

PRAYER BULLETIN

JANUARY 2019



INDONESIAN REFORMED
EVANGELICAL CHURCH
TORONTO

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Dear IRECT,

I hope this prayer guide encourages you this month and the whole year. Join us in praying eagerly for a mighty movement of God's Spirit today, thankful that He has graciously promised to hear us, and confident that He will answer our prayers according to His will.

*In Christ,
Pastor Agus*

Prayer Quotes:

“Prayer is the only entryway into genuine self-knowledge. It is also the main way we experience deep change – the reordering of our loves. Prayer is how God gives us so many of the unimaginable things he has for us. Indeed, prayer makes it safe for God to give us many of the things we most desire. It is the way we know God; the way we finally treat God as God. Prayer is simply the key to everything we need to do and be in life.” – Timothy Keller

“If you believe in prayer at all, expect God to hear you. If you do not expect, you will not have. God will not hear you unless you believe He will hear you; but if you believe He will, He will be as good as your faith.” – Charles Spurgeon

January 1st

“He who abides in Me, and I in Him, he bears much fruit; for apart from me you can do nothing.” – John 15:5

Pray for the Lord to search for your spiritual pride. The only way to walk in love with God and others is to have a heart of humility; that only by grace we are saved. Jesus did not have a prideful heart that looks down on others, instead he had compassion when he saw us; criminals, beggars, Pharisees. Pray toward an unwavering desire to abide and depend on the Lord for everything. The spirit is in us if our hearts desire is to bear fruit, however God says the only way to bear fruit is if we abide in him daily in his word and through sincere prayer.

January 2nd

“You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.” – James 4:2-3

Pray for the Holy Spirit to search you for the wrong motives in prayer. God knows the desires of our hearts for financial security, health, a loving husband/wife, successful children, yet he says seek his kingdom first and put his will before ours. He wants us to trust that he will provide for his children, and we should not worry about anything and only focus on our relationship with Him. Pray for faithfulness and discipline in your personal prayer life. God slowly changes the heart of his people so that what he desires is what we desire.

January 3rd

*“And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.” –
John 17:11*

Pray that the Lord would reveal inconsistencies with your walk and your talk. Our words are meaningless if our heart and our action do not stand behind them. When we say we love people, yet we don't even care to spend time with them and get to know them without any hidden agendas. Jesus hated hypocrisy, and He is not fooled no matter how good we are of an actor. Ask the Lord to renew and empower your prayer life through cleansing, repentance and holiness. Jesus loved people, he hated sin and yet he loved sinners and are always found living among them, rebuking those who he loves.

January 4th

*“He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day.” –
Psalm 91:4-5*

Praise God for his great mercy in calling you to himself and allowing you to participate in his work here in Canada. When work gets hard, don't forget how lucky we are compared to those who are working in developing countries, barely making ends meet. Thank him for being the source of all wisdom and discernment that guides your daily work. Thank him for sending us on a mission into diverse industries and work environments that we may declare his glories to the world through our labour.

January 5th

“You... shall talk of [God's commandments] when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” – Deuteronomy 6:7

Pray that you would be willing to speak God's Word to the people in your life and that God would supply opportunities to do so. If we sincerely pray for the opportunity to preach the gospel to the people whom we love, our friends and family who have yet to know Jesus' love, he will answer. Continually dwell in scripture so that when people ask for reason of the hope that is in us, we can give it to them in love and gentleness.

January 6th

“Pray then like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...’” – Matthew 6:9-10

Pray for spiritual leaders to recognize the great need for spiritual awakening. If we open our hearts and our eyes, we can see how much evil, greed, suffering, pain and confusion there are in this world. We cannot continue to be partial and passive Christians who only goes to Sunday service and bible study without a desire to be a light in this dark world. Pray diligently for believers everywhere to awaken to God’s call to return to Him and pray toward His Kingdom coming and His will being done on earth as it is in heaven.

January 7th

“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.” – John 17:6

Ask the Father to show you unfinished steps of obedience. The devil will try to convince us that we’re good enough Christians, after all we’re not criminals or alcoholics, and most importantly we’re already saved. It is God who works in us to will and to act in order to fulfill his purpose. Our lives are meant to be a daily offering to the Lord, by our loves towards our neighbour the world may see that we are His people. Pray that Christ will forgive and cleanse your heart and help you finish strong your mission.

January 8th

“Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence.” – Isaiah 64:1

Pray for God to use your passion for prayer, His Word and worship to ignite a revival. Does our personal life as well as our church currently reflect how people

in the early church live? They were known for their selfless love for one another, for the poor, sick, and lonely which reflected Jesus' love for them. Pray for our young men and women to have a passion for awakening so that, while they have their strength and youth, they don't waste it all on empty worldly desires, rather exhort themselves to be a blessing to others in all that they do.

