



# BLACK ROCK SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

## Ten Days of Prayer Devotionals

### *Striving to be God's Transformed Church*

The transforming power of Christ's grace molds the one who gives himself to God's service. Imbued with the Spirit of the Redeemer. He is ready to deny self, ready to take up the cross, ready to make any sacrifice for the Master. No longer can he be indifferent to the souls perishing around him. He is lifted above self-serving. 7T pg. 9

# Ten Days of Prayer Devotionals

Striving to be God's Transformed Church

## VISION

Having a wholistic view of the programs for 2017, Pastor Dayle Haynes, Pastor of the City North District of which the Black Rock SDA Church is a part, spearheaded an interest to have the church compile its own Devotional. His call to the new Heads of Department for 2017 did not fall on deaf ears and as a result the following devotions constitute the first effort of this local Church Board.

## COLLABORATION

Heads of the departments were paired and challenged to produce one day's devotional. The collaboration of departments has broken down barriers and fostered greater unity and purpose. This fosters the honing of the expertise and skills of the various departments.

## PASTORS MESSAGE

Psalm 27:13, 14 - I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. <sup>14</sup> Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

It is my pleasure to lead and to invite all of us to a wonderful transformational experience through prayer and the study of God's Word. Let's all continue to experience the goodness of God and know that he is evident. God is willing to out pour his power on all of us.

Some verses  
used in the  
Devotional

Exodus 20:3  
"Thou shalt have  
no other gods  
before me."

Mark 10:52 "And  
Jesus said unto  
him, Go thy way;  
thy faith hath  
made thee whole.  
And immediately  
he received his  
sight, and  
followed Jesus in  
the way."

# HEALTH & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY DEPARTMENT

January 4, 2017

"For God to work through us, He must first work on us".  
Be blessed everyone

## THE GOD OF APPETITE

Exodus 20:3 "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

When we talk about other gods, we tend to narrow our thoughts to the material things such as cars, homes, families, jobs etc. How many of us ever thought about total surrender of our lives to God, including our appetite. Yes, appetite!

Total surrender of our lives to God, including our appetite, is not a favour we bestow on Him. Total surrender to God is non-negotiable. It is not a suggestion, it's a divine mandate, an authoritative command. No ifs and buts about it. God demands our recognition of His unconditional, uncompromising supremacy over all other interests that attract our attentions, however important and necessary for our very existence. The prime example of total surrender to God is Jesus Christ as He suffered in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross at Calvary. As He stared in the abyss of separation from the Father and the Holy Spirit, He experienced a dread, a terror so agonizingly painful that instead of sweat, He perspired blood. Yet He surrendered to His Father's directive, 'Not My will, but Thine be done. Jesus' total surrender to His father was also seen as He was bitterly thrown into temptation by the devil. Having been 40 days in hunger, He was told by the tempter, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones to be made bread". With Christ, as with Adam and Eve, appetite was the ground of the first great temptation. As by the indulgence of appetite Adam and Eve fell, so by the denial of appetite Christ overcame. Christ overcame by saying, "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Like Christ we too can overcome.

So when we talk about total surrender to God; we seek to remove all other gods from our lives, including that of appetite. Yes, appetite!

I've often heard people say that they can never stop eating this or that food, irrespective of how harmful and detrimental it is to the body. God has given you the best foods so that you can grow both spiritually and physically. In such circumstances would you then be convinced that your food can be indeed your god?

Sis. Ellen G. White said in Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene (CTBH) Ch. 19 that, "Some are not impressed with the necessity of eating and drinking to the glory of God. The indulgence of appetite affects them in all the relations of life. It is the curse of their lives. It prevents them from understanding the truths for these last days... The time of trouble is just before us, and

then stern necessity will require the people of God to deny self, and eat merely enough to sustain life; but God will prepare them for that time.”

It is for this reason that I strongly believe that we should make our Creator, Redeemer and soon coming King as the one and only God of our lives. When He said in Exodus that, ‘Thou shalt have no other gods before me’, He included our lavish appetite for food there as well. Let us therefore present our bodies pure and holy before Him, the only true God, that we can be used by Him in His vineyard.

