



becoming a

House of Prayer

My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations. Mark 11:17

January 2026

“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain that build it.” (Ps. 127:1)

Jesus said to Peter, “I will build my church and the gate of Hades will not prevail against it” (Mt.16:18). Notice the emphasis in this statement that *Jesus* is the builder, yet he *partners* with us in the process! It also notes that we have a spiritual enemy to contend with. Thank God Jesus is on our side! Jesus, the word became flesh, does not return empty-handed and he is building his church that will succeed against the enemy.

This reminds me of the apostles unsuccessfully trying to cast a demon out of a little boy. The apostles were puzzled and ask Jesus why they couldn't, after all they had done this before. Jesus' answer is both a challenge and encouragement to us. He said it was because “you have so little faith” and then went on to say, “However, this kind does not come out except by prayer and fasting.” (Mt.17:20,21) To fight this battle and build His church, we need faith. One way to build and exercise our faith is through prayer and fasting. See Jervis' article on fasting [here](#).

Several of us are reading a book that has recently been published entitled, “Lead With Prayer”. In it the authors share how a privately commissioned study conducted by the Barna Group confirmed that leaders who centered their leadership on prayer, exponentially increased their impact. They found that among organizations that prioritized prayer:

- 91% of respondents feel more aligned to the mission of the organization
- 85% believe God is more clearly accomplishing His work through the ministry
- 78% agree that they feel “less stressed in [their] day-to-day responsibilities” due to corporate prayer
- 70% agree that their “productivity has increased”.

The study showed that these effects are especially true in ministries where prayer is “corporate rather than individual, mandatory rather than optional, and proactive rather than reactive.” (p.5). This coming week is a great opportunity to join in corporate prayer with others in our family of churches. Together we will pray for the FMCIC and its mission – *Unleashing Holy Freedom* – so that we are not labouring in our own strength and wisdom but seeking more than we could ask or imagine through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

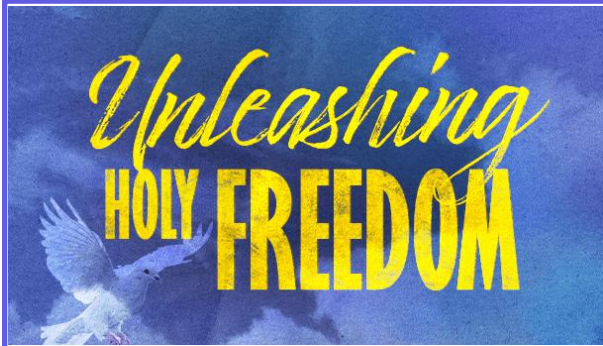
Here in Canada, an example of this is happening right now on the First Nations reserve in Mistissini, Northern Quebec. It began with a prayer meeting and only one person showing up. Then a crisis brought the whole community together in prayer. In humility, aware of their great need, they started to call upon the Lord for help. Quickly *filling* their arena with worship and prayer! Praise God they are seeing many of their young people being transformed. It reminds me of what happened in Jehoshaphat's day when faced with three armies greater than them. It says: “All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the Lord [in prayer].” (2Chr.20:13). The result was a great move of God that gave them victory.



We need such power in releasing holy freedom among us and through us.

This Sunday the FMCIC will enter our 4th annual week of prayer and fasting. May we do so in confidence, that he has already broken the curse, defeated death and grave, and has invited us to come boldly before his throne of grace. And, in full surrender and humility, recognizing our complete dependence on Him. May we willingly submit to his refining fire so that whatever needs to go will be burned up, anything restricting the Holy Spirit will be unleashed, and we can walk freely in the mission he has called us to.

Below is the schedule for the week and some helpful resource links. There are plenty of opportunities to participate. Consider which ones God is inviting you into this coming week.



SUNDAY, January 25 @ 7 pm EST – Online Gathering
Zoom link: [87136641193](https://us02zoom.us/j/87136641193)

MONDAY to SATURDAY @ 12 – 12:30 pm EST – Online Prayer
Zoom link: [88532841873](https://us02zoom.us/j/88532841873)

MONDAY to FRIDAY @ 7 pm EST – Online Teaching & Prayer
Zoom link: [87136641193](https://us02zoom.us/j/87136641193)

SUNDAY, February 1 @ 7 pm EST – In person Gathering (Doors open at 6:30)

Location: Wesley Chapel, 2385 Warden Ave. Scarborough, ON. M1W 1G8

Will be live streamed on social media: www.facebook.com/FMCIC/

DAILY TEACHING THEMES and SPEAKERS:

Sunday – *Unleashing Holy Freedom*, Bishop Linda Adams, FMCIC

Monday – *Spreading Scriptural Holiness: Our Calling as Free Methodists*, Rev. Dr. James Pedlar, Wesley Chapel

Tuesday – *Igniting Mission: Evangelism in a Secular Society*, Kathy McIntosh, Alpha Canada

Wednesday – *Unifying Identity: Lordship of Jesus, Learning to Hear God*, Pastor Jon Thompson, Sanctus Church

Thursday – *Reimagining Connection: Holiness is Communal*, Jervis Djokoto, FMCIC

Friday – *Confession and Repentance*

Sunday – *It is Finished: Holy Freedom Unleashed*

Wednesday, January 28 @ 7 pm EST – Online Prayer in French

Zoom link: [859874336](https://us02zoom.us/j/859874336) Code secret: 0, N° de réunion : 859-874-336

Please watch the FMCIC website and social media for updates and the live stream link for February 1. Here is a quick link to the resources page: www.fmcic.ca/prayandfast2026 including a beautiful printable [booklet](#) for the week.

Blessings.

On behalf of the National Prayer Team
Free Methodist Church of Canada