

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.

Presiding Bishop J. Drew Sheard Calls For
Worldwide Prayer & Fasting to Defeat the Coronavirus

40 DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING FEB 1 – MAR 12

BEGINNING & ENDING
AT MIDNIGHT

Matthew 17:21 | 2 Chronicles 7:14

2 Chronicles 7:14 – “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

Matthew 17:21 - “Howbeit, this kind goeth not out, but by prayer and fasting.”

**The coronavirus has taken over the world and killed millions.
If we unite in fasting & prayer worldwide,
God will deliver and loose the captives.**



Let us continue to adhere to Presiding Bishop J. Drew Sheard's 22-day call to prayer, fasting & rededication - extended to March 12, 2022

HOW TO FAST:

Different types of fasts:

- No food - water only
- Water & juice only
- Eat one meal a day
- The Daniel Fast

- Before The Fast: Repent & be sure you are saved! (Rom 10:9-10); (Ps 66:18)
- During The Fast: Consecrate yourself, be prayerful, read your Bible, and thank God for the victory over COVID-19 & its variants and strains. (Isaiah 58:6-11)
- After The Fast: Break your fast slowly and give God the glory for a mighty deliverance.

Coordinator:

Bishop Lawrence M. Wooten, Sr.
2nd Assistant Presiding Bishop of the COGIC, Inc.

COGIC LEGAL DISCLAIMER: “We do not recommend anything that contradicts the advice of your physician. Please consult with your physician or medical professional before beginning the fast.”

40 DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING

Testimony of the Power of A 40-Day Prayer With Fasting

Williams Temple Church of God in Christ | 1500 N. Union Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63113
2nd Assistant Presiding Bishop of the COGIC, Inc. - Bishop Lawrence M. Wooten, Sr. – Pastor



Luke 18: 1: And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;
Philippians 4:6: Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

On December 2, 2019, Bishop Lawrence M. Wooten, Sr., pastor of Williams Temple Church of God in Christ (1500 N. Union Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri) called for a citywide, 40-day prayer with fasting – believing it would lead to a decrease in violent crime in the St. Louis area. Bishop Wooten has been the pastor at Williams Temple Church of God in Christ for nearly 43 years. The church sits near the corner of Union Boulevard and Dr. Martin Luther King Drive in the Kingsway West neighborhood.

Bishop Wooten called the citywide 40-day prayer with fasting because he believed ‘our land needed healing.’ People were dying and Bishop Wooten believed prayer and fasting would lead to a decrease in violent crime in the St. Louis area. Reported crime in the Kingsway West neighborhood was up more than 24 percent between May and October of 2019 compared to the same time in the year 2018. During that time, the neighborhood saw twice as many homicides and aggravated assaults as 2018. (St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article, December 2, 2019) On Dec. 2, 2019 the City of St. Louis recorded 183 homicides for the year. Eleven of those victims were under the age of 17.

Bishop Wooten called on anyone in the St. Louis area to join him and the Williams Temple COGIC family for “spiritual warfare” by combatting violent crime by prayer and fasting. Many people took on a strict fast where they only consumed water for 40 days while others opted to fast for a set number of hours each day. Whatever type of fast chosen, Bishop Wooten felt God would honor the sacrifice. Many from all races and denominations joined in with Bishop Wooten and the Williams Temple family with prayer and fasting. The church opened its doors around the clock during that time for anyone wishing to visit and pray.

Even though it seemed as if God was not moving on their behalf, the church and those connected did not give up. They continued to travail in prayer. Violence was still rampant. However, the people refused to give up and faint. They went before the throne of God, bombarding heaven with prayer and fasting.

Matthew 7:7: Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; Joel 1:14: Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry unto the Lord.

The fast ended on January 10, 2020 at noon. Consistent, faithful prayer against violence changed the crime statistics in the St. Louis community. As 2021 came to a close, Colonel John W. Hayden, Jr., police commissioner, Metropolitan Police Department – City of St. Louis – presented the

decrease in crime statistics.

St. Louis, Missouri - Year-End Crime Statistics 2021

- Homicides — 30% Decrease
- Aggravated Assault with a Firearm — 25% Decrease
- Robberies — 31% Decrease
- Church Break-Ins & Burglary — 92% Decrease
- Larcenies — 34% Decrease

On January 1, 2022, TIME published an article entitled, “Amid a Continuing Wave of Gun Violence, This U.S. City is Bucking the Trend.”

Homicides as a result of gun violence were consistently high across the U.S. in 2021, after a steep increase in 2020 during the first waves of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many major cities have seen even higher numbers. As of Dec. 29, 2021, there have been over 550 homicides in Philadelphia that year, which broke the 1990 record of 503; in Indianapolis, over 250 people have been killed, more fatalities than the highest previous toll of 215 (which was recorded in 2020). In Washington D.C. over 200 murders were recorded for the first time since 2003.

However, St. Louis has experienced an opposite trend. According to the TIME article, St. Louis, which in 2020 had its highest murder rate in 50 years, recorded 190 homicides as of Dec. 29, which is 73 less than the 263 the year prior. And it’s not just that the numbers are lower compared to the tumultuous period of 2020, they’re lower than some pre-pandemic years as well. In 2019 the city saw 194 homicides and 205 in 2017. (The city’s population has remained statistically consistent over the years). Shooting numbers, specifically, are also down by about 25% this year compared to last year.

Richard Rosenfeld, a criminologist at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and member of The Council on Criminal Justice’s Violent Crime Working Group, which had been analyzing the sharp rise in homicides across the country, told TIME, the decline seen in 2022 in St. Louis was really large, and there really wasn’t [one] definitive answer as to why. Dan Isom, St. Louis’ public safety director, stated in that same article that part of the decline was a result of the city no longer dealing with challenges of lockdowns and restrictions that were in place last year due to COVID-19.

Although Bishop Wooten is aware of the various perspectives as to the decrease in the St. Louis crime rate statistics, he believes the citywide 40 days of prayer and fasting of the saints accomplished this – which had an incredible impact on reducing the levels of violence in St. Louis.

Bishop Wooten wants others to know that God honored the effectual fervent prayers of the righteous – by significantly reducing the crime rate in St. Louis. He believes if the world would pray and fast for 40 days and 40 nights, God will heal the land of the coronavirus.

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