.

PASTOR ROB CLAYTON

A/G NZ, WELLINGTON REGIONAL OVERSEER



DAY 5 PRAYER POINTS

- » Pastor Roy & Maxine Brinck – A/G NZ Executive
- » Missionaries – FRANCE
- » Missionaries – MIDDLE EAST
- » Pastor Peter Taite – Chaplaincy



DAY 6 PRAYER POINTS

- » Pastor Mike & Michelle Coe – A/G NZ Executive
- » Missionaries – TURKEY
- » Missionaries – SOUTH EAST ASIA
- » Missionaries – ASIA
- » Medical field & hospitals

DAY 6 - Exodus 14:16

“As for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, so that the sons of Israel may go through the middle of the sea on dry land.”

“At just the right time, God will bring hope into your present reality and will enable you to step forward from captivity into freedom. God’s desire is always to set captives free!” – The Amplified Bible.

This can be a terrifying process if our focus is on our struggles, the enemy’s plans for our destruction or even the battle itself.

Moses assured these Israelites, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring for you today... the Lord will fight for you need only to be still.”

“Stand firm - be still” calls for trust when it seems impossible to do so! God then gave the command to Moses to raise his staff and to stretch out his hand over the sea to divide the water. Moses’ act of obedient trust demonstrated his faith in God’s power to act at just the right time.

What followed was a huge supernatural phenomenon. A wind drove the sea back; so much so that it banked up to the right and to the left. Then the Lord turned the seabed into dry ground to allow them all to cross safely into freedom. Even as their enemy pursued, the Lord threw them into confusion before the waters were released again.

If through this fast you are praying for a breakthrough in your circumstances, take heart! Jesus is your source of hope and God has a plan for your deliverance in such a way that you will know He has worked a miracle for you.

“Do not be afraid. Stand firm - stand still and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring for you! Stretch out your faith and continue to trust God for the results.

PASTOR PIP BATTEN

A/G NZ, WOMEN’S MINISTRY FACILITATOR

DAY 7 - Exodus 17:10-13

“Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed. But Moses’ hands were heavy. Then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other”. ... “So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek...”

Moses was a man appointed by God, he had power before God and man. Here, literally, the power was in his hand. It was a physical sign that people could see. Moses had learnt to rely upon the anointing that God had placed on his life, to stand up and be the leader he was called to be. To trust God, that He would be with them, as they moved as an army against an adversary of God’s people.

Joshua did what he was trained to do and fought against Amalek. Moses knew there was another part to battle, a more important part. The battle, was to be won by stretching out his hand heavenward. He stretched it out over the encounter.

