

## Online National Discerning Prayer Gathering

### Prayer for District Conferences

April 30, 2025

#### Discernment Questions:

- *Doubling our impact as a District:*
  - Lord Jesus, what do You want to reveal about how my district can pursue You and double our impact for You?
- *Unique:*
  - Lord Jesus, what is the unique contribution You want to release through me, my local church, or the district I am a part of?
- *Unifying:*
  - Lord Jesus, in what ways do You want me, my local church or my district to bring greater unity to our Alliance family of churches?
- *Creativity:*
  - Lord Jesus, what creativity do You want to unleash through me, my local church or my district?
- *Strengthen:*
  - Lord Jesus, what do You want to strengthen in me, my local church or my district?
- *Other:*
  - Holy God, is there anything else You want to share with us today?

In this gathering, participants joined one of 6 breakout sessions to pray for each of the 6 district conferences taking place this spring. Some of the discernment was particular to each district, though there were several themes that emerged and may have applicability across the Alliance Canada.

#### Common Themes

1. **Deep and Wide** – Jesus consistently keeps reminding us in these gatherings that both doubling our DEPTH and doubling our REACH (deep and wide) must go together.
  - a. We need to hunger more for the presence of Jesus like Mary in Luke 10:38-42, slowing down to notice what he is saying and showing to us.
  - b. We are being invited into deeper friendship with Jesus, greater abiding in the vine (John 15).

- c. Prayer is a vital foundation for all we do; we must fully depend on Him.
- 2. **Personal Engagement is Needed** - We need to be asking: 'Who is the one I am called to invest in?'
  - a. Jesus is most concerned about our intentionality in 'pursuing the one,' not how big our numbers are.
  - b. We need to embrace personal responsibility to take action and engage those around us, discipling them and training them as leaders.
- 3. **Expect Multiplication** – There was a great sense of hope that Jesus is doing a new thing and inviting us to join him.
  - a. He is already stirring young people; the fields are white for harvest (John 4)
  - b. He is pouring out his Spirit on younger generations (Joel 2 / Acts 2)
  - c. He is calling us to dare to dream.
  - d. He is calling us to embrace inconvenience out of expectation that God will do something amazing when we step out of our comfort zone in obedience to him.
  - e. He has more than enough resources; 'the silver and gold are here' (Haggai 2).
  - f. Need for Flexibility, Creativity and Willingness to learn and try new things
  - g. Rivers of life are being poured out (Ezekiel 47)
  - h. God is doing a new thing; do we perceive it? (Isaiah 43:19)
  - i. God is generous and has many giftings to release for us
- 4. **Need for Repentance** – There are idols in our hearts and in our plans that we need to lay down.
  - a. There is a need for us to dwell with God in integrity, righteousness and truth (Psalm 15)
  - b. We are called to humility and to work together with curiosity for how God will use us.
  - c. We must deny ourselves to know him better.
  - d. The fear of man cripples us.
  - e. We must teach our people obedience (not just focus on growing our numbers but growing disciples)
- 5. **Call for Strong Community, Unity and Partnership**
  - a. We are called to carry each other's burdens and share resources.
    - i. The yoke of Jesus is easy (Matthew 11:28) and so as we care for others, especially the wounded, he will make the burden light.
    - ii. We are also called to practice hospitality and mercy to the 'nones and dones' who do not share our faith.
  - b. Picture of the Aspen Tree Grove: the roots are all interconnected so when one tree receives nourishment from the sun or water, the whole grove is strengthened.
  - c. We are called to work together and not in siloes. We can't do it alone.
  - d. Invitation to celebrate the family of God and to focus on shared goals and united prayer.