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21 Days of Fast and Prayer Announcement from the General Overseer (Jan.4, 2025)

Dear Esteemed Pastors of ETRM,

As we start this new year, I am thrilled to announce our 2025 Beginning of the Year Fast and Prayer. This spiritual journey will commence on January 13 and continue through February 2. I urge each of you to prepare yourselves and your congregations for these transformative 21 days of fasting and prayer under our annual theme, "Living as Watchmen" inspired from Ezekiel 33:1-9

I urge you us all to come together and seek God's guidance, strengthen our faith, and ignite a renewed passion for His mission in 2025. Prepare your teams, encourage participation, and let every ETRM member embrace this divine opportunity for a fruitful 2025.

In His Service, **Pastor Daniel H. Lendeh**General Overseer, ETRM



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20 Reasons Every ETRM Member Must Fast and Pray for 21 Days at the Beginning of the Year

1. To Seek God's Guidance and Vision for the Year

- Scripture: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- **Discussion:** Fasting and prayer create a space to align our hearts with God's will and seek His direction for personal, family, and ministry goals in the new year.
- **Example:** Moses fasted for 40 days on Mount Sinai, seeking God's instructions for leading Israel and receiving the Ten Commandments (Exodus 34:28).

2. To Consecrate Ourselves to God

- **Scripture:** "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you." (Joshua 3:5)
- **Discussion:** Beginning the year with fasting sets us apart for God's purposes, dedicating the first fruits of our time to Him for spiritual renewal and empowerment.
- **Example: Joshua** led Israel in consecration before crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land (Joshua 3:5), demonstrating the importance of preparation for divine work.

3. To Strengthen Our Faith

- **Scripture:** "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is." (Hebrews 11:6)
- **Discussion:** Fasting refines our focus on God's promises, builds trust in His provision, and strengthens our faith to tackle challenges in the coming year.
- **Example: Abraham** showed unwavering faith when he trusted God to provide a sacrifice instead of Isaac, reflecting the faith strengthened through obedience (Genesis 22:9-14).

4. To Break Strongholds and Barriers

- Scripture: "Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke?" (Isaiah 58:6)
- **Discussion:** Fasting invites God's power to deliver us from spiritual, emotional, and physical strongholds, allowing freedom to walk boldly in His will.
- **Example:** Esther fasted with her people for three days, and through her intercession, God broke the stronghold of Haman's plot against the Jews (Esther 4:16).



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5. To Seek Revival and Renewal

- Scripture: "Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?" (Psalm 85:6)
- **Discussion:** Prayer and fasting stir personal and corporate revival, reigniting passion for God and His work in our lives and communities.
- **Example:** Nehemiah sought God in prayer and fasting for the revival of Jerusalem, leading to the rebuilding of its walls (Nehemiah 1:4).

6. To Cultivate a Spirit of Humility

- **Scripture:** "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up." (James 4:10)
- **Discussion:** Fasting humbles us, reminding us of our dependence on God and fostering a spirit of submission to His plans for the year.
- Example: King David Despite being anointed as king and achieving great victories, David consistently demonstrated humility before God. After his sin with Bathsheba, he acknowledged his failure, repented sincerely, and sought God's forgiveness through prayer and fasting. In Psalm 51, David cries out with a broken and contrite heart, embodying a spirit of humility.

7. To Prepare for Spiritual Battles

- Scripture: "Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." (Ephesians 6:11)
- **Discussion:** Fasting equips us with spiritual strength and clarity to discern and resist the enemy's attacks in the months ahead.
- **Example:** Jesus fasted 40 days in the wilderness before facing Satan's temptations, preparing for His earthly ministry (Matthew 4:1-11).

8. To Deepen Intimacy with God

- Scripture: "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." (James 4:8)
- **Discussion:** Fasting clears distractions, fostering a closer relationship with God through prayer, worship, and meditation on His Word.
- **Example:** Daniel prayed three times daily, maintaining a deep and intimate relationship with God even in a foreign land (Daniel 6:10).

9. To Intercede for Others

- **Scripture:** "I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land." (Ezekiel 22:30)
- **Discussion:** Fasting empowers intercession for families, churches, and nations, standing in the gap for God's intervention and blessings.

Motto: Blow the Trumpet, Sound the alarm, The King is coming! Warn the wicked to turn, encourage the saint to stand. To "make ready a people prepare to meet the Lord".



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• **Example: Abraham** interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah, pleading for mercy on behalf of the righteous (Genesis 18:22-33).