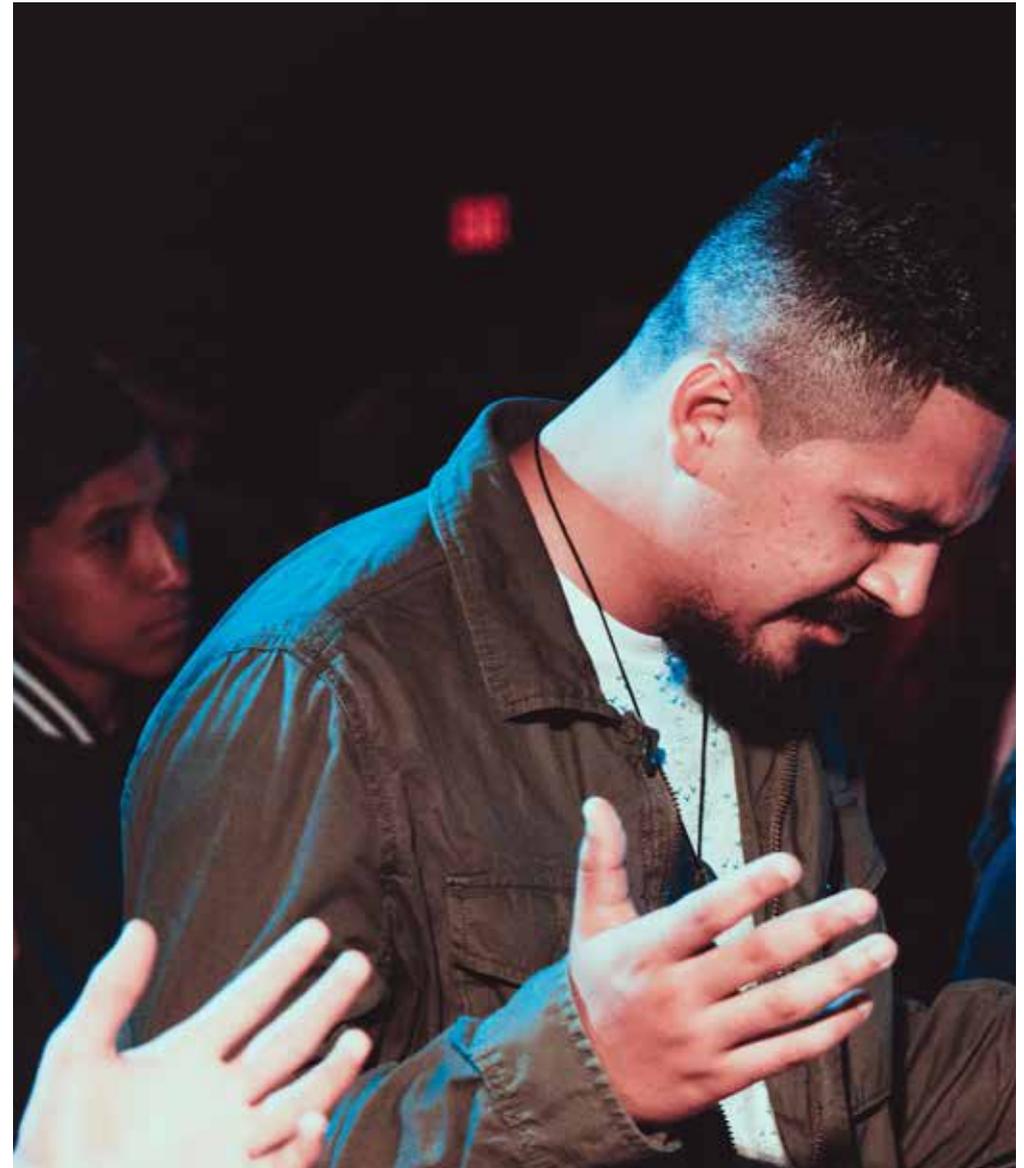
He trusted and believed in God for victory. And so it was, when he moved properly in the authority that God had given him, the battle went in their favour and Israel prevailed.

As we can see however, Moses – the great leader, required support to function as a man of God. Much is said of leadership these days, not so much about a leader’s dependence on effective prayer support.

Let us as leaders depend on supportive prayer hands, and all of us pray for leaders in our churches and in the Assemblies of God movement.

PASTOR DENNIS ACRAMAN

A/G NZ, BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL OVERSEER



DAY 7 PRAYER POINTS

- » Pastors Mina & Dennis Acraman – A/G NZ Executive
- » Pastors Jamie & Rebekah Chapman – A/G NZ, National Youth Facilitators
- » Missionaries – ASIA/ENGLAND
- » Missionaries – THAILAND



DAY 8 PRAYER POINTS

- » Pastors Pat & Margie Lamborn – A/G NZ Executive
- » Pastor Sunitha Kandregula – A/G NZ, National Children’s Ministry Facilitator
- » Missionaries – ASIA
- » Missionaries – SINGAPORE

DAY 8 - Ephesians 3:14-21

In the book of Ephesians, Paul is encouraging the church to hold not only to the truth of the gospel but reminding them that they are empowered to live out this gospel that impacts every facet of our lives; our marriages, parenting, friendships, work ethic and our attitude towards others.

To do this we need to be dependent on the life-giving power of the Spirit, God himself taken up residence in our lives! To be people who are not shaped *by* but are shapers *of* the environments we find ourselves in, to be ambassadors of Kingdom culture, stretching forth with love, gentleness, generosity, respect and truth to a world that defaults to comfort, shrinks back at the cost of sacrificial love and is too driven by the lust for ‘more’ to live a life of generosity.

Whatever God is calling you to step out in this year, we must remember Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians. He prayed that they would know the full empowerment of the Spirit, that they as a community would have a revelation of the depth and breadth of His love that surpasses knowledge and circumstance. Then he finishes with that famous verse...

Ephesians 3:20-21 NIV, ‘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, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen’.

In 2019 let’s not focus on the size of the obstacles, to be obedient to the call to stretch forth, let’s focus on the faithfulness, power and character of the One who called us!

PASTOR MIKE COE
A/G NZ EXECUTIVE

DAY 9 - Matthew 12:10-13

'And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him (Jesus), saying, Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath days? That they might accuse him....Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other.' – King James Version.

