



## Intercessory Prayer for Church Growth

### Part A: The Prayer Focus

### Part B: Organising Prayer Coverage

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#### Prayer Directives

There are several things you will need to know when organizing prayer coverage for your church. To start we must answer the questions below.

1. Who are your Pastors and/or leaders?
2. What are the ministries in your church at this present time?
3. What ministries would you like to see developed or come into being?
4. In what direction do you feel the Holy Spirit is leading your church in ministry?
5. What is your desire for this Body of Believers?

Let's address each of these questions:

#### Who are your Pastors and leaders?

In covering your church in prayer it will be important to know who labours among you. What are their positions and their responsibilities?

Each Pastor, leader and department head will need individual and specific prayer coverage.

Here are some points to cover:

#### Pray:

- a. For their personal well being.
- b. The blessings of God to be upon them.
- c. The Holy Spirit's direction to be clear to them in all areas of their life and leadership.
- d. That they would walk before God and man in the integrity and character of the Holy Spirit.

If they are married:

- e. That God would minister these same things to their spouse and children.
- f. That their marriage would remain strong and in tact.
- g. That their love for one another and their family would increase.

## **What are the ministries in your church at this present time?**

Make a list of all the ministries now active in your church. Each ministry, whether in the church or an out reach of the church is important to God and vital for church growth and bringing others to Christ.

### **Pray:**

- a. The key points above for the person or persons leading their area of ministry.
- b. For God to strengthen and build these areas of the church they are leading.
- c. That He would impart the knowledge and anointing needed to have an active and thriving ministry to your church and community.
- d. That He would lead others to your church that have a call of God or interest in the type or types of ministry God is directing your church into.
- e. That God would bring together those with teachable spirits who would co-labour in love and unity to the building up the Body of Christ.

## **What ministries would you like to see developed or come into being?**

As you pray and ministries start to flourish, you should find an increase in the people attending your church. Because of the increase of souls being won to Christ, ministries in other areas will need to be developed.

We must disciple and strengthen those God sends to us and prepare for the others coming.

- a. Pray and ask God what ministries He would like to see added to the church.
- b. What ministries would you like to see?

We can limit God by limiting ourselves when we think too small. Refuse to limit your vision to what you see and feel in the natural around you. Ask God to enlarge your vision and to help you to see and know what He wants and desires for your church.

Pray and expect God to do big things. Miracles are born out of a spirit of expectancy. Remember, nothing is impossible with God! He is the God of impossibilities!

## **In what direction do you feel the Holy Spirit is leading your church in ministry?**

This is a very important question to ask. If we do not have the Holy Spirit's leading then we become just another organization or social club.

As Christians our mission is to present the gospel and pray that as we exalt the name of Jesus, the Lord of the harvest will draw men and women, boys and girls to him to receive him as their Saviour. To continue this mission we must disciple those whom are converted to Christ.

We may present the gospel in many forms:

- Through the teaching and preaching of the Word of God from the pulpit,
- Through witnessing one to one or in groups,
- Through music of various forms,
- Through drama and dance,
- Through outreach programs into the community,
- Through Bible studies and home fellowships,

As well as through visiting the elderly and ill.  
There are many more, these are just to name a few.

Whatever your hands find to do, do it unto the Lord to the best of your ability and He will bless it.

Jesus said, when you have done it unto the least of least my brethren, you have done it unto me. We serve Jesus by serving others in the love of Christ.

## **What is your desire for this Body of Believers?**

The definition for minister in Webster's Dictionary tells us that a minister is an agent or instrument; one who serves to supply things needed. We are all ministers of the gospel in one way or another.

The word ministry is not just a title, but an action. In love we encourage, strengthen, unify and build the Body of Christ.

As a church and as individuals we are called to win souls, bringing them out of darkness into the Light. We are to share the gospel message where ever we go and in everything we do. Our strongest witness is to live Christ centered lives and to look and act like we believe what we profess.

God's desire is for us to work hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, hip to hip, and heart to heart, in unity with the Holy Spirit and with one another.

With our hand in God's hand He can lead us. With our shoulder to His shoulder we are yoked together with Him. With our hip to His hip we stay in step with Him. With our heart to His heart we can feel His heart beat and what matters to Him most.

What matters to God most is people. They are God's heart beat. People must be what matters the most to us as well.

Our desire is to win the lost to Jesus. Let us put aside our own agendas to spend time with God discovering His plan for the area of ministry He has called us to. >From there we will let Him equip us through prayer, study of the Word of God, as well as researching books and learning from others who are already working in ministry.

## **Assigning prayer coverage:**

When assigning prayer coverage you will need to make a list of all those who hold an office as well as those who are leaders of ministries.

Example:

- a. Pastors, Elders, Heads of departments and ministry leaders, as well as those working outside of your church, but under your church covering.
- b. Supporting staff and volunteers.
- c. Ministries presently operating.
- d. Ministries you feel God would like to add to your church as well as ones you desire to see operating.

As the Prayer Intercessors stand in the gap for the church they will need prayer as well. It is best that the leaders of the church be the ones to cover them in prayer.

God loves to answer our prayers. Ask largely of the Lord and do not forget the details. Be specific with God and watch Him bring it to pass in His way and timing.

Above all, ask for His will to be done and His Kingdom come in all matters.

### **Delegating prayer coverage:**

Delegating prayer coverage will depend upon the amount of ministries and Prayer Intercessors available. Do not worry if you are in a small Body of Believers. Get everyone involved!

When interceding for pastors, depending on the size of your church, I recommend at least 2 to 5 Intercessors for each pastor and his family. As others start attending your church it will become necessary to add more intercessors to keep the ministry covered in prayer.

### **Intercessors:**

Please pray the prayer points listed above. Listen, as God may give you personal prayer points to pray for them as well as the ones listed.

If God shares with you a particular need or information about the person you are praying for, it is not to be discussed with others in a gossip session. It is best to keep this private between you and the Lord.

If God releases you to ask someone to stand in prayer with you for this person, it is not always necessary to go into detail about it. Ask a prayer partner to stand in agreement with you that God's will, will be done and His Kingdom to be exalted in the person's life.

The Holy Spirit is a gentleman and is not out to embarrass or bring reproach to anyone. His work as well as ours is to build others up in prayer and encouragement.

### **For Each Pastor and/or Leader, assign:**

2-5 Intercessors for the Pastors and their families.

1-3 Intercessors for all other ministries, unless the Lord directs otherwise.

God assures us that if we His people will humble ourselves and pray, that He will hear our prayers and answer us.

Prayer is a labour of love. It is vital that you take time to talk to God on behalf of yourself, your family and friends, your church, your community, cities and nations.

Prayer will set the wheels of change into motion.

Enter into prayer with a grateful heart of thanks giving and praise to the One who loves you most. Petition the Lord for others and remember to petition Him for yourself.

### **Example Prayer:**

This is an example of prayer following the prayer points listed above. You may pray this prayer and add to it as the Lord directs or you may pray covering the points just as they are written.

**Heavenly Father God**, I come to you in **Jesus** name. I am grateful that you love me. I thank you for all you have done and provided for myself and those I love.

Please forgive my sins known and unknown to me. I ask for and accept your atonement for my sins.

I now lift up my church before you. I appreciate your love for us. Thank you for what you have done in our church, what you are doing and what you are about to do.

We desire for the souls of men, women, boys and girls to come to know you as their personal Saviour.

I desire you to use me to be a vital instrument to the building of your Body through prayer and encouragement for those you have given me to love and serve.

For (name of your **Pastor / leader of ministry** that you are praying for) I pray for \_\_\_\_\_ well being. I ask that you protect and guide \_\_\_\_\_ all that he/she does. May \_\_\_\_\_ walk in divine health and be strong by the presence of your might in \_\_\_\_\_ spirit, soul, and body.

Anoint \_\_\_\_\_ eyes of understanding so that \_\_\_\_\_ understanding would be fruitful. Anoint \_\_\_\_\_ hearing that \_\_\_\_\_ would be able to distinguish the voices that \_\_\_\_\_ hears. May \_\_\_\_\_ be able to discern his/her voice, the world's voice, demonic voices or suggestions, and above all know your voice and follow Your direction.

I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ would remain humble and walk in the integrity of your Word. May your Righteousness lead \_\_\_\_\_ upon the path of Holiness. Strengthen \_\_\_\_\_ walk with you. Have your way in \_\_\_\_\_ life. I pray these same things for \_\_\_\_\_ family as well.

Your Word says; unless you build your church the labourers work in vain. We ask that you build your church through us. Enable us through your leadership to reach lost souls bringing them unto the saving Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Lead and guide (*call out the name or ministry you are praying for*) that we would become a church strong and active in ministry for you.

May we serve and prefer one another in love as we minister your gospel to those you have given to us.

We ask and thank you for co-labourers who have teachable spirits and desire to work in unity as to the vision you have set forth in our leadership to promote your Kingdom's work in our church.

May we, the people called by your name, increase in our desire to serve you with all that is within us. Cause us to be willing to sacrifice our will to Yours.

You have blessed us with health, education, and resources of all kinds to be able to give back into the lives of others.

We thank you for the increase in our financial, material, and spiritual blessings to be able to support the work you have set before us.

Your Word tells us that it is those who are **willing and obedient** that will eat the fruit of the land. They are the ones who will be successful in all that they put their hands to do.

**We love You and thank You for your love for us.....Amen.**

[Teaching by LaVonne Bardell - September, 2005]