

CATCHING VISION FOR “THE PRAYING CHURCH”

GOD’S PURPOSE FOR THE GROWING EXPRESSION OF PRAYER

- God’s eternal purpose for His church in every place on this earth is to be a “praying church”.
- His desire is for Each body to fulfill their calling to be a “house of prayer”
- This reality is the fulfillment of the promise of Isa. 56:7 “My House shall be a house of Prayer”

Matthew 21:13

13 And He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’ ”

Mark 11:17

17 Then He taught, saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’ ”

- We have the potential to create a culture of prayer that saturates the life of our spiritual family regardless of what the expression of prayer looks like.

EVIDENCE OF A GROWING EXPRESSION-GOD’S answer to Prayerlessness

- God is moving among his body to bring us into the common calling to be a people of prayer.
- “I think we can agree that the western church is not known for being a people of prayer.”
- To be reasonable and Honest: Prayer is not a pervasive culture of the majority of churches in our nation
- Prayerlessness-not a sense of no prayer, but a sense of the lack of sufficient prayer.
- The things that are developing point to God’s heart and faithfulness for His body to reach it’s full identity in all things. God is up to restoring prayer.

Expression of corporate Prayer

Simply a couple of Christians meeting together on a regular basis with a hunger to pray with someone.

Gathering as a body for Rock Pile Prayer meetings

Houses of Prayer

Prayer Networks

Local prayer groups-Moms in Prayer- Launched Internationally

Prayer Events
Regional Prayer gatherings (NWPG)
Worship and Prayer - Prayer Room

SIGNIFICANT EXPRESSIONS with UNITED MISSION

The Church, the HOUSE OF PRAYER, the MISSIONS BASE

The CHURCH-Local Congregation

- The primary structure and expression of the Kingdom of God
- The body of Christ is proposed and destined to manifest the fullness of God on this earth.
 - EPH 4:11-13 *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the [e]difying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*
- All christians are called to be involved in a local congregation/spiritual family

The Presence Centered Church

- The Church that is makes the presence of Jesus priority over all pursuits
- The church that is focused on maintaining first love
- The church that leans into the priestly function of worship (altar of sacrifice, incense) before moving out with the kingly expression of authority

The Kingdom Church

- The Mark 16 church- moving in the Authority of Christ, proclaiming the gospel with signs and wonders.
 - **20** And they went forth, and preached every where, the **Lord working** with them, and confirming the word with signs following..

The Praying church

- Every local body is meant to become a house of prayer by God's biblical definition and declaration over His House

- A praying church is a sending church
- The church in Acts was a praying church and a sending missional church
- **Acts 13:1-4**

13 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent

them away. 4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

- By Jesus' own command, we are meant to hold these two expressions together
 - Matt. 9:37-38 “**37** Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. **38** Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”
- A praying church ends up being given to praying for, training, and sending workers out into the harvest-into our neighborhoods, cities and nation and the world.
- The form or expression of churches prayer takes a unique shape to that body
- Most will not have 24/7 prayer, but they will have strong cultures of prayer infiltrating the corporate life of that body
- Again this is God's plan that every local body would develop a corporate prayer life that is central to its life and ministry

THE MISSIONS BASE

- The vision of a missions base is to see a witness of the Kingdom of God be given to every people group in the earth, fulfilling the great commission
- Serve as mission training and sending communities
- They are considered a part of the missions movement as a House of Prayer would be considered part of the prayer movement
- Not all believers are called to participate in missions bases
- **example-YWAM**

HOUSES OF PRAYER-PRAYER FURNACES

- Because the term is used universally between churches that pray and specific prayer ministries it is a good idea to keep discovering what sets a house of prayer apart as its own ministry.
- The term can be used for the great prayer movement in general across the body at large
- But, the term is also used to describe the primary emphasis and focus that is on continual and sustained daily prayer for many hours a week.
- this as a unique assignment given by the Lord
- Summary: a ministry that is not a church that primarily focuses on prayer.
- **EXAMPLE-TRIHOP**

