

**PRAYER DEVELOPMENT IDEAS
FOR CORPORATE PRAYER
Prayer and Intercession
Resource Ministries
By Jim and Jean Stephens**

I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:49 NIV)

They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. (Acts 1:14 NIV)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42 NIV)

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. (Acts 12:5 NIV)

When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. (Acts 12:12 NIV)

"It is written," he said to them, "'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a 'den of robbers.'" (Matthew 21:13 NIV)

SECTION ONE

- I. Basics for dynamic corporate prayer
 - A. Commitment and involvement of the pastor, leader.
 - B. Commitment and involvement of other church leaders.
 - C. Time -- a beginning time and a finishing time
 - D. Critical mass -- difference between small group prayer rather than congregational corporate prayer.
- II. Reasons people give for not attending and participating in Corporate Prayer
 - A. 'The meetings are boring'
 - B. 'I have no contribution to make'
 - C. 'My personal needs are not met'
 - D. 'I don't know how to pray in public'

- E. 'The Holy Spirit doesn't show up'
- F. 'We pray, but nothing happens'
- G. 'Our prayer meeting is a gossip club'

III. Possible steps to developing the corporate prayer meeting

- A. Leadership to meet and decide on the steps forward; the strategy for prayer in the church.

"The man who mobilizes the Christian Church to pray will make the greatest contribution in history to world evangelism." Andrew Murray

- 1. Decide on a place of prayer (possibly a prayer room with a prayer map, guide, etc. available) (Ezekiel 22:30)

"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none. (Ezekiel 22:30 NIV)

- 2. Monthly day of prayer and fasting (Joel 2:15-18)

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. 16 Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. 17 Let the priests, who minister before the LORD, weep between the temple porch and the altar. Let them say, 'Spare your people, O LORD. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' 18 Then the LORD will be jealous for his land and take pity on his people. (Joel 2:15-18)

- 3. Effective prayer groups within the church (Matthew 18:19-20)

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:19-20 NIV)

- 4. A church prayer chain; 'prayer alert' system (Galatians 6:2)

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2 NIV)

- B. Present periodic messages on prayer to the congregation.
- C. Develop a prayer ministry leadership and team.
- D. Develop an ongoing prayer training program.
- E. Give prayer a high priority and high visibility in the church.

SECTION TWO

In this study we will be looking at a variety of ideas that can be used corporately in church, in home groups, Bible study groups, etc. Some of these ideas have books or materials available to use. If that is the case we will try to give the information on that.

We would like to suggest ideas that will encourage and facilitate relationship / involvement; caring / giving; and prayer and action ideas.

I. Specific prayer times for / with teams groups within the church:

Each church will have many programs going on. Within these there are specific needs and ideas that should be prayed about. There can / should be a time when these needs are brought before the corporate prayer group and also a time when they as a group can meet to prayer together and for each other.

II. Prayer meeting nights: Maps, calendars, people given specific assignments for research and prayer, church prayer and praise book.

There are many ideas and material already available from different organizations. It is important to remember your own group and its needs as you use these ideas.....will it work with your people, do you need to adapt it so that it will work, what is current in your situation?

III. Youth group prayer: Hands on suggestions

Young people are very visual. They live in a world of media; fast moving; color; images. It will be important for them to have things they can see, be involved in, etc.

IV. Prayer Triplets incorporating Family Breakthrough:

Prayer Triplets are groups of three Christians committed to praying regularly together for their family, community and world.

V. Prayer Walks

1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone -- 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all men -- the testimony given in its proper time. (1 Timothy 2:1-6 NIV)

Praying on site with insight. Prayer walks can be done by small or large groups of people, on a regular basis or on specially set occasions. The idea behind prayer walking is to walk through the streets of the community praying for the people who live and work there. Perhaps know some of the history of area (spiritual emphasis); what goes on in area (street people, drug dealing, prostitutes, etc.); ministries that are currently in the area; people living in area (names, family situations); evangelism emphasis.

VI. Early morning prayer times

This can be an opportunity for people that would be unable to attend other prayer meetings to meet for prayer. At this time, you could use some of the suggestions from other times such as the overhead projector, prayer maps and guides.

VIII. All night prayer meetings

IX. Church prayer chains

SECTION THREE

The following are some ideas for hands on prayer meetings.

Intercession/Thankfulness:

1. Emphasis on giving thanks for creation - ask everyone to share a recent memory of something they have seen or experienced in the city that they were thankful for.
2. Thankfulness for friends/relationships - ask everyone to think of a person who has blessed their lives in some way and then provide postcards or paper for them to write a letter/note to that person just expressing their appreciation.
3. Thankfulness for God - read Psalm 116 - have a time of 'open prayer' where everyone speaks out thanks to God for whatever came to mind - no requests allowed.