December 26, 2011

Dear FAME Family:

Praise the Lord and Happy New Year! While we thank almighty God for bringing us through the challenges of 2011, we faithfully launch into 2012 with great anticipation of what our creator and sustainer is going to do through us and for us. Our brand new theme for 2012 is: “Living in the Power of Jehovah Jireh, Transforming Lack into Abundance”.

Jehovah Jireh means “the Lord will provide”. We believe that when we walk in obedience and trust, God’s power transforms our spiritual, emotional and financial lack into an abundance of blessings. We know that God has and will continue to move those who turn to him from “not enough” to “more than enough” (Proverbs 11:24-25).

Beginning January 8th, 2012, FAME will broadcast our live 10:00 AM worship service and on-demand streaming video with The Church Online. To access the stream, visit our FAME website at www.famechurch.org and click the live streaming graphic on our home page, or visit The Church Online’s website at www.thechurchonline.com.

Now you can watch our worship services live when you travel! From our sick and shut-in, to members who have relocated and Christians around the world who seek to worship God, our worship services will be available to all. Sunday, January 8th is “Covenant Sunday” at FAME. We launch our season of prayer and fasting with our Second Annual Church-Wide Fast. Covenant cards will be distributed on January 1st and 8th. Our fast begins January 9th and ends January 30th (details on three levels of fasting to come).

On February 5th and 12th we celebrate FAME’s 140th Anniversary (1872 – 2012) and Founder’s Day. On Sunday, February 12th, we commemorate Founder’s Day and conclude our festivities with Loyalty Day at FAME. Bishop Jeffrey Leath – Presiding Bishop of the Republic of South Africa – will be our preacher. Every member will be asked to give a special Anniversary and Loyalty Day offering of $140 as we honor God and our ancestors who laid the foundation for our great church 140 years ago. You will hear much more about this in the weeks to come.

I look forward to seeing you and your family at the Watch Night service this Saturday, December 31, 2011, at 7:00 PM and on the very first day of 2012: Sunday, January 1st.

In the name of Jehovah Jireh,

Pastor John

Pastor John
THE FAME CHURCH-WIDE THREE-WEEK FAST

What is Spiritual Fasting?

Fasting is the practice of denying oneself food in order to concentrate on a relationship with God.

The Purpose of Spiritual Fasting

While many people fast to lose weight, dieting is not the purpose of a spiritual fast. Instead, fasting provides unique spiritual benefits in the life of the believer.

Fasting requires self-control and discipline as one denies the natural desires of the flesh. During spiritual fasting, the believer’s focus is removed from the physical things of this world and intensely concentrated on God. Put differently, fasting directs our hunger toward God. It clears the mind and body of earthly attentions and draws us close to God. So, as we gain spiritual clarity of thought while fasting, it allows us to hear God more clearly. Fasting also demonstrates a profound need for God's help and guidance through complete dependence upon him.

Examples of Spiritual Fasting:

Old Testament

- Moses fasted 40 days on behalf of Israel’s sin: Deuteronomy 9:9, 18, 25-29; 10:10.
- David fasted and mourned the death of Saul: 2 Samuel 1:12.
- David fasted and mourned the death of Abner: 2 Samuel 3:35.
- David fasted and mourned the death of his child: 2 Samuel 12:16.
- Elijah fasted 40 days after fleeing from Jezebel: 1 Kings 19:7-18.
- Daniel fasted on behalf of Judah’s sin while reading Jeremiah’s prophecy: Daniel 9:1-19.
- Daniel fasted regarding a mysterious vision from God: Daniel 10:3-13.
- Esther fasted on behalf of her people: Esther 4:13-16.
Ezra fasted and wept for the sins of the returning remnant: Ezra 10:6-17.
Nehemiah fasted and mourned over the broken walls of Jerusalem: Nehemiah 1:4-2:10.
The people of Ninevah fasted after hearing the message of Jonah: Jonah 3.

New Testament

Anna fasted for the redemption of Jerusalem through the coming Messiah: Luke 2:37.
Jesus fasted 40 days before his temptation and the beginning of his ministry: Matthew 4:1-11.
The disciples of John the Baptist fasted: Matthew 9:14-15.
Paul fasted three day fast after his Damascus Road encounter: Acts 9:9.
Paul fasted 14 days while at sea on a sinking ship: Acts 27:33-34.

What Is The FAME Church-Wide Three-Week Fast?

We believe that fasting releases the anointing, the favor, and the blessing of God in the life of a Christian. We believe that God calls on a Christian Disciple to give, pray, and fast.

Our three-week fast begins Monday, January 9th, and ends on Monday, January 30th. We will have a church-wide celebration of our season of prayer and fasting at our Tuesday evening Bible Study on January 31st at 7:00 PM.

How can I participate in the FAME Church-Wide Three-Week Fast?

Level One: No food for three weeks. Plenty of water and other liquids, such as juice or clear broth as needed.

Level Two: No food for an entire 24-hour period (one day), once a week for the three weeks of the fast.

Level Three: Consume no food between the hours of 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM every day for three weeks.