



House of Prayer

My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations. Mk 11:17

Update January 2024

The Power of Unleavened Prayer (Ac. 12:1-19) by Jervis K. Djokoto (Dir. Church Health)

As early as Acts 12:1-3, not so many years after Jesus' crucifixion, King Herod stretched out his icy hands and vexed the church. He killed James, the brother of John. Then, when he (Herod) saw that this pleased jealous religious leaders, he proceeded to arrest Peter too. However, in verse 3, there is a peculiar memorandum inserted in parentheses. It says, "*These were the days of unleavened bread.*" At first glance, this insertion may seem random, but it has many lessons for us today. And I believe it sets the stage for the miraculous events that follow in the text.

The text goes on to describe an Angel bursting into the prison cells and rescuing Peter. It may seem unbelievable, but before this miraculous event, verse 5 also mentions that "*earnest prayer to God for him was being offered by the assembly.*"

The festival of unleavened bread holds deep significance for the Jewish Christians. It serves as a faith-filled reenactment, reminding them of their exodus from Egypt (Deut.16:3). This rescue, they now knew, foreshadowed the ultimate exodus to be experienced through Christ Jesus from a greater pharaoh, Satan himself and the world and systems that oppress God's people. Therefore, the celebration in Acts 12 must have reminded these Jewish Christians of their liberation from oppression, the forgiveness of sins, and renewal through Christ, the ultimate Paschal lamb. All these themes, I believe, were present in the Acts 12 story, but the power that unleashes all its benefits was corporate prayer.

Wesley's interpretation aligns with the essence of unleavened living – perfect love. Quoting 1 Thess. 5:16-17, Wesley once described perfect love as "*rejoicing always, **praying without ceasing**, and giving thanks in all circumstances.*" (John Wesley, Sermon 43.) The Wesleyan perspective on continuous prayer, intertwined with the symbolism of unleavened living, illuminates the transformative power of prayer in the Christian journey. This, I believe, is precisely what happens in the Acts 12 story.

Large-scale spiritual renewal will never occur until people start praying. However, the foundation of prayer must be grounded in Christ, making it not only a story of perfect love that saves but also of uncorrupted prayer that brings about change.

For a full-length version of this devotional please go to:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1l-FwQXfPH99tou-ilzG6rUeghEFTGXGW/edit?usp=sharing&oid=104333652386958861210&rtpof=true&sd=true>

*Please note that starting in the new year, there is a new link for the Prayer for Revival at Noon Eastern prayer meetings: Meeting ID: 885 3284 1873; Passcode: 105833

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88532841873?pwd=SEtnSWdSK3FTTC9JUzFlaEpvTHl6Zz09>

Praise God for our 2nd FMCIC National Week of Prayer and Fasting (January 7 -13, 2024)!

We had a very encouraging week of prayer and fasting this month. Over 200 gathering on line to participate in the kick off prayer service Sunday night, led by Bishop Cliff. Over the week, during our Prayer for Revival times, there were about 60 people/screens gathered each day. Many people accessed the devotionals and the prayer stations and found them inspiring as they prayed for our family of churches. Psalm 51 was the scripture we focused on as we sought to have broken, contrite, and pure hearts so that we would have joy to reach others with the gospel of Christ. We are hearing more and more stories of God at work among us, in response to our prayers. If you have any stories to share, please send them to anyone of our National Prayer Team members. We would love to be encouraged and pass along these stories. We would also love to hear from you as to how the week of Prayer and Fasting impacted you personally and helped you to pray for those in your life, your church and the FMCIC.

We would love to see this momentum continue. Please join us during our Prayer for Revival at Noon Eastern prayer times, even if you are only able to participate once a week or once a month.

Monthly National Prayer Meeting – Prayer Points for Wednesday, November 29, 2023

1. That the spirit of unleavened prayer that has been stirred up among us this month will continue throughout the year.
2. That the Lord would raise up the person of His choosing for bishop of the FMCIC.
3. That the Lord would help our leaders to prepare us to meet with Him at our General Conference in April and discern His will for us.
4. That the Lord will use our time together at GC to knit our hearts together in Him.
5. That the Lord would bring a lasting peace in Israel and Gaza.
6. As churches meet for their annual meetings, they would be inspired by the Holy Spirit to be healthy churches that are rooted in Him and bearing much fruit.
7. That God will increase our compulsion, compassion, courage and capacity to make disciples of all nations

Re-digging the wells of revival together,

Ken Roth (National Prayer Team Lead)

ZOOM Links and Passcodes for Prayer Meetings

***Daily "Prayer for Revival at Noon Eastern":** Monday to Saturday 12 noon EDT, 11am CDT, 10am CST & MST, 9am PDT <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88532841873?pwd=SEtnSWdSK3FTTC9JUzFlaEpvTHI6Zz09>

Meeting ID: **885 3284 1873**; Passcode: **105833** Dial by your location +1 204 272 7920; +1 438 809 7799; +1 587 328 1099; +1 647 374 4685; +1 647 558 0588; +1 778 907 2071; +1 780 666 0144 Canada

Wednesday, Jan.31/24 Monthly "National Prayer Meeting":

Ontario: 7:00 PM EDT <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81605123945?pwd=UUxBNm5FdEdNS3IPamowakdjNE5rdz09>

Passcode: **515693** Meeting ID: **816 0512 3945**; Dial by your location +1 438 809 7799

Canada +1 587 328 1099; +1 647 374 4685; +1 647 558 0588; +1 778 907 2071; +1 204 272 7920 Canada

Quebec/French-speaking : à 19h00 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/859874336>

Code secret: **0** N° de réunion : **859-874-336** Par téléphone : 438-809-7799 N° de réunion : 859-874-336

Canada West: 9 PM CDT; 8 PM MST & CST (Regina); 7 PM PDT

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87966904621?pwd=L0ttVXhxZEtPYVNPYU12ZS9ZWnRDdz09>

Passcode: **363403** Meeting ID: **849 4324 9418** Dial by your location

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