Here is a great account of Jesus healing right in the middle of a contentious religious atmosphere. The Pharisees were casting a suspicious eye on the proceedings. He could have felt awkward, embarrassed about his infirmity, but that did not stop him! There was something about Jesus that stirred his faith, he responded to the voice of the great healer from Galilee and was made whole. It seems, that when it is time to stretch out spiritually, there are nay-sayers. They await judgmentally to question acts of faith, even when you are vindicated they still mutter under their breath.

It's not just that we need to ignore them, but to hear and focus on the exciting words that come from Jesus our Saviour. He calls us out to walk on water, to go to the ends of the earth and to bring healing to the lives of men and women. We may feel our potential in our present situation is limited, even withered, but with the Master's word of encouragement to; "stretch out your hand" we are healed of our limitations.

Do you have something in your life/world that seems lifeless, dried up? Realise that feelings of uselessness and despair are potential infirmities. Jesus does not only give the command to "stretch out" but he also releases the ability to fulfill his instructions. All that was required of the man was to put forth his hand. So give over to God whatever impossible situation you have, no matter how difficult it is and watch how Christ will bring healing to it.

PASTOR MINA ACRAMAN

A/G NZ EXECUTIVE



DAY 9 PRAYER POINTS

- » Pastors Sanjai & Sunitha Kandregula – A/G NZ Executive
- » Pastor Geoff Wiklund – A/G NZ, National Men's Ministry Facilitator
- » Missions World Outreach
- » Missionaries – JAPAN
- » Missionaries – SOUTH EAST ASIA



DAY 10 PRAYER POINTS

- » Pastor Pip Batten – A/G NZ, National Women’s Ministry Facilitator
- » Pastor Mina Acraman – A/G NZ, Maori Ministry - Te Haerenga (Waananga/Hui)
- » Pastor Shaun Foster – A/G NZ, Northland Regional Overseer
- » Missionaries – PHILIPPINES
- » Other churches in your area

DAY 10 - Psalm 118:16

The LORD’s right hand is lifted high;
The LORD’s right hand has done mighty things.

Each of us have moments when we could allow ourselves to be overcome by anxiety, fear or discouragement. I am so thankful for the prayers of old that have been recorded as models for us during these times.

The writer of Psalm 118 had enemies that surrounded him on every side (v11), that swarmed around him like bees (v12), and yet he was not afraid because God was with him. He was able to declare that he will look in triumph on his enemies (v7).

Even while still not completely free of his troubles (see v 25), this leader exhorts his people to worship and thank God for the freedom that he, and thus they, have experienced. His troubles were too great for him, yet he was able to cut his enemies off because of his God whose right hand was lifted high on his behalf. His God is a mighty warrior who came to his rescue. He sings, “give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever”.

We can freely pray this psalm because we know that God has given us this same victory in Christ. We might feel hard pressed, but our God is good to us, he is faithful in his love and he will bring us to a place of freedom and victory. His right hand is extended for you and me. Come to his altar today and thank him for his faithfulness and love towards you.

PASTOR MARGIE LAMBORN

A/G NZ, SOUTH ISLAND (CENTRAL) REGIONAL OVERSEER

DAY 11 - Acts 10:13-15

“Rise Peter; kill and eat... “What God has cleansed, you must call common”

In this account of the church’s stretching forth to the gentile world, it involved an angel, a vision, with the Lord Himself speaking to Peter and the Spirit’s command to Peter... “Arise therefore, go down with them – doubting nothing; for I have sent them.”

Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria had been reached, the Ethiopian eunuch was on his way and the ends of the earth were starting to be reached. But it needed the leadership of the church to be fully behind this next move of God. It would involve Peter needing to be stretched in his thinking and the rest of the church too.

We read in Acts 11, Peter had to make clear to the leadership in Jerusalem this was a work of the Spirit. It didn’t end there either. We know in Acts 15, this encounter with the Lord would need to be recalled, convincing the leadership this was indeed a move of God. This is not something which happened overnight! We read the chapters in moments, but the outworking of this took years.

Even with such powerful encounters there is still the need to be stretched in both thinking and activity. It shows us something of the complexity of leading through times of change.

An important aspect to consider for transitions and changes – be it personal or corporate, and why those in leadership need and covet our prayer.

PASTOR ROB CLAYTON

A/G NZ, WELLINGTON REGIONAL OVERSEER



DAY 11 PRAYER POINTS

- » Pastor Graham Davidson – A/G NZ, Auckland Regional Overseer
- » Your Pastor/s and leadership
- » Missionaries – PHILIPPINES
- » Missionaries – INDONESIA



DAY 12 PRAYER POINTS

- » Pastor Peter Coventry – A/G NZ, Waikato Region Regional Overseer
- » Pastor La'u Faletutulu – A/G NZ, Samoan Churches Overseer
- » Missionaries – INDONESIA
- » Missionaries – FIJI
- » Pastor John & Linda Watson – Missions pastoral support

DAY 12 - Exodus 7:5

“And the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it”.