January 9th

"I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do." – John 17:4

Ask the Father to show you things you need to die to so that His Kingdom may come through your life. Be thankful of how God loves us and uses us to be a blessing to this world while we are sinners. God will transform our hearts to hate the strongest of sins which we may feel is inescapable, to the smallest of them which we currently tolerate. There is great joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than ninety-nine righteous people who needs no repentance. God's love is bigger than however many times we fall. Pray for the Father to be glorified as you surrender to His will in your daily life.

January 10th

"And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it..." – John 17:26

Ask the Father to give you a greater desire and burden to see people saved. If we truly believe that Jesus is the only way, how would we feel if when he comes, people whom we love are not yet in him. Paul exhorted every ounce of energy loving as much people as he could because it made him sick to the core thinking about how if they die not belonging to Christ, they're lost forever. Pray for the Lord to send witnesses into His harvest fields in Canada. In this culturally diverse community, where the truth is whatever everyone personally believes in, we know that outside of Christ, all is empty, we are called to declare this truth to our friends with sincere love and gentleness.

January 11th

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...”
– John 3:16*

Ask the Father to give you His love for the lost. When Jesus was tempted to bring judgement upon a woman who committed adultery, he said: those of you who are without sin, let them cast the first stone. Even though we were still sinners Jesus died for us, and is patiently waiting for us to repent, if we are truly His, we should have the same love for those who are not in him. Pray that the Father will awaken our church to lostness in our community. Let us be the light and salt of in the midst of this dark and tasteless world so they see Christ as the light that is in us.

January 12th

“He must increase, but I must decrease.” – John 3:30

As you pray, concentrate on the character of Jesus Christ, and ask the Father to make you more like Him. In our Christian journey, we are like clay in the hands of a potter, God will change us from our sinful state, little by little to become more like him through the sufferings and joys of our lives. Pray that the church in Canada will become like Jesus. There are churches around us that have strayed and fallen to change their theologies to fit into the inclusive and relative beliefs of Canadian culture. Churches have to stand firm on the word of the bible in order to be channels of salvation in wherever they are.

January 13th

“Seek first the Kingdom of God...” – Matthew 6:33

Pray that your priorities in life will reflect Christ’s priorities. Those who are born again does the works for the kingdom of God joyfully because it is also the desire

of their heart. Ask the Father to allow you to be a vessel through which His Kingdom can come in people's lives.

January 14th

"The battle is the Lord's..." – 1 Samuel 17:47

Pray for believers to not grow weary in asking for revival and awakening. Often times when we serve God in our ministry at church, in interacting with our friends and family, we may feel the burden of trying to change people's hearts and meaningfully impacting them by our own efforts. The power to win people's hearts is God's and God's alone, and all he asks of us is to trust and be obedient to him by doing our best. Ask the Lord for a great dependence on His ability to revitalize the church in Canada.

January 15th

*"The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." –
James 5:16*

Ask the Lord to give you tears in prayer over your sin and the condition of the church in your community. Confessing our sins is one of the ways we humble ourselves before God. God calls us to humble ourselves when we come to him in prayer as we are sinners who are saved by his grace and mercy alone. Our hearts should break when we think of how undeserving we are of his grace over the cruel sinful things we've done in our lives. Pray for the Lord to raise up fervent, righteous prayer leaders in Canada.

January 16th

*"Let us lay aside every...sin that so easily entangles us..." –
Hebrews 12:1*

Ask the Father to show you the sins that so easily entangle you and then lay them aside today. The things which we love more than God are the things we idolize and are often the sin which we are easily entangled to. Pray for a vibrant walk with Christ and wisdom to recognize and resist Satan's temptations. Satan tempts us through the things which we love to indulge in, things that makes us feel good outside of Christ, things that seems innocent until it consumes us.

January 17th

"Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints." – Ephesians 1:18

Pray that you would know the riches of your salvation in Christ and that your family would too. Our salvation did not come from money, gold or silver offerings, rather blood that is spilled and flesh that is torn apart. The meaning of sin is to miss the mark of God's standard, and the bible says that no one does good in the sight of the Lord, no one, not even one. Outside of Christ's salvation nothing can change our sinful hearts and we are all doomed for his wrath.

January 18th

"One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple." – Psalm 27:4

Ask God to deepen your devotional life. Pray that God would meet you in your daily prayer and speak to you through his Word. Pray that God would help you to be prayerful and attentive to him throughout your day, paying attention to his love for you and how he is sending you to love others. Pray that you would experience him more fully in the liturgy of Sunday worship, the Lord's Supper, and in the preaching of his Word. Christianity is based on God's desire to re-establish the intimate love relationship that was lost when we fell into sin. God desires us to spend time with him, as a father desire their children to tell them about their

day, their joys, their troubles and for us to listen to what he has to say. Seek him earnestly and sincerely, and he will answer.

