



# **The Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia**

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**WEEK OF PRAYER 2023 (AND BEYOND!)**



***16TH -23RD JULY 2023***

**C&MA**

**LOCAL CHURCH**

**YOURSELF**

**C&MA of Australia**

- Pray for the health and growth of C&MA Australia. Pray we would be on mission to everyone, everywhere, all the time.
- Pray for peace for President Ken Graham and his wife Merle as Ken is often travelling and has a heavy workload.
- Pray for National Board Members and National Office Staff.

**Pastors and workers**

- Pray for guidance, anointing and blessing over the pastors and workers as they lead us.
- Ask God to protect and strengthen their family.
- Pray for God's provision for them, that they can continue to serve faithfully and fully.

**Seek guidance for the week**

- Ask that God would help you to commit to prayer this week.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance.
- Seek God for discipline and focus.

**Verses to read**

- Romans 8:26-28
- Matthew 26:40-41

**Your Reflection:**

**C&MA**

**LOCAL CHURCH**

**YOURSELF**

**National Ministries**

- Pray for AIM (the Alliance Institute for Mission) and our partnership with ACOM. Pray for AIM Director, Rev Dr Peter Laughlin.
- Pray for Rev Dr On Wong in his role as Director of Alliance Youth. Pray for Pastor Dr Roy Barton, Director of Outreach.
- Pray for ACACC (Chinese) and AVACC (Vietnamese) leaders and Area Coordinators and. Pray for wisdom in their roles.
- Pray for National Church Governance Coordinator Rev Aman Gupta.

**Elders and Deacons**

- Pray for guidance and for protection for our Elders, Deacons and their families.
- Ask God to reveal His will for the church to them.
- Pray for unity as they make decisions and guide us.

**"Search me, O God"**

- Allow God to search you and show you anything that you need to deal with.
- Confess your sin to God audibly and specifically.
- Commit to reconcile relationships and make restitution if necessary.

**Verses to read**

- Psalm 139 (especially v. 23-24)
- Jeremiah 16:17
- Psalm 19:12
- 1 John 1
- Matthew 5:23-24

**Your Reflection:**

**C&MA**

**LOCAL CHURCH**

**YOURSELF**

**International workers**

- Pray for Pastor Kim Chau in Cambodia. Pray as she works with local leadership and seeks God in how to best make disciples and reach her neighbours.
- Pray for Pastor Susanna Tse. Pray for her continued strength spiritually and physically, challenges serving at Phuket. Pray for all her Thai and Chinese friends who join her fellowship & gatherings will be followed up by Christians before she left Phuket for her home assignment in mid August.
- Pray for Rev Dr Daniel and Mrs Mary Shayesteh. Pray for the Exodus from Darkness (EFD) ministry that reaches out to Muslims around the world.
- Pray for Rev Dr Chris and Mrs Amy Luthy for their ministry in the Seminary and ministry in discipleship and church planting.

**Prayer Ministry**

- Praise God for our team of prayer warriors.
- Pray for growth in church prayer meetings.
- Pray that corporate prayer would be more of a priority and culture at the church.
- Praise God for answering our prayers this past year!

**Victory over sin**

- Pray you would experience victory over sin in your life. Pray for God-inspired strategies so you can maintain victory and walk in freedom.
- Pray for ongoing transformation in your life.
- Seek supernatural help and discipline to think on what is pure and right.

**Verses to read**

- Matthew 5:29-30
- 2 Kings 13:18-19
- Philippians 4:8

**Your Reflection:**

**C&MA**

**LOCAL CHURCH**

**YOURSELF**

**International workers**

- Pray for the ministry that Yakim and Grace have left behind in East Africa when they returned to Australia in June 23, that it may bear much kingdom fruit in the long-term. Pray also for their sharing times at many churches this year, and for the new mentoring and mobilisation role that they are moving into.
- Pray for the Blanchards as they continue to lead the team in discipleship of Jesus as well as in creative and media skills.
- Pray for Gary and Jayne for opportunities to share Jesus with others no matter where they are.
- Pray for Hailey Fung preparing for returning to the field.

**Mission and Health**

- Pray for a move of the Holy Spirit in our people, that we would be effective in ministering to one another, and those in our communities.
- Pray for wisdom, willingness and open doors in our community outreach.
- Pray for those who are sick or going through difficult times.
- Pray for God's power and presence at the church.