The Lord's deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt was the most celebrated demonstration of His power and faithfulness towards his people. Every Passover they remembered again what the Lord accomplished by His mighty power. Not only were their oppressors' gods shown to be powerless before the true God, but the Israelites literally came out with the treasures of Egypt.

The Mighty God keeps his promises!

The 'god of this age' has been defeated by our Christ. He disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross (Col 2:15). Our awesome God now always leads us in triumphal procession (2 Co 2:14). Here the Apostle Paul is using the imagery of the Roman Triumph, where the victorious General would enter the city at the head of the parade with the defeated enemies trailing him in chains – a public spectacle for all to see.

Our enemy, Satan, is defeated and even now as we submit ourselves to God and resist the devil he must flee (James 4:7).

We pray with confidence in our Mighty God whose intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In Him and through faith in Him, we may approach God with freedom and confidence (Ephesians 3:10).

PASTOR PAT LAMBORN

A/G NZ EXECUTIVE

DAY 13 - Isaiah 42:9

“Behold, the former things have come to pass and new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

God’s heart is for us and He reminds us from Genesis to Revelation that He wants to reveal His heart to us in so many ways and to join Him on a faith journey, discovering new things allowing Him to work new things into us.

I encourage you to be open to God’s new thing in your life. It may stretch you, but we need to be reminded that He can be trusted. Stretching is good because that is when we grow and discover that we can rely on His word, His promises and that even through disappointment, suffering or loss He is always able to work it for good (Romans 8: 28).

Just think on the many examples in scripture where God has reminded us that the journey just gets better and in fact Jesus said that he came that we might have a rich and satisfying life. He seems to delight in doing new things, different things, not always the ‘same old,’ but often the unexpected things and yes, even sometimes painful things to shape us and teach us to be open to change!

Solomon spoke of new delights as well as old. Ezekiel said I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. Jesus said “we teachers ought to always be able to bring forth out of our storehouse treasures new and old.” Paul spoke of how much more glorious is the ‘new’ way.

Ultimately God says: “Behold I make everything new!”

The ‘old’ is good, but the ‘new’ is even better!

PASTOR ROSS FERGUSON

A/G NZ, SOUTH ISLAND (NORTH) REGIONAL OVERSEER



DAY 13 PRAYER POINTS

- » Pastor Dennis Acraman – A/G NZ, Bay of Plenty Regional Overseer
- » Pastor Selwyn Long – A/G NZ, South Island (South) Regional Overseer
- » Church planting and initiatives
- » Ministries within your churches



DAY 14 PRAYER POINTS

- » Pastor Margie Lamborn – A/G NZ, South Island (Central) Regional Overseer
- » Pastor Guthrie Boyd – A/G NZ, East Coast Regional Overseer
- » Pastor David Kim – A/G NZ, Korean Churches Overseer
- » Renewed Evangelism throughout our churches

DAY 14 - Matthew 9, Mark 5, Luke 8

In Matthew 9, Mark 5 and Luke 8 we find the account of the woman with the issue of blood. Being a woman myself I can't help but feel for her plight. 12 years with an issue of blood that had effectively ostracised her from her family, friends and community as she was regarded as 'unclean'. No doubt they were 12 very long and lonely years and with the amount of blood loss she would have suffered over those years, she would have been weak and spent. Spent of money, spent of doctor's advice, spent on dealing with an issue that in today's Western society would not have left her feeling unclean, this woman was desperate.

She has the thought 'if I can but touch the hem of his robe I will be made whole'. Jesus, on his way to heal Jairus' daughter, was surrounded by crowds of people and this would be no easy task to get to him. Just by brushing past others she would have made them unclean. She stretched out her hand for a miracle, touched his robe and received full healing. Jesus, feeling that touch amongst the throngs of people, stopped to confront this woman and upon *hearing* her faith, He declared publicly that she was healed and made whole.

For Jesus there was always time for a miracle – despite the urgency of reaching Jairus' daughter. *He* was not made unclean by this woman, rather by her touch he made *her* clean. Her arms were stretched out in faith for a miracle of healing and with that healing came true wholeness, not just to her physical body.

You might be desperate for a miracle today, you might be weak and spent with whatever you are facing for yourself or others around you. Today, stretch out your arms to Jesus, to the hem of his robe, to the One who can bring wholeness. Stretch out in faith today!

