



# Anglican Network in Canada

## First Friday of the Month Call to Prayer May 2015

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 ESV

Welcome to our May 2015 First Friday Call to Prayer. Our aim is to provide you with teaching that we trust will enhance your prayer experience and will be an encouragement to you. We will also provide you with praise items and prayer requests from within ANiC, ACNA and the Anglican Communion.

We encourage you to set aside **the first Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**, as a day of prayer and fasting for the Church in these critical days, ideally gathering with other believers in your parish or region for corporate prayer at some point in the day.

### Prayer Quotes

*“Shall I give you yet another reason why you should pray? I have preached my very heart out. I could not say any more than I have said. Will not your prayers accomplish that which my preaching fails to do? Is it not likely that the Church has been putting forth its preaching hand but not its praying hand? Oh dear friends! Let us agonize in prayer.”*

*Charles Spurgeon (1834 1892)*

The following article by Tim Challies was posted on his [very helpful blog](#) on March 26, 2015. Tim is a pastor at Grace Fellowship Church in Toronto and co-founder of Cruciform Press. He would describe himself as a protestant, reformed, evangelical Christian. In this article, Tim gives us insight into prayer from [Matthew Henry](#) (1662-1714), author of the well-known six volume Complete Commentary on the entire Bible.

Garth V. Hunt+

## How to Pray All Day

by Tim Challies

“*Pray without ceasing*,” Paul says. Simple words, but a seemingly impossible challenge. How can you be expected to pray all the time? In chapter 54 of their work *A Puritan Theology*, Joel Beeke and Mark Jones dive deep into Matthew Henry’s great book *A Method for Prayer* to distil what he says about the importance of praying through all of life’s circumstances. As it turns out, there is no great trick to it. What follows is at times transcribed and at times adapted from *A Puritan Theology*.

### BEGIN EVERY DAY WITH GOD

Henry writes, “*It is our wisdom and duty to begin every day with God.*” You always have something to talk to God about. He is a dear friend, so it is a pleasure to know him personally and to walk with him intimately. He is also Lord over you and over everything that touches your life. Shall a servant not talk to his master? Shall a dependent not talk to his provider? Shall one in danger not converse with his defender?

Let no obstacle hinder you from coming to God. Though God is in heaven, he will hear your cries from the depths. Though God be fearsome, he grants believers the Spirit of adoption to

have freedom with him. Yes, God already knows what you need, but he requires your prayers for his glory and to fit you to receive mercy. Though you are busy with many things, only one thing is necessary: To walk with God in peace and love. So for that reason you ought to begin each day with God.

Why should you dedicate morning hours to God? Because God deserves your best and not just the day's leftovers when you are tired and worn. For many or most of us, the best hours are the earliest hours. Not only that but, as Henry wrote, "*In the morning we are most free from company and business, so we should give him fresh thanksgivings and fresh meditations on his beauties. In the morning as we prepare for the work of the day, let us commit it all to God.*" Begin every day with him, and give him the best part of your day.

### **SPEND EVERY DAY WITH GOD**

You need to begin the day with God, but you also need to spend the day with God. In his explanation of Psalm 25:5 ("*for you I wait all the day long*"), Henry explains that this involves a patient expectation of God to come at his time, and it involves a constant attendance upon the Lord in the duties of personal worship.

The Christian's constant attendance upon God throughout the day is captured in the phrase "*to wait upon the Lord.*" Henry said, "*To wait upon God is to live a life of desire towards him, delight in him, dependence on him, and devotedness to him.*" Constant dependence is the attitude of a child toward his father in whom he trusts and on whom he casts all of his cares. This waiting on the Lord is something you can do every day, and not just the days you gather for public worship. You do it in private worship, in family worship, and in corporate worship.

Wherever you go or whatever you do each day, search for abundant reasons for prayer and praise. As James wrote, if you are sad, then pray to God; if you are happy, then sing praises to God (James 5:13). That covers all of life.

### **CLOSE EVERY DAY WITH GOD**

Just as you begin your days with God, and spend your days with God, you should also close your days with God. Henry insists that you may end each day in contentment only because you have the Lord as our God. "*Let this still every storm, command and create a calm in thy soul. Having God to be our God in covenant, we have enough; we have all. And though the gracious soul still desires more of God, it never desires more than God; in him it reposes itself with a perfect complacency; in him it is at home, it is at rest.*"

When you lay down to rest at night, Henry advises you to lie down with thanksgiving to God. You should briefly review his mercies and deliverances at the end of each day. "*Every bit we eat, and every drop we drink, is mercy; every step we take, and every breath we draw, mercy.*" You should be thankful for nighttime as God's provision for your rest, for a place to lay your head, and for the healthy of body and peace of mind which allows you to sleep. You can lay down and sleep in peace, resting your soul upon the intercession of Christ to grant you peace with God, and forgiving your fellow men of all their offenses against you so that your heart may be at peace with God and man.

