

New Lifer News

A Call to Prayer & Fasting February 1-21, 2010

by Bob See

New Life is targeting the first 21 days of February for corporate prayer and fasting. This is part of a season of seeking God, of seeking to become an “ignited” church. The 21 days of prayer and fasting will be followed by a church-wide prayer seminar in March.

PURPOSE – We set this time apart in order to seek greater intimacy with God and to experience increased effectiveness in serving Him. We do so at a time when several other Peoria area churches are also committed to pray and fast in February for spiritual transformation in our local area. Thus the purpose is three-fold: to experience **personal** spiritual renewal, to experience church-wide **corporate** revival and fruitfulness, and to join in a **regional** appeal to God for spiritual transformation in Central Illinois.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

FASTING – your fast can take on various forms: traditional fasting means no food or beverages other than water. Many people choose to abstain from food but drink juices. Other people choose to fast one meal a day. You are encouraged to choose a form that impacts you daily. For good practical instruction on fasting go to the Campus Crusade for Christ website - ccci.org/growth/growing-closer-to-god/how-to-fast/

FAST FROM MEDIA – To create an undistracted environment, consider a fast from media for 21 days. This means basically turn off the TV and movies, but it could stretch into computer usage, video games, etc. For many people the notion of unplugging from media is so drastic they can't imagine how it's even possible. However, people who turn off the TV for a temporary time report how beneficial it is, not only for increasing time for reading, prayer, and for family relationship building, but also in hearing God more clearly in prayer and contemplation. It creates an environment that has a lot less informational clutter to work through, allowing us to connect with God's Word and Spirit. For some people a fast from media is something their entire family can commit to, while others may choose to fast from media individually, regardless of what other family members choose to do.

EXTRA TIMES OF PRAYER – The purpose of fasting is connected to prayer; therefore weave into these 21 days extended times of personal prayer.

PRAYING WITH SPOUSE AND FAMILY – For those who are married, consider committing to pray together daily during these 21 days. Consider daily praying together as a family.

PRAYING WITH OTHER CHURCHES – Several other Peoria area churches are also setting aside Feb 1 – 21 for prayer and fasting. They are banding together for worship and prayer every evening at the United Methodist church in downtown Peoria (700 N. Main Street) @ 6:00 p.m. There will be a kick-off worship service on Sunday evening January 31 at 6:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to connect with other believers who desire to see revival in our local area.

There will be a variety of books on prayer and on fasting available for sale in the lobby, at New Life, following services – stop by to check them out, as they will be helpful in growing in spiritual disciplines. Prayer and fasting are God-given means for believers to experience greater intimacy with God, and for seeing a greater release of His power and works through our lives and in our world. Consider how you personally should participate!

Mark your calendar, and plan now, to attend.

Ticket sales begin Sunday, January 31 in the New Life Lobby

*Learning to love
to* **PRAY**

Seminar at New Life featuring author & speaker David Butts

Saturday, March 13
8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

*Tickets (include lunch) \$5 per person
Childcare provided for an additional fee.*

*Doors open at 7:45 a.m.
Snack & Book tables open at 8:00 a.m.*