NAOMI OLIVE

A/G NZ, EMPOWERED MAGAZINE EDITOR

DAY 15 - Philippians 3:12-14

“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus”.

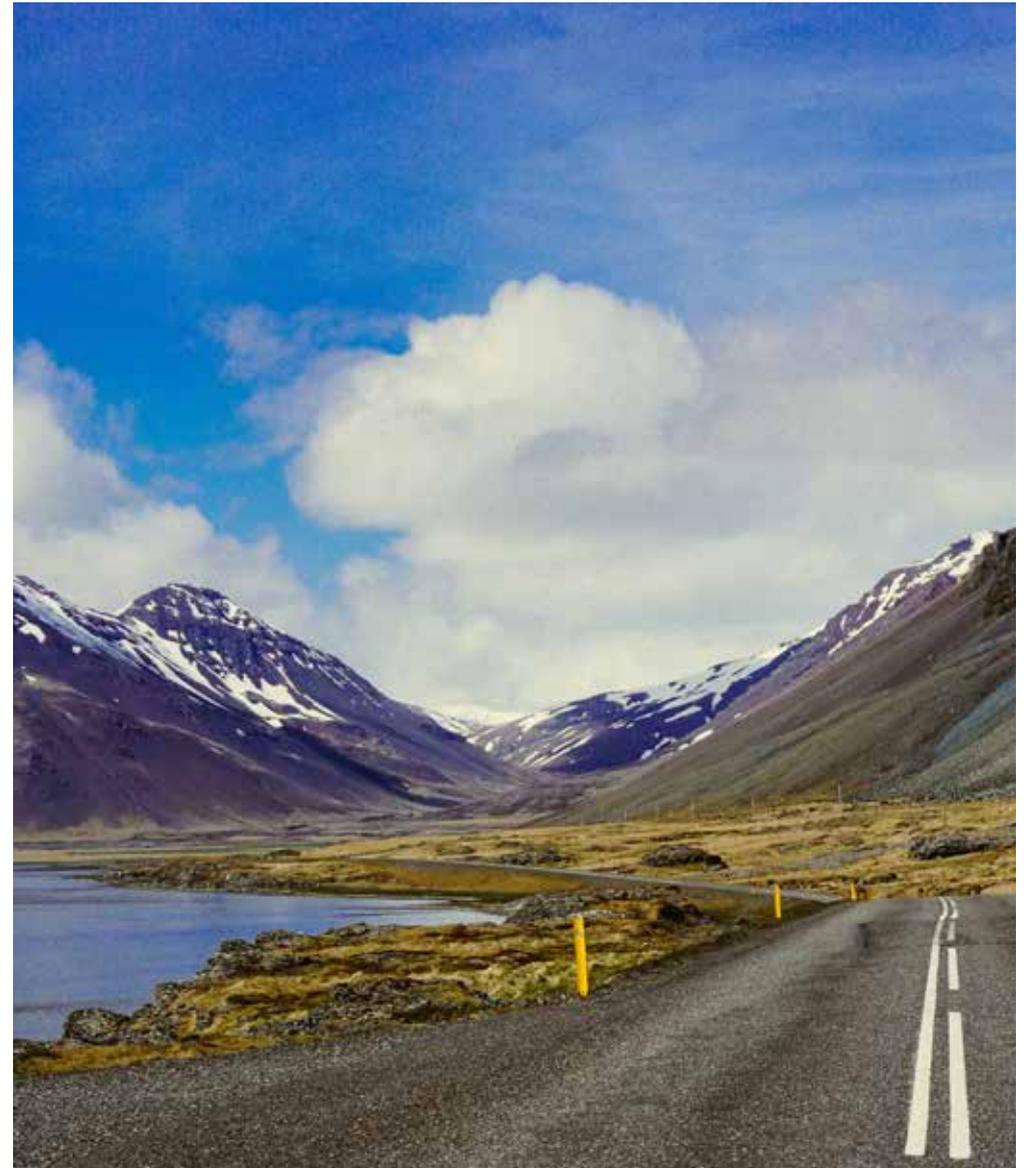
Vision is an amazing thing! When you have clarity about the pathway ahead of you, it enables you to move ahead with a certain ease and confidence. But to have vision means that we need to forget what is behind in order to reach for what is ahead.

Have you ever wondered why the rear-view mirror in your car is so much smaller than your windscreen? It's because most of your attention needs to be looking forward, with just an occasional glance backward. Imagine the disaster that would await if you drove your car looking at the rear-view mirror 90% of the time! Our life journey is just the same. Paul is encouraging us in these verses to live future oriented lives rather than living in the past, brooding on regrets and lost opportunities.

