

Westwood Community Church



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To: Everyone at WCC

From: Kathy Pruden, Celebrate Chair

Re: **Lent Devotional Request**

40 Days of Lent – Christ's Sacrifice Inspires Extravagant Living

In 2008 we shared with you our first 40 Days of Lent Devotional "Journey to the Cross" that was prepared by individuals who attend Westwood Community Church. The daily devotionals helped us to prepare our hearts and minds for Good Friday and our remembrance of Christ's sacrifice.

We are looking forward to publishing the 2009 edition of our WCC 40 Days of Lent Devotional and invite you to participate by writing a half page devotional (approximately 400 words) that would be included along with 39 other devotionals written by people who call Westwood their church home. Our emphasis this year is "Christ's Sacrifice Inspires Extravagant Living" and follows along from our time engaged in Spiritual Development through the *DGD – Description of a Growing Disciple Check-Up*, Sunday morning Adult Teaching Ministry – *Knowing & Living Your Faith* and the annual Prayer Vigil – *Under the Fig Tree*.

The following are a few titles/thoughts/reminders that may stir your thinking as you prayerfully consider preparing a submission for our Lent devotional:

From the DGD Check-up:

A Growing Disciple is someone who is...

1. Captivated and Committed
2. Thriving and Thirsting
3. Bonded and Building
4. Inviting and Influencing
5. Discerning and Disarming

From Sunday Morning Teaching Ministry:

How we walk...

1. Walk in Love
2. Walk in Light
3. Walk in Newness of Life
4. Walk in Victory
5. Walk of Faith
6. Walk in Obedience



From the Prayer Vigil:

Vertical Prayer – God & Me...

1. Praise & Worship of God, the Father
2. Personal Confession
4. Reflections on Christ's Sacrifice
5. Producing Good Fruit

This is not an exhaustive list. Be sure to consider your personal spiritual journey as you contemplate your devotional. Please include a scripture passage with your devotional.

If you are willing to prepare a devotional, or have questions, please contact Kathy at kathy@westwood.mb.ca or phone 888-1771.

Completed devotionals need to be submitted no later than **February 15, 2009** so the booklets can be ready for distribution prior to the commencement of Lent – February 25th.

Electronic submissions via email are preferred but hard copies will be gratefully accepted as well.

For further reference on the 40 Days of Lent check out <http://www.cresourcei.org/cylent.html> or request a hard copy from Kathy. The following is an excerpt from this website.....

Lent is a time of preparation to celebrate God's marvellous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Christians.

Originating in the fourth century of the church, the season of **Lent** spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, and concluding Saturday before Easter. Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. But since these new members were to be received into a living community of Faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church would prepare to rejoin the community.

Lent is a way to place ourselves before God humbled, bringing in our hands no price whereby we can ourselves purchase our salvation. It is a way to confess our total inadequacy before God, to strip ourselves bare of all pretence to righteousness, to come before God in dust and ashes. It is a way to empty ourselves of our false pride, of our rationalizations that prevent us from seeing ourselves as needy creatures, of our "perfectionist" tendencies that blind us to the beam in our own eyes.

Through prayer that gives up self, we seek to open ourselves up before God, and to hear anew the call "Come unto me!" We seek to recognize and respond afresh to God's presence in our lives and in our world. We seek to place our needs, our fears, our failures, our hopes, our very lives in God's hands, again. And we seek by abandoning ourselves in Jesus' death to recognize again who God is, to allow His transforming grace to work in us once more, and to come to worship Him on Easter Sunday with a fresh victory and hope that goes beyond the new clothes, the Spring flowers, the happy music.