

**Prayer Priority!      July 10, 2016**

There are so many things happening in our world, and in our country, and in our community right now – I am compelled to call us to PRAY!

**Intro.** - Cathy and I in the Cayman Islands... Our first ministry trip outside of the country... We went to suffer for Jesus... there are people everywhere who need Jesus, and somebody has to go! Explain... But even in the midst of the beauty - still a Spiritual Battle there...

Then in the early 90's – not long after we started the church – we traveled to Haiti... a place dedicated to Satan and Voodoo... explain...

We are called to lead – as a church – and as individuals - to root out the evil in this city, and lead people out of darkness, and into the light...

**Prayer effort...** Wichita Prayer Movement - Explain...

Pastor Stan Van den berg - Eastminster Presbyterian

Ps. Sam McVey - New Life Church/Disciple Nations (John Smith and Nassar Al ak med)

\*\*\* Operation Save America - Summer Of Justice - explain...

- Demonstrations planned
- Messaging and Images
- Strategy and Tactics

\*\*\* We agree with the mission, but not the method.

\*\*\* Too much Incendiary language and to hate oriented rather than love!

\*\*\* Too much Condemnation and Shame

Choices Medical Clinic and Pregnancy Crisis Center - (give, help, serve, pray, encourage...)

\*\*\* **I am so thankful for the Unity in the City among the churches!!!**

West E. Free (Ken Cooper), Pathway (Todd Carter), First UMB (Brent Warkentin), Central Community (Bob Beckler), Eastminster (Stan Van den berg), Central Christian (David Welsh), Hope Community (Steve Weldon), Restored (Rob Danz)... \*\*\*\* About 40+ Churches...

**Lift up Jesus!      \*\*\* Next WIP City Prayer Gathering - September**

\*\*\* **We must go to a new level in PRAYER!!**

**Luke 11: 1-4** “It happened that **while Jesus was praying** in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, **teach us to pray** just as John also taught his disciples.” <sup>2</sup> And He said to them, “When you pray, say:  
‘Father, hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup> 'Give us each day our daily bread.  
<sup>4</sup> 'And forgive us our sins,  
For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.  
And lead us not into temptation.'"

**Matthew 6: 9-13** "Pray, then, in this way:

'Our Father who is in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.

<sup>10</sup> 'Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> 'Give us this day our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.')

## **PRAYER PRIORITY:**

### **1. TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.**

**Ephesians 6: 12** "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."

Another translation says: Principalities... Princes (rulers) of an area...

**Illus.** - Story of Phyllis Newby - experiences in Haiti...

Haiti has been dedicated to Satan - story of Pastor John who's father had been a Voodoo Priest and sacrificed his children...

**Leviticus 18: 21** "You shall not give any of your offspring to offer them to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God; I am the Lord."

Explain... They were doing this in the valley of Hinnem... the valley of death - a place dedicated to Satan - with weeping and gnashing of teeth...

\*\*\* Here's the point - When we do ministry in opposition to the enemy of God - we can expect opposition!

What we are doing in this city - with a unified church - has the enemy of God working overtime to maintain his territory...!

From political issues - to social issues - to spiritual issues - family issues... it is time to take this seriously - pray and work diligently to take back what hell has stolen...!!

**Ephesians 6** - talks about Principalities... now look at Daniel 10

Daniel is praying and fasting for 21 Days - and an Angel finally comes to him to bring him relief and rescue... and the answer to David's prayer!

**Daniel 10: 12-14** “Then he said to me, “Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. 14 Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future.”

**Daniel 10: 20-21** “Then he said, “Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am going forth, and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come. 21 However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince.”

**\*\*\* Your Prince is the Prince Of Peace!!!**

**\*\*\*** When we started this church in 1993 - I knew we would battle the issues resident in this area.

**??** Do you know what a couple of the issues (strong holds) are in this area? Pride and Greed...

That’s why we have been intentional about being Humble and Generous!

It is breaking the strongholds...!

**\*\*\*** My Passion for Marriage, Parenting, Family... Why has God given me this burden...!

## **2. DON'T TAKE IT TOO SERIOUSLY.**

Don't get so full of fear and anxiety about everything going on around you/us - that you live by fear and stay so burdened that it stresses you out...

God didn't create prayer to create stress, He created prayer to take it off!

**Philippians 4: 6-7** “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Anxiety is the opposite of Prayer!

**I Peter 5: 7** “casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”

**\*\*\* Prayer is transferring your burden to God! If you pray and you still have the burden, you didn't give it to God, you just complained.”**

**We give God our burden, and He gives us His peace! It is a Grace Filled Exchange! God takes something only He can carry and we receive something that carries us!**

Let's keep things in perspective... GOD'S PROMISES ARE TRUE! GOD IS ON HIS THRONE!!! HE IS IN CONTROL...!!! HE HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD...!!!

**John 16: 33** "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

**Illus.** - The way we take things to the feet of Jesus... and then pick them back up...

\*\*\* A friend of mine was telling me one time about a huge burden he was carrying... and I asked, "Have you given this to the Lord?" He said, "Oh yes, many times...!"

I'm not saying we only pray about it once... Daniel kept on praying... but we can pray without the pressure...

**Psalms 55: 22** "Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken."

\*\*\* Here is something to keep in mind... 300 years ago, the United States didn't exist... not too far back...!

300 years from now - the US may no longer exist...! We don't know... No Empire, Government, Kingdom, or Human Powered Dynasty has ever lasted the test of time...

There is only one thing that has lasted through the ages... The Church! The Body Of Christ! The Family Of God! The Bride Of Christ...!!!

For 2000+ years...!!

\*\*\* Here is the way you can Pray Seriously - but not stress out about it.

**Colossians 2: 9-10** "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, 10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;"

No matter what you - or we - are going through - we can pray the prayer Jesus taught us to pray with victory and confidence...

### **Example:**

**Matthew 6: 9-13** "Pray, then, in this way:

'Our Father who is in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

<sup>10</sup> 'Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> 'Give us this day our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.)']

??? What is The Father - through The Holy Spirit - saying to you right now?

What burden are you carrying that you need to give to Him?

What needs to be applied to your life from this message?