But he's also encouraging us to be journey oriented rather than just destination oriented. Remember this: we will not reach our goal or receive our prize until we are in heaven. In the meantime, we have a lot of journey to complete. It's OK to still be on the journey. It's OK to have not reached perfection. But when you are clear about your destination and you've settled it with yourself to live for Jesus and His Kingdom, every day becomes a day closer to the goal. Every day means progress. Every day is filled with purpose as you take hold of that for which Christ has taken hold of you. Press on today! Don't let apparent failures take you off course. Keep looking forward and don't give up.

PASTOR RUSSELL WILLIAMS

A/G NZ, WEST COAST (NORTH IS.) REGIONAL OVERSEER



DAY 7 PRAYER POINTS

- » Pastors Mina & Dennis Acraman – A/G NZ Executive
- » Pastors Jamie & Rebekah Chapman – A/G NZ, National Youth Facilitators
- » Missionaries – ASIA/ENGLAND
- » Missionaries – THAILAND
- »



DAY 16 PRAYER POINTS

- » Pastor Rob Clayton – A/G N/Z, Wellington Regional Overseer
- » Pastor Mina Acraman – A/G NZ, Indian Churches Overseer
- » Pastor Jiosefa Waqa – A/G NZ, Fijian Churches Overseer
- » Ministry in Schools CEC
- » Retired Ministers

DAY 16 - Isaiah 43:19

Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it?
I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert.

When God says “I will do a NEW THING” in your life. Guess what? It will be a new thing. A new thing is something that you haven’t seen before in your life. If you haven’t seen it before, you can’t prepare properly for it. So, how do we prepare for the new thing?

Firstly, God does give an indication of what it would be by what he has done in the lives of other people. Look at those lives. Read through the Bible.

Secondly, you need to trust the one who has promised, just take a look at God’s track record.

Thirdly, learn to walk in faith. Take steps as He guides to you on this journey.

Finally, if you believe that God has promised you a ‘new thing’ stretch forth and receive by faith as you have no idea where and how He is going to bring this ‘new thing’ to pass in your life.

Do not limit God by your past or your present, but let your imagination go wild with expectation in God. Ephesians 3:20 says ‘God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around, but by working within us, His Spirit deeply and gently within us’. (Message Bible)

PASTOR SANJAI KANDREGULA

A/G NZ EXECUTIVE

DAY 17 - Ecclesiastes 9:10a

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might;...

I have had the opportunity to build my daughter and son-in-law's house and it involved getting myself re-licensed. Although already a qualified builder, I had left the trade to pastor full-time during which new regulations & processes came in.

