## **PRAY IT FORWARD...**

## Happy New Year!

Everything in the kingdom of God begins with prayer. Therefore, it feels great starting off the new year with prayer and fasting. When the first Christians came together, it was to pray. Prayer held them together. They had seen how important prayer was in Jesus' own life. Every new breakthrough, new conquest, every miracle, was born out of prayer. Church history is silent when it comes to revival that didn't begin with prayer.

We are fully aware, but honestly, it's not always easy to find the time, focus, and routines for prayer. Therefore, the prayer period of our church is very valuable. We help each other with routines and seek God together.

Praying for our own lives, for the church, for society and the world. Life situations and societies can change when God's people turn to God and pray. What an opportunity we have for the new year!

We warmly recommend you to try fasting! Classic fasting is about abstaining from food, but you yourself best decide what helps you to free up time and focus for quiet moments with God. Identify what grabs hold of your attention - screens, games, series, news feeds, etc - and create space for Bible reading, prayer, and quiet times.

The booklet that is available for you to fetch at the church info desk contains themes and Bible verses for each day and is intended as a basis for reflections and conversations. The Hamnsalen venue is decorated especially for prayer throughout the entire period. Come and sit down for a while!

Treat yourself to quality investment during this valuable prayer period. Some simple advice in preparation for the prayer period:

- Decide what type of fasting you want to do and what days you'll exercise fasting.
- Create a prayer routine. Set aside time and turn off your mobile.
- Use the Bible and the booklet as an inspiration.
- Take notes.
- Pray together with others. (See times for joint prayer on the last page).

Now is the right time - now let's pray together!

/Anne-Jorid Ahgnell, pastor