January 19th

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.” – Matthew 5:14

Pray that your local church’s good works would shine as a light to your community. The early churches were known for their love for one another, expressed through sharing each other’s possessions as well as taking care of the poor, sick and lonely. Like them our church is called to do the same, regardless of where we are, we’re ought not to only sit comfortably at church, rather serving others in our daily lives.

January 20th

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” – 2 Timothy 3:14-15

Pray for the children and youth in GTA. Pray that God would help each of them to know and experience their identity as beloved children of God. Pray for the orphans of our city and world. Pray that each of them would know the love of their Heavenly Father and find a home both in an adoptive family and the family of the Church. Pray for the Children’s Ministry at IRECT. Pray that the teachers and assistants would have the wisdom and discernment to serve the children well and pray that the children would learn to become joyful followers of Jesus.

January 21st

“Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!” – 1 Chronicles 16:28

Pray that your nation would abandon its idols and worship the one true God. As great a country Canada is, we can still see brokenness everywhere we go as we see our friends, coworkers and family members spending their lives chasing after the wind, idolizing wealth, power, status, and other temporary happiness that leads to emptiness, pain and suffering. Only Jesus' love is big enough to free us all from the idols that seems so attractive at times, yet we know only bring utter destruction to our hearts.

January 22nd

“At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ.” – Colossians 4:3

Pray that God would provide opportunities for the gospel to penetrate unreached people groups. All authority and power of changing people's hearts belongs to Jesus. If we long to be fruitful and sincerely pray for opportunities to be used as a vessel to declare his gospel, God will be with us.

January 23rd

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” – Matthew 28:19-20

Pray that the church around the world would not be content simply with making converts but would strive to make disciples. Pray that God opens our hearts and see how great the need is for us to go and make disciples, showing younger

believers how we live and how we follow Christ in our lives. Jesus felt compassion when he looked around and saw how many people are suffering, lost and confused, he said that the harvest is plenty, but the workers are few.

January 24th

“But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children.”

– Psalm 103:17

Pray for those in your immediate family. For what do they need prayer? If any do not know Christ, pray that they would come to know him. Ask God to reveal to you if there are members of your family whom you can come alongside and encourage in their faith. If so, pray that God would reveal them to you and give you the words, wisdom and compassion to share.

January 25th

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” – Romans

12:2

Pray that you and your family would be transformed by the renewal of the mind according to the Word of God. Pray that God humble our hearts when we struggle to accept and understand his word. Pray that he never let us be slothful in reading and meditating on his word and that we truly see how we can’t live by bread alone, but also by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

January 26th

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” – Acts 1:8

Pray for the global church: for church planters, evangelists, and persecuted Christians. Pray for evangelistic efforts throughout GTA: that the whole body of believers would experience personal gospel renewal and that many others would also come to know Christ.

January 27th

They dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also." – Acts 17:6

Pray that your nation would be turned upside down and changed through the preaching of the biblical gospel. Pray that God would raise up Christians who are willing to go to the ends of the earth, to the most out-of-the-way places in order to proclaim the gospel to those who haven't heard it.

January 28th

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise." – Proverbs 11:30

Pray that Christians would be faithful in obeying Jesus' command to love our neighbors especially through hospitality, kindness and gospel witness. Pray for spiritual thirst that would draw people to churches in their neighborhood. Pray that many new people would become followers of Jesus.

January 29th

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" – Acts 20:35

Confess the ways that you despair and complain over specific areas of brokenness in your work, rather than taking your laments to the God who worked both in creation and in a carpenter's shop. Ask God to give you eyes to see the ways his Spirit may be at work in those seemingly hopeless situations, empowering you to be an agent of renewal in your workplace.

January 30th

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” – 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Pray for three of your friends by name. For what do they need prayer? If any do not know Christ, pray that they would come to know him. Ask God to reveal to you if there are any friends you can encourage in their faith. Pray that He would reveal them to you and give you the words, wisdom and compassion to share. Pray that God would make you a loving, encouraging and hospitable friend that is quick to listen and extend compassion.

January 31st

“When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” – John 19:30

Confess the ways that you look to your work to be the source of your identity and give you things that only God can provide. Pray that you will hear the voice of the God who calls, and that you might work knowing your identity is rooted in the finished work of Christ.

*Our Father in heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
And forgive our debts
As we also have forgiven our debtors
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom
the power
And the glory
For ever and ever
Amen*

Matthew 6:9-13