

**Today marks a historic moment in the life of our nation because for the first time in history a person of color becomes the President of the United States of America.** The product of a black father and white mother, Barack Obama's rise to the presidency is a powerful statement to people of all races and colors in our nation and world, reminding us all that regardless of who we are, where we come from or the color of our skin, we can overcome every obstacle and opponent to realize our God-given potential.

Back in November when Mr. Obama was elected as our President, I presented to you 10 WAYS TO PRAY FOR PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA. You will find that same document at the bottom of this *Connecting Point* as well as on our Church website. Please print it, place it in a prominent place where you will see it regularly, and pray for our new President, his family, his cabinet and the leaders and people of our nation daily.

**The Lord is already working miracles in response to our first week of *praying and fasting*.** We had an incredible number of people in attendance in this past weekends service, and we are already hearing reports of prayers being answered, miracles being performed, and lives being changed as a result of his emphasis on pursuing the Lord and His will through prayer and fasting.

**This coming weekend (January 24-25) we will be focusing on and learning about the power of the Lord to bring supernatural healing to people's lives.** If you know of someone in need of physical, emotional or spiritual healing, please bring them with you to one of our worship services this weekend. I believe that the Lord can and will perform some mighty miracles in peoples lives as you and I bring them with us.

Also on this coming weekend, we are encouraging all of our members and attendees to renew their commitment to the Lord as we begin this new year. This is something we do annually at Celebration Church, and it is our way of communicating to the Lord and our church leadership that we want to love Him, live for Him and serve Him throughout 2009.

The commitments we are challenging our people to make are to strive in 2009 to be faithful in:

- WORSHIPING WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS (Luke 4:16, Hebrews 10:25, Acts 5:42)
- GROWING IN THE LORD BY STUDYING HIS WORD (Luke 4:4, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- GIVING TO THE LORD TITHES AND OFFERINGS (Luke 6:38, Malachi 3:10)
- SERVING THE LORD WITH OUR GIFTS AND TALENTS (Luke 12:35, Ephesians 2:10)
- SHARING MY FAITH IN THE LORD WITH OTHERS (Matthew 28:10, Acts 1:8)

We have found at Celebration, that when we are faithful to the Lord in living for and serving Him, He will be faithful to direct us, provide us and protect us. Come this weekend with a cheerful and committed heart, looking forward the great plans and purposes God has for you in 2009.

**We still have a few openings for our MEN'S *CHAMPIONS RETREAT* scheduled for this coming Friday evening and Saturday (January 23-24), although registrations must be in by 12 noon on Wednesday (January 21).** The cost is \$30, and the retreat will be held at our Airline Campus Activities Center. The benefits are that the men and teen boys who attend will experience newfound freedom and supernatural power in their lives. You can register by contacting your

Community Pastor or contacting Julie Mitchell in our church office (504.831.9673, ext 301, [Juliem@celebrationchurch.org](mailto:Juliem@celebrationchurch.org)).

**Be planning to bring others with you to our TEAM WEEKEND services on January 31 – February 1.** On that weekend we will be:

- Breaking our *21-Day Fast* by participating together in the Lord's Supper
- Celebrating some of the miracles performed by the Lord during our fasting and prayer effort
- Hearing some thrilling testimonies from noted football "greats"
- Beginning a new message series titled, *THE BIGGEST LOSERS*
- Having *Super Bowl Parties* in our *Life Groups* for the Super Bowl

We are experiencing LIFE WIDE OPEN through our Celebration worship services and ministry. Encourage everyone you know to come and experience the miraculous work that the Lord is doing in, for and through people's lives and families.

Pastor Dennis

P.S. It was my joy and privilege to teach and fellowship with our River Parishes Congregation this past Sunday. What a great group of people they are. It is a joy and blessing to be a part of a church family that has representation and influence throughout the Greater New Orleans area, as well as throughout the world.

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**10 WAYS TO PRAY FOR PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA**