

STRUCTURE

We recommend churches and congregations promote a day of united pray and fasting to seek God through the following means of participation:

- Promoting **Wednesday, March 25th as a day of prayer and fasting for the peace and prosperity of Tucson** through email, social media, and other such means of digital communication (think Zoom calls, conference calls, facetime, normal phone calls etc).
- Fasting food is encouraged on a voluntary basis for those whom the Lord would lead but can also include things such as entertainment, busy work, or other things. We replace what we fast from with prayer. We are recommending the fast begin at sunrise on March 25th and go until sunset on March 25th.
- Asking for members to seek God privately in their homes or in small groups as fits in accordance with wisdom and CDC's guidelines for gathering.
- Acknowledging God as our highest source of authority to whom we are accountable. As believers we are called to look to the Head of the Body, Christ our Lord, as our ultimate leader who builds, strengthens, nourishes, corrects, and leads His people. We acknowledge and express a deep desire to be subject to and submissive to King Jesus above all else.
- Unless the CDC and City of Tucson recommend new guidelines for gathering, we plan to launch a live streamed prayer service with a small group of pastors and Christian leaders (less than 10) at **10am on the morning of March 25th**. The provided link is <http://Pantano.online> that can be shared for viewing/participation on Social Media and via email. After the live feed ends, the broadcast will be available one hour later for viewing.
- *We are *NOT* recommending churches or individuals organize or gather people in groups onsite in physical locations.*

As much as in the ability of churches themselves, we recommend:

- Posting a video (live-streamed or otherwise), written prayer, or other materials on social media that communicates to your congregation prayer directives, vision, and reassurance of the promises of God and what He is leading you as a community to do.
- We desire every pastor and leader to post a 1 minute video on Wednesday, March 25th modeling a prayer of turning towards God for guidance, direction, and deliverance and away from self-reliance. We think congregations find comfort in seeing their leaders model dependency on God. When scores of leaders are praying for small businesses, families, school districts, what will the world think? They may not agree with prayer as

the only solution, but they can see unity in mind and purpose and the love that is foundational to both prayer and practical expression.

- We encourage you to use the language of *“we, as the part of the Church of Tucson in participation with many Christ followers, are seeking God on our city’s behalf”* or *“We, in conjunction with a number of other congregations, are seeking God through setting apart time as a church to fast and pray”* We want to use collective terminology to bring a sense of strength and comfort to those we are communicating to.

A Word about the Organizing Sponsor

- As of the authoring of this email, Community Renewal is organizing this in partnership with various community organizations such as J17 Ministries, the S.O.B.E.R. Project, 4Tucson and Corazon Ministries. Some of the churches who have communicated early support are: New Life Bible Fellowship, The Journey, Corazon Ministries, The Vineyard Christian Community, Christ Community Church, Grace Temple Missionary Baptist Church, Elements City Church, Fellowship Bible Church, Saint Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Hope City Church, and Pantano Christian Church. We know many churches are already praying and encouraging their congregations to be praying. The purpose is to promote a united front in such a manner that we can all see how God moves. We hope and anticipate many more churches laying hold of this window of time to seek God together.

Branding + Messaging

- We are using the phrase/hashtag *#lightupthedark2020* for social media promotions. We want to *light up the dark* through prayer, worship, and intercession in our homes and online. This comes from the inspiration of **Isaiah 60:1-3** and Matthew 5:14-16
 - *Arise, Jerusalem! Let your light shine for all to see. For the glory of the Lord rises to shine on you. 2 Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the Lord rises and appears over you. 3 All nations will come to your light; mighty kings will come to see your radiance.*
- We are not wanting to be dogmatic but really desire for churches to take ownership. Our desire to have this a grassroots movement that encourages churches to contextualize the call to prayer in the language, flavor, and vision of their local congregation based on the relationship with the Caller, knowing that there is diversity in the Body of Christ (1 Cor 12/ Romans 12)
- We want to **express hope** through God who responds with light in dark moments while at the same time expressing a need of actually seeking Him in fervency. While His grace is free, it is applied through our faith. We do expect to bear fruit without abiding in the Vine (John 15). Bottom line, we want to convey hope in the context of seeking Christ and obeying Him wholeheartedly.
- It is hard to convey hope and sobriety at the same time but we trust pastors in the shepherding of their congregations. To pastors we would convey that faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word. Whatever your encouragement to your networks, may it be grounded in Scripture and express faith that leads people to active obedience to follow Christ more closely . May it promote operating in sensitivity to the Holy Spirit as He leads each of us. .

Direction for What to Pray

- **Confession of Sin**

- We are confessing our need of God and our humble dependence upon Him according to 2 Chronicles 7:14
- We are confessing our private sin and the idols of our hearts as God leads according to Psalm 139:23
- We are confessing our overall attitude of self-reliance, self-preservation, and self interest and asking God to give us His love for others and the ability to serve others needs' well according to Philippians 2:1-11
- A lack of love for our elders according to the 6th commandment
- An overly busy lifestyle that lacks sabbath rhythms and prayerful rest according to the 5th commandment.
- As a culture at large, we are confessing that we lean towards practical atheism while professing faith. We are confessing our fear, unbelief, and causality overall and asking for repentant hearts that lean upon God's Word and align with His ways. We are asking for the fear of the Lord and true Spirit formed faith in God through trials.

- **What are we believing and asking God for?**

- The elimination of Covid-19 and its effects upon our community.
- Safety, protection and endurance for our healthcare workers and all who may come in contact with sick persons.
- The overall welfare of our elderly, vulnerable and marginalized populations
- God's overshadowing mercy and wisdom over city and county government, the CDC and local/national leaders
- For the media to have the best information available to responsibly and honestly convey pertinent updates without bias
- A more united community with a greater sense of brotherly love, care for neighbors, and common vision for our great city.

- Revival of love for Jesus and renewal of mission in the Church of Tucson (the collective Body of believers)
- Economic recovery, innovation, and for businesses facing hardship
- That many would rise up, bold enough to share the gospel with friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors, and that the church would, in unity, walk out the second greatest commandment to love our neighbor

Suggested Passages to Read about Fasting

- **2 Chronicles 20-21**
- **2 Chronicles 7:13-14**
- **Joel 2**