

Himmelsstürmer

40 Tage beten und fasten für unser Land 2011

9. März bis 24. April 2011

Informationen zur Aktion



Englische Wochentexte zur „Himmelsstürmeraktion“
von www.40tagebetenundfasten.de

9th March – 24th April

Stormers of heaven

40 days of prayer and fasting for our nation 2011

Prayer for our nation requires perseverance. It's helpful to receive quick bursts of inspiration from the Holy Spirit or from Christians of another generation. "Hope 2011" is a campaign organized by different youth organizations which encourages young Christians to get involved. Both prayer and action are necessary to transform our nation!

That's why the seven year old prayer initiative "Prayer and Fasting for our Nation" has hope as its theme this year. We will be using the central topics of Hope 2011. During Lent we will pray for a topic a week. Each week there will be seven topics for prayer, i.e. one topic per day. We want to inspire you to pray and act. You can find up-to-date prayer requests at www.40tagebetenundfasten.de. We want to bring together intercessors from different denominations and traditions. Storm the heavens (pray!) with us. And support your prayers by choosing something to fast from.

Week 1 // 8th – 12th March

Stormers of the heavens – hope means prayer

Bible passage: Matthew 7:7-8

Me, someone who storms the heavens? Jesus challenges us to storm heaven with our prayers (Luke 18:1-8). We are called to intercede for people as priests (1 Peter 2:9). You can accept this task from God and contribute to change our nation through your prayers. Maybe you want to stress the seriousness of the job by fasting. You can be sure of this: almighty God is looking down at you from heaven, full of love and compassion. Keep him in your sights when you storm him with your prayers. Then you will be able to pray full of trust and perseverance. You will be carried by his peace. He loves our nation and every person in it. Ask him to widen your horizons and to show you what is important for our nation.

Prayer topics:

1. My father, I come to you. You are... You have... Thank you for...
 2. Ask for new love, faith and passion in order to storm heaven for our nation.
 3. Look at a map of Germany and pray blessings on the different cities and regions.
 4. Twenty years ago two Germanys became one. Thank God and ask him to help the country grow together.
 5. The world on our doorstep: pray for courage and perseverance in expressing the love of Jesus to our foreign neighbours.
 6. Pray for people in positions of responsibility in politics, society and the finance sector. Pray for faith, hope and love for our nation.
 7. Listen to what God's Spirit is saying to you about our nation.
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Week 2 // 13th-19th March

Visitors – Hope means giving time

Bible passage: Philippians 2:24, Matthew 25: 36-40

How much hope could be reawakened in people with an email, a phone call or a visit? Paying people attention like this is a precious gift. I take time for someone - I make a gift of my time, time that I have received as a gift from God. Jesus was interested in individuals and took time for them. Time for lunch, time for a visit, time to share deep thoughts.

There is no hope without human interaction. I can change the checkout lady's day with just a smile! You could get together with other people to organize visits creatively, or you could take the initiative and visit someone yourself.

Prayer topics:

1. The unemployed and chronically sick. People who suffer with too much time on their hands.

2. Volunteers - recognition and support from society at large.
 3. Changes afoot for young people's voluntary social work as military service and its counterparts change.
 4. Time for intercultural relationships.
 5. The wish to slow down versus time pressures.
 6. Openness for encounters with other people during the day
 7. Who can I give time and hope to today?
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Week 3 // 20th-26th March

Sandwich brigade – Hope means caring for others

Bibel passage: Matthew 4:4; Isaiah 58:3-8

We are confronted daily by catastrophes in the media. Normally we are unable to help directly and relieve the suffering. This helplessness can lead to our hearts hardening.

There have always been suffering people. There are almost unlimited ways of getting involved. Help often starts with prayer. God doesn't just change the situations we pray for, he often changes the heart of the person praying. D.L. Moody said "Every great movement of God can be traced back to a person on their knees." Over 100 years ago The Salvation Army began to change inner cities through prayer and practical help. We need lots more movements of that sort!