A FULLY DEVELOPED HOP

- Sustaining a high degree of day and night corporate prayer with large staffs-full and part time
- some are operating as missions bases as well.
- Often large groups are praying together-utilizing worship teams
- They carry the conscious mandate of representing the continuous nature and Model of David's Tabernacle
- They often have significant training ministries
- Some DO NOT have a local church expression but have many people from other churches giving themselves to the HOP
- Some DO have a local church expression-a congregation associated
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** HOPs and any other prayer ministry do not see themselves as assuming the role of praying on behalf of the local church to the exclusion of the churches and their own calling to prayer. In other words: Prayer ministries dont do their praying for the rest of the church or take the place of the church in fulfilling this ministry.

A FREEING REALITY-

- With the faith that God is stirring up His people for prayer, there needs to be an understanding that the majority of believers that desire to respond are not specifically called to be in a House of Prayer nor to build a mission base. This is tied to a direct assignment from the Lord.
- The fulfillment of the callings, the passions, and visions for prayer itself will mostly come from the local body through serving the development of a Culture of Prayer.
- The Concrete expression of a prayer ministry that is developing within a body will be the main avenue of fulfillment for most of the body.

WHAT IS THE PRAYER MOVEMENT?

“A dynamic and exciting work of God in the church and around the world that is well-documented, and characterized by an increased interest in and practice of prayer and worship, corporately and individually.”

- This is a work of God by His Spirit in our time!
- It is more than a fad, or temporary and passing emphasis of a subgroup of the body of Christ
- God's primary Goal in the prayer movement is that every church be a praying church and fulfill this purpose God has for it.
- The word “Movement” is not meant to illustrate a small part of the larger church

- God's work is pervasive and enduring.
- This is a systemic work of the Holy Spirit that will endure in impact
- We are being led into a work led by God's hands that has end of days implications.

Mal. 1:11

*11For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down,
My name shall be great among the Gentiles;
In every place incense shall be offered to My name,
And a pure offering;
For My name shall be great among the nations,"
Says the Lord of hosts.*

- This is a prophecy outlining a global prayer, worship, and missions movement.
- Incense will arise in every nation.
- God will and is causing incense (worship and prayer) to rise in every place on earth.
- We must assume that we are continually moving toward and increase of souls coming into the kingdom as each day gets closer to His return.
- His will is that not one would perish and that earth would be filled with the Knowledge of Him. (Is. 11:9)
- We live in such a time of tension of the harvest being ready as darkness grows with it.
- The reason missions exists is to fulfill these kinds of promises in the word of God
- John Piper says: "Missions exists, because worship doesn't"
- The goal of world missions is to see believers in all places of the world offering up the incense of worship and prayer, making the name of the Lord known.

*9And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll,
And to open its seals;
For You were slain,
And have redeemed us to God by Your blood
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
10And have made [d]us kings[e] and priests to our God;
And [f]we shall reign on the earth." Rev. 5:9-10*

The prayer movement is more than gathering in a room for prayer, its joining in the prophetic promise of the end-time harvest. We will become a sending and be sent.

Evidence of the Systemic Impact:

- The missions movement is turning aside to recognize the significance of the prayer movement.