Would you join with me today and invite God into your life as the only wise God who has our best interest at heart, and made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf when He laid down His life for us. Let us pray that we will surrender the god of appetite entirely over to Him today that we can be fully His. God is the supreme God, Lord of all others, but He is also a jealous God, God with no other. The entire space of your life and being is to be occupied by God and God alone.

Compiled by Elder Robert Maycock & Sis. Pamela Payne-Wilson

# SABBATH SCHOOL & ADVENTIST YOUTH

January 5, 2017

## OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Ezekiel 47:8 KJV

[8] Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

"In chapter 47 of Ezekiel, the prophet was being shown that in the very last days, the Church of Jesus Christ will be more glorious, more victorious, than in its entire history. The Lord's true body isn't going to weaken and sputter, it's not going to dwindle in numbers, or decrease in power or spiritual authority, no, His church will go out in a blaze of power and glory. And it will enjoy the fullest revelation of Jesus that anyone has ever known.

Ezekiel writes, "The fish shall be of very many kinds, as the fish of the Great or Mediterranean Sea" (Ezekiel 47:10). In verses 3-5, he says, "He walked to the east with a measuring tape and measured off fifteen hundred feet, leading me through water that was ankle-deep. He measured off another fifteen hundred feet, leading me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another fifteen hundred feet, leading me through water waist-deep. He measured off another fifteen hundred feet. By now it was a river over my head, water to swim in, water no one could possibly walk through". This is what God is showing us in Ezekiel's vision of the rising waters (see Ezekiel 47:3-4). There is coming forth a body of believers who will swim in the rising waters of the Lord's presence.

Ezekiel is talking about an increase of the Holy Spirit. In the latter days, there will be an increase of God's presence among his people. The very spring and foundation of this river is the cross.

This growing flow of water is the image of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples. Along with this gift of the Spirit, Christ's followers were given a promise that he would be a river of life springing up within them. And that river would flow out into all the world (see John 7:38-39).

# ADVENTURERS & PATHFINDERS

January 6, 2017

## FORGIVEN AS WE FORGIVE

For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. Matthew 7:2.

We can receive forgiveness from God only as we forgive others. It is the love of God that draws us unto Him, and that love cannot touch our hearts without creating love for our brethren.

After completing the Lord's Prayer, Jesus added: "If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matthew 6:14, 15. He who is unforgiving cuts off the very channel through which alone he can receive mercy from God. We should not think that unless those who have injured us confess the wrong we are justified in withholding from them our forgiveness. It is their part, no doubt, to humble their hearts by repentance and confession; but we are to have a spirit of compassion toward those who have trespassed against us, whether or not they confess their faults.

Nothing can justify an unforgiving spirit. He who is unmerciful toward others shows that he himself is not a partaker of God's pardoning grace. In God's forgiveness the heart of the erring one is drawn close to the great heart of Infinite Love. The tide of divine compassion flows into the sinner's soul, and from him to the souls of others....

We are not forgiven because we forgive, but as we forgive. The ground of all forgiveness is found in the unmerited love of God, but by our attitude toward others we show whether we have made that love our own. Wherefore Christ says, "With what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged."

Let Christ, the divine Life dwell in you and through you reveal the heaven-born love that will inspire hope in the hopeless and bring heaven's peace to the sin-stricken heart. As we come to God, this is the condition which meets us at the threshold, that, receiving mercy from Him, we yield ourselves to reveal His grace to others. The Faith I Live By, Page 131 (E G White)

Compiled by Sis. Colleen Payne & Sis. Maria King

# COMMUNITY SERVICES & CLERKS

January 7, 2017

## COMMITMENT

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Galatians 6:9

As human beings we tend to give up easily, especially when we do not see the desired results within a particular time. At times, we have the tendency to 'throw in the towel' if we do not get the anticipated responses, more evident when we are sharing the gospel and 'acceptance time' seems distant.

Paul sends us words of assurance, asking us to be committed to the task at hand. He wants us to labour from a heart of love for souls and leave the results to God, who will send the increase in His time.

Be encouraged! Do not give up! Remain committed to the task at hand!