10. To Build Discipline and Focus

- **Scripture:** "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness." (Hebrews 12:11)
- **Discussion:** Fasting teaches self-control and sharpens our spiritual focus, preparing us to navigate the year with intentionality and purpose.
- **Example: Paul** disciplined himself spiritually and physically to fulfill his mission of spreading the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:27).

11. To Honor God with the First Fruits of the Year

- **Scripture:** "Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase." (Proverbs 3:9)
- **Discussion:** Dedicating the first part of the year through fasting and prayer symbolizes giving God the first and best of our time, setting the tone for the rest of the year.
- **Example: Abel** honored God with the firstborn of his flock, and God accepted his offering (Genesis 4:4). Similarly, fasting at the beginning of the year is a spiritual "firstfruit" dedicated to God.

12. To Receive Fresh Anointing for Ministry and Life

- **Scripture:** "But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things." (1 John 2:20)
- **Discussion:** Fasting opens us to receive a fresh outpouring of God's Spirit, empowering us to serve Him effectively in all areas of life.
- **Example:** David was anointed by Samuel as king, marking the beginning of his Spirit-empowered journey to lead Israel (1 Samuel 16:13).

13. To Strengthen Spiritual Sensitivity

- **Scripture:** "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." (Revelation 2:7)
- **Discussion:** Fasting clears distractions and sharpens our ability to hear God's voice, making us more attuned to His guidance throughout the year.
- Example: David's Anointing and Spiritual Sensitivity
 When David was anointed by Samuel, "the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward" (1 Samuel 16:13). Though David was just a shepherd boy, this anointing sharpened his spiritual sensitivity, enabling him to discern God's guidance in critical moments.

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14. To Develop a Deeper Hunger for God

- **Scripture:** "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled." (Matthew 5:6)
- **Discussion:** As we deny physical hunger, fasting cultivates a greater spiritual appetite for God's Word, presence, and righteousness.
- **Example: Anna** fasted and prayed daily in the temple, demonstrating her longing for God and her dedication to His service (Luke 2:36-38).

15. To Seek Divine Protection

- **Scripture:** "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge." (Psalm 18:2)
- **Discussion:** Fasting allows us to pray for God's covering and protection over our lives, families, and ministries against dangers in the coming year.
- **Example: Jehoshaphat** led Judah in fasting and prayer for God's protection, resulting in a miraculous victory (2 Chronicles 20:3-22).

16. To Break Patterns of Procrastination and Complacency

- **Scripture:** "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)
- **Discussion:** Fasting reignites motivation and discipline, helping us avoid stagnation and embrace God's purpose with diligence.
- **Example:** Jonah, after initially procrastinating and running from God, fulfilled his mission in Nineveh after being realigned with God's will (Jonah 3:3).

17. To Seek God's Favor and Blessings for the Year

- **Scripture:** "Surely, Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield." (Psalm 5:12)
- **Discussion:** Fasting positions us to walk in God's favor, unlocking blessings and opportunities that align with His plan.
- **Example: Jabez** prayed for God's blessing and favor, and God granted his request (1 Chronicles 4:10).

18. To Prepare for Opportunities and Open Doors

- **Scripture:** "I have set before you an open door that no one can shut." (Revelation 3:8)
- **Discussion:** Fasting prepares our hearts and minds to recognize and seize divine opportunities as God presents them in the year ahead.

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• **Example: Ruth** positioned herself in obedience and humility, leading to opportunities that aligned her with God's purposes (Ruth 2:1-12).

19. To Overcome Emotional and Spiritual Fatigue

- **Scripture:** "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)
- **Discussion:** Fasting restores our inner strength, renewing us emotionally and spiritually to face the challenges of the new year with confidence.
- **Example:** Elijah, overwhelmed by fatigue and fear, was renewed through God's provision and presence after fasting in the wilderness (1 Kings 19:4-8).

20. To Lay a Foundation of Obedience and Faithfulness

- **Scripture:** "If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land." (Isaiah 1:19)
- **Discussion:** Fasting helps us develop a heart of submission and faithfulness to God, ensuring we walk in obedience to His Word throughout the year.
- **Example:** Noah displayed obedience by building the ark despite ridicule, laying the foundation for humanity's preservation (Genesis 6:22).

21. To Replace Fear with Faith

- **Scripture:** "God has not given us a spirit of fear." (2 Timothy 1:7)
- **Example: Gideon**, initially fearful, became a mighty warrior for God after receiving assurance of His presence (Judges 6:12-16).