- Mission Frontiers-Online Magazine of the US Center for World Mission
 - Dedicate Issue to Lifestyle of Prayer
 - Article: ***Intercessory Missions -David Taylor***“Historically, there has always been a strong synergistic connection between renewal movements and missions. Therefore it is not a surprise that we are beginning to see a passion for mission in the midst of the prayer “furnaces” which are being ignited in this country and all over the world. Could it be that God has reserved the most powerful forms of mission for penetrating the last frontiers of the Great Commission—the places we call the “hardest and darkest” on earth?”
 - *Critical Mass- How the 24/7 Movement is Poised to Make a Massive Impact on the Last Remaining Unreached People Groups*
 - **Informed Intercession-The Wonderful Marriage of Research + prayer**
 - **A Culture of Prayer In One Local Missional Church: Pastor Interview- *"Prayer is the real work. It precedes, underlays, strengthens, sharpens, protects and fuels missions and missionaries.***
 - **Pray! Ekballo!-A Prayer Revolution for the Great Harvest-Lou Engle Quotes Adrew Murry**
 - *“I am seriously asking myself and all those who read here this question: “Have I merely taken Matthew 9:38 as a simple suggestion from the Master? And have I trivialized the main prayer request that Jesus himself made of his disciples?”*
- YWAM Missions Base (Fire and Fragrance)
 - Embracing the worship and prayer dynamic
- Multi-denominational-
- Para-Church ministries-
 - Intercessors for America
 - Reformation Prayer Network
 - 24/7 Burn
 - The call
 - Meet me at the Pole
 - Concerts of Prayer
- International
 - Global Day of Prayer
 - Third World Presence
 - China-estimated 10,000 HOPs going 24/7

- Indonesia-largest Muslim population-500 HOPs 24/7
- Korea-famous for culture of praying 2 hours/day at their church every morning before work as a normal practice

THE PRAYER GENE

- This is more than a small sub-Current in the body
- It is systemic and Global
- The Prayer DNA/Code that God has placed in his church to be a praying people is being activated
- God has gifted us with prayer for the Kingdom purposes in the time in history
- Consistent prayer and worship is rising up to partner with God to expand the kingdom.
- Prayer is the primary means by which God executes his will-We are to pray-"Your Kingdom Come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

CONCLUSION

Hitting highpoints of the timeline and share some of my perspective. Jump in with significant things that God did and was stirring up

Revive's Story/Timeline

- Todd's story of beginning to pray-
- The presence-Encounter the Holy Spirit

TEXAS PRAYER CONF

- the beauty realm (Sustained by His Beauty)-Texas Prayer Conference
 - Developing a worship culture of being discipled by His beauty
 - Revelation Throne room worship

TELL ME WHAT GOD OPENED UP FOR YOU AT THE TEXAS PRAYER CONF

OUR WORSHIP AND PRAYER RESPONSE

- Worship and Prayer Nights-Deciding to pull the expression of musical worship and prayer together in one place
- Established Sunday Night as our worship and prayer Nights as our commitment to continual sustained prayer

GIVING MORE

- God continued to stir the desire to give more to prayer-
 - Open up the sanctuary to dedicate more time
 - Began to carve out more time and experimented with different things to express dedication to day and night ministry to the lord.
 - Thursday staff prayer with a guitar
 - Weekday and weeknight devotional worship and prayertimes
 - Simply putting up a livestream of other prayer ministries

WHAT WAS GOING ON IN YOU WHEN STIRRED TO GIVE MORE

COVID-

- A season of an audience of ONE

CONNECTING TO PRAYER LEADERS IN PRAYER MOVEMENT

- God directed Us to Leaders in the Prayer Movement-Invited to the NWPG Table
- Meeting IAN
- Burns-Join regional expression continual worship and prayer
- Began to develop relationship with Leadership from TRIHOP diving into the values of House of Prayer as it emphasized in the prayer movement
- Current:
 - God directs us to emphasize our missional mandate to reach the nations.-CORY
 - Getting a Vision for Sustained corporate Prayer-Our Prayer Room is taking shape to take its place in the greater prayer movement.
 - Our prayer room is becoming the place for continual sustained enjoyable prayer

The whole point of this series is to share a unified perspective on How Revive as a corporate family is grabbing hold of this invitation:

“We are becoming increasingly a “praying church” where prayer is not one of many ministries, but is a central dynamic that saturates and pervades all other ministries.”

The hope is that this perspective would stir up a desire to personally respond.

PRAY FOR:

GOD TO STRENGTHEN US TO BECOME THE HIS PRAYING CHURCH

(Col. 1:9-11)

that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

*Notes compiled from Handout by Scott Bradshaw