Compiled by Sis. Sonia Jackson & Sis. Merlinda Hope

# DEACONRY & PUBLISHING

January 8, 2017

## UNITY

Endeavouring to keep the UNITY of the spirit in the bond of peace Eph. 4:3

I pray today for my family, not only the family that shares my DNA but also those who share my faith. As you know, families are complicated.

Unity among believers is a big deal. In the Bible, Jesus prayed for it just before he went to the cross. Paul had just spent the first three chapters of Ephesians arguing that God's eternal purpose is to sum up all things In Christ. He has shown that the mystery of the gospel includes GOD bringing together two formerly alienated and hostile groups, the Jews and the Gentiles. He has made them into one new body.

Through Jesus Christ we have access to God with the help of the Holy Spirit. Together, we are being built into a Holy temple, the dwelling place of God.

Compiled by Bro. Wayne Lorde and Bro. Leon Truss



# GEMS, WOMEN'S & MEN'S MINISTRIES

January 9, 2017

## HEALING FAITH

Mark 10:52

“And Jesus said unto him, “Go thy way. Thy faith hath made thee whole.” And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.”

When we come to Jesus for healing, be it physical, spiritual, financial, marital, family, social etc. we must come in faith, believing in His healing power and His love for us. Surrender the illness/problem/situation to Him and proceed in faith behaving as if healed, because He will heal!! Healing always begins immediately, but will be completed according to His perfect timing! Both physical and spiritual vision will be enlightened. Sometimes it may be our faith that needs to be healed. Place your hand and heart in His! Follow His leading! Trust Him! Know that whatever He does, however and whenever He does it, He's doing it for your eternal good. Never doubt His loving interest in you, never doubt His power to heal and save, never doubt His timing, never doubt His ability to make you whole again!

Compiled by Sis. Shakelia Payne, Sis. Michele Smith & Bro. Mervyn Lythcott

# STEWARDSHIP & TREASURY

January 10, 2017

## OVERCOMING POWER

1 John 4: 4

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

1 John 5: 4

4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

The god of the world, Satan; the lusts which are in the world; false prophets gone forth into the world; and the wicked men of the world, who by temptations, snares, evil doctrines, threatenings, promises, and ill examples, would avert regenerate ones from observing the commands of God; but such are more than conquerors over all these, through Christ that has loved them. "Your faith"; great things, heroic actions, and wonderful victories, are ascribed to faith; see (Hebrews 11:33,34) ; which must not be understood of the grace itself, as separately considered, but of Christ the object of it, as supported, strengthened, assisted, and animated by him. And then it does wonders, when it is enabled to hold Christ, its shield, in its hand, against every enemy that opposes. (John Gill's Exposition)

The work of overcoming is an individual work. Our only safety is in taking our position firmly in favor of the word of God; for this is the only foundation that will stand the test. And then as we try to walk in the path of humble obedience, we must expect to meet trials. They will come upon us from quarters where we least expect them. But we must remember that all who have obeyed the word of God have had the cross to lift; and in lifting it they helped others to lift it. HS 232.3

Compiled by Elder Eric Smith & Sis. Sheryl King-Henry

# FAMILY LIFE & INTEREST

## COORDINATOR

January 11, 2017

### TRUE REVIVAL

Romans 12:2KJV

<sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

#### *The Church's Greatest Need*

A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer. While the people are so destitute of God's Holy Spirit, they cannot appreciate the preaching of the Word; but when the Spirit's power touches their hearts, then the discourses given will not be without effect. Guided by the teachings of God's Word, with the manifestation of His Spirit, in the exercise of sound discretion, those who attend our meetings will gain a precious experience, and returning home, will be prepared to exert a healthful influence. TR 9.1

#### *Power of the Word*

Wherever the word of God has been faithfully preached, results have followed that attested its divine origin. The Spirit of God accompanied the message of His servants, and the word was with power. Sinners felt their consciences quickened. The "light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world" illumined the secret chambers of their souls, and the hidden things of darkness were made manifest. Deep conviction took hold upon their minds and hearts. They were convinced of sin and of righteousness and of judgment to come. They had a sense of the righteousness of Jehovah and felt the terror of appearing, in their guilt and unclean-ness, before the Searcher of hearts. In anguish they cried out: "Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" As the cross of Calvary, with its infinite sacrifice for the sins of men, was revealed, they saw that nothing but the merits of Christ could suffice to atone for their transgressions; this alone could reconcile man to God. With faith and humility they accepted the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world. Through the blood of Jesus they had "remission of sins that are past." TR 17.1