**Freedom**

- Pray for the witness of the Spirit to your spirit.
- Pray against the work of Satan and his spiritual forces of wickedness.
- Pray through to peace and joy.

**Verses to read**

- Acts 24:16
- 1 Timothy 1:19, 3:9
- Hebrews 9:9-14
- Titus 2:13-14, 3:5
- Romans 8:15-16
- Ephesians 6:10
- 1 Peter 1:8
- Romans 14:17-18

**Your Reflection:**

**C&MA**

**LOCAL CHURCH**

**YOURSELF**

**International workers**

- Pray for the Moreels for wisdom and strength sharing the gospel with people from North Africa.
- Pray for Rev Andrew and Mrs Kerry Vallance, Pastor Greg and Mrs Carol Stubbs for their faithful serving Aboriginal and Indigenous communities.
- Pray for Eoghan & Brigitte as they rest and recuperate after a very busy season in preparing for the AWF Theological Symposium and AWF Emerald Region Conference. The Alliance Church of All Nations (CAN) Network project and that it will play a major role in advancing God's Kingdom as we seek to create communities that bring together people from all nations and cultures

**Kids Church and Youth Group**

- Pray for effectiveness and unity in the ministry teams. Pray for guidance and the Spirit's empowerment.
- Please pray for our children! Pray they would grow up to be people who love and serve Jesus.
- Pray for positive interaction with parents from communities, and for their salvation - pray they'd become connected with the church.

**Pray for Balance**

- Pray for balance in your responsibilities: school/work life, family, church and rest.
- Pray you would shine your light in these places.
- Seek God about any behavioural or attitude changes He may want you to make in these areas.

**Verses to read**

- Matthew 5:1-16
- Galatians 6:4-5
- 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12
- 2 Thessalonians 3:7-13.

**Your Reflection:**

C&MA	LOCAL CHURCH	YOURSELF
<p><b>Church plants &amp; Alliance projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for continued provision for missions and church plants through our regular giving to the Great Commission Fund ( Faith Promise).</li> <li>• Pray for international Alliance Projects we support including Fiji Alliance Churches, Disaster and Covid Relief Projects AWF etc.</li> <li>• Pray for campus reach-out ministry and International Students Ministry in Australia</li> </ul>	<p><b>Church Family</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray we would be united and empowered by the power of the Holy Spirit.</li> <li>• Ask God to make us a praying church, that we'd see prayer as our primary work.</li> <li>• Pray we'd be a people committed to being Christlike, having integrity and constantly growing.</li> <li>• Pray that love would abound.</li> <li>• Pray that our gaze would be fixed firmly on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pray for more love</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray your love would increase - not just your emotions, but your actions, especially toward your Christian brothers and sisters.</li> <li>• Pray you'd see your church as your loved family.</li> <li>• Desire and seek spiritual gifts to minister to your church family in greater power.</li> </ul> <p><b>Verses to read</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13, 4:9-10</li> <li>• 1 Corinthians 14:1</li> <li>• Galatians 3:5</li> </ul>

**Your Reflection:**

**C&MA**

**LOCAL CHURCH**

**YOUSELF**

**All C&MA Churches**

- Pray that individual churches would identify with, embody and be true to C&MA values and DNA.
- Pray for the multi-ethnic congregations, and more than 5,200+ worshipping members around the nation.

**Women's and Men's Ministry**

- Pray for guidance and direction as these ministries continue to change and adapt.
- Pray for deepened relationships and continued growth in attendance.

**Pray for your Ministry**

- Pray for a desire and hunger to study and learn God's Word.
- Pray for the ability to be faithful to the work God's called you to.
- Pray you would reach your full potential in Christ.
- Pray you'd be filled with the Holy Spirit so you have power to do His work.

**Verses to read**

- Matthew 25:14-30
- Acts 4:23-31
- 2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17

**Your Reflection:**



**C&MA**

**LOCAL CHURCH**

**YOU**

**Alliance Worldwide**

- Pray for C&MA worldwide, AWF, and AWF APAC (Asia Pacific Alliance Churches) Region. Pray for Ken Graham for his role as Regional Coordinator of AWF APAC.
- Pray for continued provision for missions and church plants through the Faith Promise.
- Pray God would raise up the next generation of Alliance workers ready to take the Good News to all the earth.

**Small Groups**

- Thank God for the role our groups play in discipling us and providing community.
- Pray for more people to join a group of people with whom to do life and faith.