Begin the day with God. Spend the day with God. Close the day with God. "*This life of communion with God, and constant attendance upon him, is a heaven upon earth.*" Indeed.

## Thoughts on Revival Prayer – The Five Priorities

Bishop Charlie Masters' cross-Canada tour is now completed. Visiting every region where there are currently ANiC parishes has been the Bishop's means of introducing his Five Ministry Priorities to our congregations, priorities which he first presented to ANiC Synod in November 2014. His heartfelt desire is that we would "pray that God will make these five priorities **a transformational reality** in the life of every ANiC congregation."

In order to keep them prayerfully before us, we will feature one of the five priorities each month in this box as a visual reminder to pray fervently for these urgent concerns. Last month, we began with **Bold Witnesses**. Here is our prayer for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Priority:

### 2. BIBLICALLY GROUNDED

"It is my hope and intention that every congregation will work very hard at helping every member of the congregation be more involved in the Bible so that our Biblical literacy grows and we are fully able 'to rightly handle the word of truth.'"  
+Charlie's 2014 Charge to Synod

*Heavenly Father, we ask you to give us a renewed love and passion for your word, the Bible. We are guilty of taking it for granted, and for leaving real knowledge of its teaching to the "experts"; the theologians and clergy. And yet, it is a gift to each of your children; the means by which we grow in our love for you and the means by which you protect us from sin and error. Forgive us for our neglect and lethargy. Give us spiritual eyes with which to read and understand your word. Establish discipline in each of us such that we may take care to feed our souls as well as we feed our bodies. Grant to the leadership team around this priority the wisdom to supply our preachers with the best possible training and tools for their weekly sermon preparation, and to provide resources to help each parish member to become better grounded in your word. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen*

### Praise God ...

- **That He reigns supreme.** Despite the chaos and evil in the world, God is working out His purposes for His glory and our good!
- **That He rose from the dead on the first Easter**, and brings resurrection life to each believer!
- For the **incredible gift** that God has given us in prayer – immediate access to our Father at any time of day or night. Thank Him for the incredible privilege of participating with him through prayer in his grand redemption plan.
- For **faithful Anglican primates, bishops, clergy and laity** – throughout the Communion – who are standing for truth even when their stand for Christ and His Word makes them targets of attack.

### Confess if needed...

- Our **sacrificing our needed intimate time with the Lord** for the sake of busyness, sometimes even ministry busyness.

### Please pray...

- For our primate **Archbishop Foley Beach** (& Allison) - Pray for great wisdom, courage and strength as he gives leadership to our province. May God glorify Himself through the ACNA.
- For **Bishop Charlie Masters** (& Judy) – Pray for our diocesan bishop as he leads ANiC. May God grant him vision, spiritual protection, and spiritual and physical renewal.
- For **Bishop Don Harvey** (& Trudy) – Pray for Bishop Don in his roles as ANiC's episcopal vicar and senior chaplain to the ACNA College of Bishops.
- For **ANiC's suffragan bishops**: Stephen Leung (& Nona) and Trevor Walters (& Dede). Pray for discernment, energy and grace as they care for their clergy and congregations. Also pray for Bishops Ron Ferris (church planting in Langley, BC) and Malcolm Harding (retired in Brandon, MB).
- For our **Archdeacons**: the Venerables Ron Corcoran (Vancouver Island), Dan Gifford (BC), Bruce Chamberlayne (Alberta & BC Interior), Paul Charbonneau (Ontario), Tim Parent (Ottawa Valley),

Paul Crossland (Prairies), Michael McKinnon (New England, USA), and Darrell Critch (Atlantic Region & Quebec) – and our Dean of Multicultural Ministries, the Very Rev Dr Archie Pell.

- For all **ANiC clergy** and families, especially those experiencing spiritual and physical attack.
- For the **ANiC congregations** that have lost their places of worship and are meeting in temporary facilities. May God comfort and pour out His blessing on them, giving them solid hope for the future.
- For the **Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada (ARDFC)** as it raises funds to drill three deep wells to provide clean and safe water for communities in the Diocese of Wau, South Sudan. Pray also for peace in that troubled country.
- For **Canon Andrew White** and his ministry team in the Middle East. Pray for courage, safety and the provision of basic needs for them and the people that they serve.
- For **those who serve us and are in authority over us** – our police forces, our armed forces, our emergency responders, our municipal elected officials, our provincial MLAs, MPPs and premiers, and our federal MPs and Prime Minister.
- For **God's wisdom for world's leaders** with regard to the Ukraine, Syria, Iraq and other troubled nations. Pray that the evil one's agenda for violence, hatred and bloodshed would be averted.
- Pray for **protection of innocent civilians** – adults and children – who so often are the victims in today's warfare. Pray especially for the many Middle East and African Christians who are brutally persecuted for their refusal to renounce their faith in Jesus.