

## Forty Days of Prayer

What if all the Adventists in your church (or conference/union/division) set aside forty days to pray for Jesus to be uplifted in your area?

Jesus promises, "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself" (John 12:32 NKJV).

Can you imagine what God could do? What kind of miracles of grace could He accomplish in your churches, schools, homes, businesses, and city councils? Take a moment to let your mind grasp the possibilities such focused prayer could bring.

Then picture what would happen if every person committed to praying for five friends who don't know Jesus and inviting them to church. The results would change lives forever!

Why not make such a vision reality and set aside forty days to pray for your area in a focused and concerted way?

Here are a few practical tips to get you started:

- 1) **Pray!** - Before you do anything else, take time to
- 2) **Date** - Set a date that fits your church's (conference/union/division's) needs. The forty days of prayer can be used to help prepare for upcoming evangelism or as a time of revival for members. Ideally, it will include both aspects.
- 3) **Resources** - Pastor Dennis Smith has written many excellent books for forty days of prayer. They are available at the Adventist Book Center and [spiritbaptism.org](http://spiritbaptism.org). Pastor Smith has resources on his website about how to lead a forty days of prayer initiative successfully.
- 4) **Promotion** - It is essential to take time to get your key church leaders on board with the forty days of prayer concept. Talk to your pastor/church leaders and help them understand the importance and benefits. Then promote to church members by sharing stories of how God has worked through forty days of prayer in other places. A kick-off Sabbath is an excellent way to start. More details on how to lead and promote at [http://spiritbaptism.org/documents/40\\_Days\\_Instruction\\_Manual.pdf](http://spiritbaptism.org/documents/40_Days_Instruction_Manual.pdf)

5) **Prayer Goals** - Have a simple set of prayer goals for the forty days. These could include the following:

- A specific spiritual growth goal for your members, such as “Make Jesus the number one priority of your life (time, thoughts, activities, etc.)” or “Pray daily for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.”
- Specific prayer for your area, such as “Pray for Jesus to be uplifted in [name of your town/area] and the harvest to be ripened” or “Pray for peace between ethnic groups.”
- Pray for five individuals who need to know Jesus and invite them to church.
- Join in united prayer by praying regularly with a prayer partner or group.

Prayerfully consider hosting forty days of prayer for your area. You will see God work in amazing ways as you unitedly plead for Him to do big things.

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” (1 John 5:14-15 NKJV)