

A CALL TO PRAY AND FAST

JESUS WEEK

Kimberley finds itself in unprecedented and exciting times. More than thirty local churches have united to fulfil the Great Commission of Jesus Christ (*Matthew 28:18 – 19*) in our city. In partnership with CFAN (Christ For All Nations), the united Church in Kimberley aims to train about 50 evangelists at a Fire Camp from 14 to 19 October. The week following, 21 – 26 October, multiple pop-up crusades will be held in public venues, followed by mass crusades at AR Abass stadium from Wednesday evening. The Body of Christ in Kimberley is trusting the Lord for the harvest of souls to be gathered in a mighty way.

As part of the preparation for Jesus Week, we are calling on all Christians in Kimberley and surrounding areas to unite in prayer and fasting. This will be done by a 24-hour / 7 days-a-week prayer chain from 1 to 21 October. More details are to follow in the HOW section, but first the WHY.

WHY PRAY AND FAST?

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,
⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
(1 Timothy 2:1, 3-4)*

It is good and pleasing to God when we pray for all people, because His desire is that all in Kimberley will know the truth of Jesus Christ and be saved. Prayer and fasting and go hand-in-hand.

*“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.”
Isaiah 58:6-8*

Praying for all people in our city to be transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of Light will be supported by a fast to loose the bonds of wickedness at work in Kimberley. Our desire is to see the Light of God's Kingdom break forth over our city.

Fasting may be uncharted territory for some of us, but be assured that fasting is not only an Old Testament practice. Jesus Himself fasted (*Matthew 4 and Luke 4*), and He also gave His disciples instructions on how to fast, WHEN (not if) they fast (*Matthew 6:16-18*). Jesus makes the statement that His disciples will fast in the day when the Bridegroom is taken away (*Mark 2:18-20*), and the disciples did indeed fast! (See *Acts 13:1-3, Acts 14:23, & 2 Corinthians 6:4-7*). Fast forward 2000 years and we are still disciples of Jesus Christ. It is important to note that we do not fast to achieve righteousness – Jesus took care of that through His death on the cross and resurrection. But we do fast to please our Bridegroom, grow in our relationship with Him, and to align ourselves with His purposes.

WHEN?

The fast will be from 1 to 21 October 2024 (21 days).

WHAT?

Commit to set aside more time to study the Word of God, **pray**, and intercede for what the Lord wants to do in Kimberley through Jesus Week. A prayer and fasting community will be formed for further encouragement and accountability (see the HOW section).

Prayerfully determine what to **fast** during the 21-day period. **Food fast** examples include: to eat only fruits vegetables, whole grains, nuts, etc; to eat only one meal a day; fasting a meal a day; or maybe just fasting certain foods (or treats) that form part of your usual diet. Your **soul fast** can include: to abstain from or limiting social media; to limit or abstain from TV time; and/or to fast from negative speech, judgement, criticism, and complaining.

HOW?

Once you have made the commitment to pray and determined the nature of your fast, join the “**Jesus Week 21DAY 24SEVEN**” group on WhatsApp by clicking on the link provided. Encouragement and guidelines for our corporate time of prayer and fasting will be provided daily.

The 24-hour/7 days-a-week prayer chain will be set up by breaking up the 24-hour day into 8 x 3-hour prayer-watch times. You will be asked to commit to at least one of these prayer watches. You are not expected to pray for the full three hours of the watch, but just to pray somewhere in that timeslot and then give feedback on the group that you have done so. This is to create accountability, momentum and unity between those who have committed to pray and intercede for Jesus Week.

Further specifics will be posted on the group. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Hannelize (083 272 4561). Looking forward to pray and fast with you!