**Give Thanks**

- Pray for a grateful heart and buoyant spirit, joy, kindness, and a gentle tongue.
- Ask God to open your eyes, and reflect on your blessings.

**Verses to read**

- Nehemiah 8:10
- Philippians 4:4-7
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17
- Hebrews 13:15

**Your Reflection:**

## USING THE LORD'S PRAYER AS A GUIDE

Matthew 6: 9-13.

### **Our Father in heaven**

- Check-up: is He my Spiritual Father? See John 1:12.
- Thank Him for our relationship as His children. See 1 John 3:1.
- Thank Him for His perfect love and care for us as our Heavenly Father

### **Hallowed be your name**

- Pray generally that God would be honoured
- Praise God's name, character and deeds
- Examine your life – does it honour God?

### **Your kingdom come**

- Reflect on His reign (both now – by choice; future – enforced)
- Pray about your focus – on you or on Him?
- Pray for personal subjection to Jesus' reign
- Pray that Jesus would reign in the lives of others

### **Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven**

- Pray and consider our earthly rebellion
- Pray for specific obedience
- Pray for those fighting to bring Jesus' reign into specific places/areas
- Pray for yourself, areas of your life and influence

### **Give us today our daily bread**

- Pray and reflect on God as the Provider for His children's needs
- Pray for today's needs
- Pray for focus on today's needs and trust for future needs

### **Forgive us our debts**

- Confess your transgressions – where have you crossed the boundaries?
- Confess your shortcomings – where have you fallen short?
- Commit to reconciling any broken relationships
- Give thanks for the cross

### **As we also have forgiven our debtors**

- Confess any bitterness and resentment and work through to forgiveness
- Focus on personal debt and the greatness of God's grace to you

### **And lead us not into temptation**

- Acknowledge your own vulnerability (see 1 Corinthians 10:13)
- Pray for providential avoidance of tempting situations
- Pray for grace to minimize and power to overcome temptation

### **But deliver us from the Evil One**

- Acknowledge the spiritual battle
- Pray and examine areas of enslavement- am I trapped by evil?
- Pray for deliverance from demonic influence

# FASTING

## **Fasting defined**

Fasting is the act of deliberately missing out on food, or other things such as technology, to focus on prayer.

## **The challenge!**

Join the Church family and fast for one day this week. You may choose to fast for just one meal, for a day, or to fast from technology or something else. Use the time you gain to pray for the work of the C&MA and for our church and selves in a focused and united way.

*... But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*  
Matthew 6:16-18

## **Why fast?**

### **1. To deal with special times and needs**

'When you fast' implies that fasting is for special times and needs. God has made us to eat- he is not into asceticism (see Colossians 2). We must be willing to set aside the time, and to humble and discipline ourselves. Prayer is never convenient, and in our hyped-up world is very inconvenient. Fasting in special times of need is common in Scripture. Eg. Moses (Exodus 34:28), Samuel (1 Samuel 7:6), Nehemiah (Nehemiah 12:43), Paul (Acts 13:1-2). Fasting enables us to focus on one thing by dedicating time to it.

### **2. To increase our seriousness**

Fasting emphasizes our request. It both makes us serious and shows our seriousness. James (James 5:17) says the fervent prayer of faith accomplishes much. Fasting helps us to be fervent and specific and to really seek and expect God to answer. The Scriptures say that without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Fasting frees up time and calls for discipline and sacrifice.

### **3. To symbolize and encourage poverty of spirit**

Fasting humbles us before God. Fasting is a discipline that demands that we are not controlled by the flesh with its emotions and desires, but by the Spirit. It helps us to learn discipline and self-control to resist and stand against the deceitful ways of the world, the flesh and the Devil. Denying the body food puts us in the mindset to deny our sinful nature. See Psalm 35:13.

### **4. To see answers**

"Your Father... will reward you." Hebrews 11:6 reads "... must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him". Jesus says here that God will reward you if you fast and pray to Him. The reward is not salvation but answered prayer. Eg. Nineveh (Jonah 3:10). As sinners, we can easily turn this into pride, which is why Jesus teaches about this. When we fast to make a show to people – their praise will be our only reward. When we humble ourselves before God and seek His face and His ways and bring Spirit-led prayer to Him, He will reward us through answered prayer.

AND THIS GOSPEL OF  
THE KINGDOM WILL BE  
PREACHED IN THE  
WHOLE WORLD AS A  
TESTIMONY TO ALL  
NATIONS, AND THEN  
THE END WILL COME.

MATTHEW 24:14