Prayer topics:

1. Support for old people, children and single parents affected by poverty
 2. For the different standards of living in East and West to become closer
 3. Effective help for people in trouble. Prayer for Christian organizations involved in helping.
 4. For churches, to be able to start creative initiatives and projects
 5. Active contribution of our nation to development aid and the alleviation of world hunger, blessings for the Micha Initiative
 6. Lessening of the results of the economic crisis for third world countries
 7. Prayer for open eyes. Lord, how can I help someone today?
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Week 4 // 27th March – 2nd April

Out of the ghetto - Hope means serving

Bible passage: Matthew 9, 35-39; 2 Thessalonians 2: 16,17

Earning money is well thought of – serving less so. Paid work is recognized more than volunteering. According to a survey, when people are assured of a good future, they are more prepared to serve

selflessly. So personal hope and the joy of serving are closely connected. That makes sense: if you are hopeful of being well looked after in the future, you can serve others without hope of return.

Jesus showed us how. He is our inspiration. God's love helps us persevere. It helps us get close to people. Wherever there is need. Wherever God uses us as messengers of his hope. That can begin in our own families or apartment blocks.

Prayer topics:

1. Pray for more joyful and relaxed models of service
 2. Promotion of neighbourhood help, voluntary services, citizens' forums etc.
 3. For more churches to get out of their "spiritual ghettos" and get involved in their neighbourhoods
 4. More courage to get involved in local and regional politics
 5. For people to take notice of the world outside their front door and to get to know migrants
 6. Bless Christian organizations involved in development work
 7. That I recognize who needs me in my neighbourhood
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Week 5 // 3rd -9th April

Get stuck in! Hope means getting involved courageously

Bible passage: Philippians 2:5; John 13:5 ff; Galatians 6:2

Dietrich Bonhoeffer called it "praying and doing justice". Sometimes praying seems simpler than doing. Despite our fear, we need to stand up against hate and disrespect. We can nail our colours to the mast and stand up for people. Jesus stood up for the excluded: adulterers, the sick, the outcast and unpopular elites. He spent time with them and by doing so gave them new hope. That changed the lives of adulterers. God's Kingdom became visible. Jesus wants to show his love through us. We can get involved where we are gifted. "There's a lot to do. Let's get on with it." With all our heart, in prayer and deed.

Prayer Topics

1. For the church's social work: new workers, who are willing to get their hands dirty
2. Thank God for all those who clean up around us: from cleaning ladies and the toilet attendant to road sweepers
3. Christianity to be made visible in the workplace (attitude to work, values, colleagues, prayer in the workplace)
4. More recognition in society for those who choose the home and bringing up children as their place of service
5. People willing to stand up and be counted, even when the price is high
6. Thank God for the important work of the police and judiciary – and pray for them
7. Ask yourself: where can I get involved?

Week 6 // 10th – 16th April

Consumers of less – hope means thinking globally

Bible passage: Genesis 1:28ff; Revelation 21:5

Should I buy a cheap shirt on the internet or one that is fairly traded and ecologically sustainable? If I go down the fair trade route, maybe I will only be able to afford one item of clothing. But if I do so, I act against pollution, exploitation and hunger in the developing world. Thinking about what I buy liberates me from the general rush to find ever cheaper things that influences the markets.

The choices I make when shopping can be a testimony to my Christian faith. God entrusted this world to us. We were to populate it and be stewards of it, but not destroy it willfully. If I want to live to glorify God, then I will care what kind of world we bequeath to future generations.

Week 7 // 17th – 24th April

Hope means dedication

Bible passage: Matthew 10:38-40; John 3:16

“I give my life for the Lord of the world. I give my life for what really counts. A life for God, for him alone, that ‘s what my life should be.” This song was sung at Daniela Beyer’s funeral in 2010. She was murdered along with other Christian development workers in Afghanistan. That might be the exception here, but it is a daily reality in other countries. One out of ten Christians suffers hostility, persecution or murder. Jesus lived as an example that dedication to God centres on the cross. Only the love that gives everything conquers the hate of this world.

If you dedicate yourself to serve God and other people, whether as a monk, a doctor or a politician, you bring hope to this world. God raised Jesus from the dead and showed that love is stronger than death.

Prayer Topics:

1. That we learn from Jesus what dedication means (Philippians 2:5-11)
2. God’s help for persecuted Christians worldwide (Revelation 2:17)
3. Blessing for communities and holy orders, which are specific places of dedication to God
4. More people who recognize and accept their calling (Matthew 9: 35-38)
5. Politics as service to our nation – for politicians to have a change of heart
6. For missionaries and mission organizations: help in personal and financial difficulty
7. Ask yourself: How does Jesus want me to devote myself to him?

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