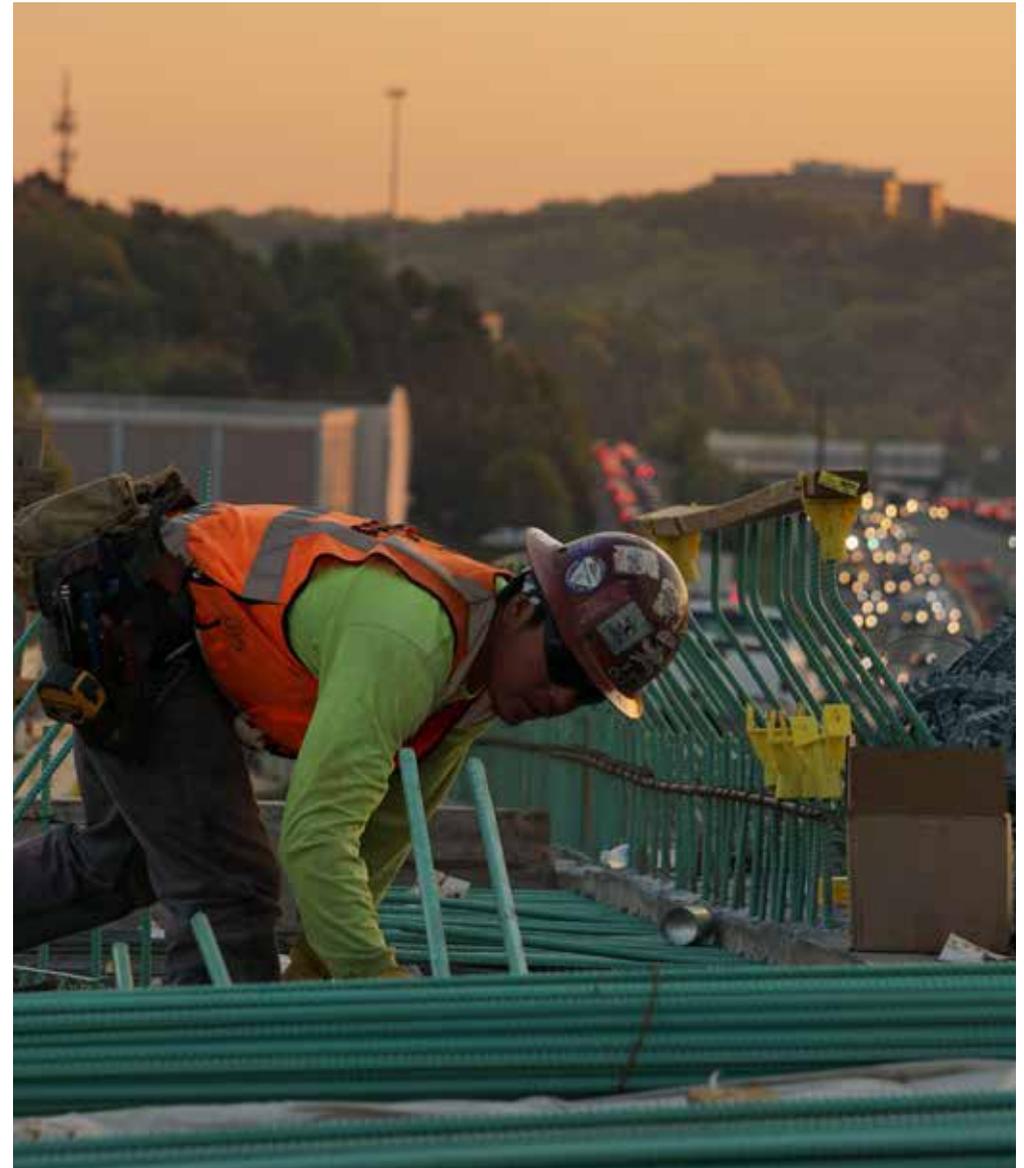
While I had the knowledge and skills, my body initially responded with protest as unused muscles ached and tried to tell me I'm getting too old for this. However, in the stretching and the now more consistent movement, the might has mostly returned. It has involved laying down some aspects of the day to day running of the church though – my wife and co-pastor, Kaye has taken on more. This has been a stretching few months with a couple more still to go. Though I know there is grace from God to meet the stretch and the challenges in taking on this project.

Paul wrote "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ". (Col 3:23-24)

Many of you may be experiencing challenges in your employment, business or church. You may be stretched to the max with the pressure on, yet the Lord is the supplier of grace to enable you. Remember too, the stringed instruments produce the best music under tension.

PASTOR ROB CLAYTON

A/G NZ, WELLINGTON REGIONAL OVERSEER



DAY 17 PRAYER POINTS

- » A/G NZ Missions Vision (particularly unreached people)
- » Regional initiatives in missions, outreach
- » Ministers in training
- » A/G NZ Vision: Make Disciples – Build Churches – Influence Nations



DAY 18 PRAYER POINTS

- » Provision for missions - local, regional, national and international
- » Emerging leaders within our churches
- » Growth in our churches
- » A/G NZ Mission: Reach – Renew – Relate – Resource

DAY 18 - Luke 10:30-37

The parable of the good Samaritan - have a read, refresh yourself. Like many other parables – and intentionally so, we find ourselves in the story. In this text, which one are you? I don't imagine you're in with the 'bandits' whom attacked the Jewish man, but maybe you were saved from a bandit lifestyle?

Perhaps you resonate with the priest or the Temple assistant who came close, but then moved away on purpose. We would all like to think we are the Samaritan whom came along and got down on his hands and knees to soothe the man of his ailments. He took him to accommodation, paid his bill and offered to pick up any expenses (Luke 10:35). What a hero!

Sometimes we only like to think the best of ourselves, that all of our intentions lead to great and mighty deeds. After all, we're followers of Christ! But we need only to look at ourselves through the mirror of this Samaritan parable to get a true reflection.

It's almost certain that we've all had times of being the Samaritan, and most Christians purpose in their hearts to do good deeds according to God's will. Sometimes, we just get too busy though. Sometimes, it looks like dirty work, hard work or that it might invite persecution to reach out to someone who we believe won't respond well. I know myself I often fall into the last category.