Compiled by Sis. Flora Parkinson & Elder Kenrick Reeves

# MUSIC & COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

January 12, 2017

## FELLOWSHIP

**1 John 1:7** "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

When Christians have regular fellowship with other Christians, they not only receive many benefits, but they are also given the opportunity to sacrifice for their fellow believers. Today, Christians are typically not called upon to sacrifice their lives for one another, but they can minister in other ways, such as providing comfort and compassion when someone in their fellowship is grieving over a loss; offering physical assistance to help complete a move or a home improvement project; lending emotional support to a friend who is going through a tough time at work or at home; supplying monetary relief to someone in financial need; helping a fellow believer find the inner strength to follow God's leading in his/her life; and so on.

Christian fellowship also fosters qualities like trust, hope, a sense of belonging, security, lifelong friendships, faith, patience, selflessness, and best of all, true, unconditional love that can only come from people who have a personal relationship with God, the Author of love. Unless you have given or received some or all of these types of benefits when you meet with others, you are not experiencing real fellowship.

God created the perfect "organization" for fellowship, and that is the family. All right, none of us have perfect families, but the family unit was intended by God to provide us with daily fellowship so that we can learn to develop deep loving relationships and discover what it means to sacrifice for others. For people who have received Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour, their "family" extends beyond the limits of what most people consider as family.

Through biblical fellowship, we can travel down life's road with our new family members, and during our journey we can help each other get over the rough patches and rejoice with each other when we're riding in the sunshine.

If you are longing for this type of fellowship, join God's family today. He is waiting for you as a Father waits with open arms for his children to come into his embrace. Then He will introduce you to your new family, the church, where you will find many opportunities to fellowship with people who want to build lasting relationships with you. These are people who want to give you comfort, relief, joy, love, and all the other wonderful benefits that only true fellowship can provide.

1 John 1:3 "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ."

Compiled by Sis. Joeann Harris & Sis. Angela Wyllie

# EDUCATION & AUDITORS' DEPARTMENT

January 13, 2017

## **RUNNING WITH COMPASSION**

Luke 15:20 KJV

And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

### *The prodigal*

We all need compassion. The famed “prodigal” of this parable had come a long way from his home ideals. He had failed his family and community, his father and without question, he had failed himself. We have failed in our own journeys too. We corporately can look at God’s word, and our history and without question, we know that we too could not stand as “he who is without sin.” We are the prodigal.

### *God is the Father*

Fortunately God is the Father. Our text emphasizes the Father’s attitude toward us even while we in our falling away. He stands with an outstretched heart, looking and waiting for us to return. Although the prodigal felt shame and unworthiness, the Father only saw His son coming home. And as the bible says he ran to him. What a shock that must have been. What a shock that still is when we experience God’s Love. Our Father not only waits for us, but He runs to us full of compassion. He hugged him and kissed him.

### *Our Father’s Example*

God empowers us to follow His example. How must we respond when our church family errs at home or abroad? What has God called us to do? To accept the repentant heart? Yes. To forgive and restore? Certainly. But compassion calls for us to look for the small signs of growth; to see it before others do, a long way off; and by faith, with heavenly compassion, to run, to embrace and to express tenderness with empathy. Let us ask our Father to make us compassionate as He is.

Compiled by Sis. Marselle Callender & Elder Earlgarth Greaves

# ELDERSHIP & PERSONAL MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

January 14, 2017

## EVANGELISM

Acts 2:44-47

<sup>44</sup> And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

<sup>45</sup> And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

<sup>46</sup> And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

<sup>47</sup> Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Ministry of Healing, p 143, par. 3 – 144, par. 1.

The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago—a revelation of Christ. A great work of reform is demanded, and it is only through the grace of Christ that the work of restoration, physical, mental, and spiritual, can be accomplished.

Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me."

There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit.

Compiled by Eldership & Personal Ministries Department