

Classis Toronto Prayer Newsletter - April

The Prayer Newsletter is taking the place of the Prayer Calendar. In this monthly prayer newsletter we will share what is happening in our churches: what the churches are celebrating and what the churches are dreaming that God will do among them. We will also be letting you know of activities of Classis. We ask that you lift up these items in prayer with others from across Classis Toronto. Use it to guide your prayer times at church, in small groups, at the family table and individually.

Cochrane CRC

Cochrane CRC is a small congregation approximately 590 km north of Orillia in Northern Ontario. Although it is far away from the rest of Classis Toronto it is part of us. Cochrane celebrated its 60th Anniversary last fall and still enjoys worshipping together every Sunday. It has been 11 years since it last had a pastor and they feel the absence of a leader in their congregation. Finding council members is difficult as being an elder and deacon also requires putting together reading services for those Sundays they do not have a visiting pastor (which ends up being most weeks). Despite these obstacles they are a diverse and dedicated group of believers who desire to be God's presence in their community.

Praise God with them for God's faithfulness to this small community, for the grace and strength they have and the blessings they experience every time they meet together in worship, in Sunday School and in community events.

Pray for this congregation as they see change happening in their community (Cochrane is expanding with a new gold mine) and want to be there to reach out to the growing community with the love and Word of God. Pray that they might be able to find a pastor who will be able to lead them in reaching their community. Pray for the children and youth of the church as they grow in their faith. Pray that God will strengthen the present leaders and raise up new ones to continue guiding the people to grow more and more like our Saviour.

Pray that the rest of us in Classis Toronto may be able to enfold and support this congregation despite of the distance between us.

The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.
-- Psalm 9:9-10

The Classis Candidacy Committee

The Classis Candidacy Committee is a group of dedicated people from our churches in Classis Toronto who work together to support those from our Classis who feel God's call to become Ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

The Candidacy Committee meets with prospective students to provide encouragement, guidance and financial support. They are also there to provide information and consultation for our congregations as it is most often local pastors or leaders who first identify and encourage ministry leaders.

At this time Classis Toronto supports about seven or eight individuals and couples who are in various stages of answering their call for the ministry. Some of these people receive financial support from Classis Toronto as well as encouragement and guidance for their studies at Calvin Theological Seminary.

Pray for the Candidacy Committee as they still are figuring out how best to fulfill the mandate they have been given (they used to be the Student Fund Committee and a few years ago the committee expanded to include more than just funding for future ministers).

Praise God for those who answer the call to become leaders in our churches. Pray for those who may need to consider the ministry. Pray for those who have completed their studies and are looking for a call to a congregation. Pray for students who are finishing up their year of studies this month and who are looking forward to beginning a new year of studying in September.

Classis Toronto Activities:

April 5, 2011: Classis Ministry Committee Meeting
April 20, 2011: Safe Church Team Meeting
April 28, 2011: Youth Committee Meeting
May 5, 2011: Home Missions Committee Meeting
May 12, 2011: Classis Toronto Meets at CrossPoint CRC

Deadline for items for the May 12, 2011
Classis Toronto meeting Agenda: APRIL 7, 2011.