It's time to 'enlarge the place [faith] of your tent, stretch your tent [faith] curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes' (Isaiah 54:2). Let's not forget who our encourager is – Almighty God Himself. His Holy Spirit empowers and guides us to stretch out our hands to strangers and to bring food, clothing and hope in Christ to those in need.

Reach out to the lost, hurt or hungry and you could change which character you are in the modern day version of the good Samaritan parable.

AMANDA MINOT

GRAPHICS & COMMUNICATIONS, RISK CHURCH, WELLINGTON

DAY 19 - Mark 7:24-30

Desperate circumstances avail us the privilege to summon necessary faith from within, causing us to 'stretch forth' beyond our normal reach to see the miracle needed from Jesus.

This impressive woman, driven by her daughters life-threatening need, excelled with determined faith. Firstly, she had to find Jesus when He didn't want to be found. Secondly, once she'd found Him, she had to persevere with her request even when He was silent towards her.

Thirdly, she had to defend her worthiness to receive her request when Jesus tried to deter her, a non-Jew, with a bias typically used by Jewish males of that day.

You see, Jesus just couldn't resist to draw out of this woman the faith He detected in her! And His provocation did just that! She received a glowing commendation from Him along with her request being granted.

Do you feel the stretch of faith? Is Jesus hard to find, as if He's hiding from you? Is He silent when you are desperate for Him to say something? Do you struggle with identity and worth when bringing your requests to Him?

Be assured that faith has been gifted to you, dear one. That He sees within you an unlimited depth of investment placed by the Holy Spirit – of which, He just can't resist to draw forth, even with provocation.

Stretch forth with great faith!

PASTOR KAYE CLAYTON
RISK CHURCH, WELLINGTON



DAY 19 PRAYER POINTS

- » Increase of gifts operating in both the church and market place
- » Bi-vocational pastors
- » The release of both seasoned and new ministers to new areas of ministry
- » Those serving in your local church in a voluntary capacity
- » A/G NZ Message: Faith – Hope – Love



DAY 20 PRAYER POINTS

- » Recognition and releasing of gifts in your congregations
- » The Persecuted Church throughout the world
- » Renewed evangelistic ministry throughout our nation
- » A/G NZ Culture: Vibrant – Empowering – Relevant
- »

DAY 20 - Acts 4:30

“...By stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant, Jesus.”

I like the way the Passion Translation puts this: Stretch out your hand of power through us to heal, and to move in signs and wonders by the name of your holy Son, Jesus!”

The cry is for God to move through us for healing, signs and wonders through His name to honour the Father. I am grateful to be a part of a Pentecostal Church that believes this is for every believer.

Here are some thoughts...

Ask: We need to ask for opportunities. They will then come.

Act: Just yesterday I helped a lady and ended up praying for her and her helper. Be a bit bold.

Alert: Jesus did many of His miracles along the way to somewhere else. We need to be alert to what the Holy Spirit is doing and follow His prompting.

Always ready: I sadly missed an opportunity the other day. My fault. May not get another chance with that person. So be ready to pounce “we owe those we meet an encounter with God” – Bill Johnson

Available: Some things look too big for us. If they did not require faith, they would not require God. Be available for Him to work through you. Every day I let God know I am the clay. I pray “You centre me in Your will and make me what you want to be”.

I am available.

PASTOR GEOFF WIKLUND

A/G NZ, MEN'S MINISTRY FACILITATOR

DAY 21 - Proverbs 31:19

“She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hand holds the spindle”

The account of the virtuous woman seems a strange verse to conclude this season of prayer and fasting. However, using this verse in the context of us being the Bride of Christ it makes a little more sense.

This is now the time for action, work, taking up the challenges put forth from the writers of the devotionals, to be industrious about the Father’s business. Take hold of those things God has given you: family, work, ministry and as we are challenged to do as a Movement ‘stretching forth’. It involves faith, with action, an expectation of God doing what He said He would do “Go... I will be with you even to the end of the age”.

May we see a release of labourers, a harvest of souls the rest of this year, and the maturing of believers.

We are empowered by the Spirit, we have available the gifts of the Spirit, and the Word of God – our distaff and spindle.

Let us make full use of these in this season of our lives, churches and nation, whatever lies before us, taking every opportunity to represent the King.

PASTOR ROB CLAYTON

A/G NZ, WELLINGTON REGIONAL OVERSEER



DAY 21 PRAYER POINTS

- » The fulfillment of God’s promises to you personally and corporately
- » Boldness to speak the Word
- » Increase of the gifts, utterance, power and insight
- » A great sensitivity to the person and work of the Holy Spirit upon and through you