

Called to Be an Intercessory Missionary

I. INTERCESSORY MISSIONARIES

- A. We define an intercessory missionary as those who do the work of the kingdom from the place of prayer and worship while embracing a missionary lifestyle and focus.
- B. We call the full-time staff to 12 prayer meetings per week, which is the equivalent of 2 prayer meetings a day (6 days a week). This gives us the opportunity to go to one prayer meeting a day which is focused on intercession for the work of the kingdom and one focused on personally encountering Jesus and His Word. The value of being in prayer, worship, and the Word for four hours a day can be easily affirmed by the New Testament.
- C. The New Testament only gives a few specific ministry titles and job descriptions. However, it gives ministry values such as winning the lost, caring for people, helping the poor, prayer, etc. The apostle is the most common title with the clearest job description in the NT.
- D. We do not see the title or a detailed job description of a senior pastor, youth pastor, missionary, marriage counselor, ministry to the poor or to children, or pro-life ministry, etc. The Bible doesn't give a comprehensive list of ministries that the Spirit has used to meet the specific needs of various cultures in the different generations throughout Church history.
- E. The values behind the full-time occupation of an intercessory missionary are clearly in the Bible, but the title and specific job description are not explicitly named.
- F. The Church has liberty to name specific ministry focuses in a way that applies to their time.

II. THE FULL-TIME OCCUPATION OF SINGERS AND MUSICIANS

- A. David commanded God's people to honor the heavenly order of worship that he received by revelation because it was God's command (2 Chr. 29:25; 35:4, 15; Ezra 3:10; Neh. 12:45).
²⁵[Hezekiah]...stationed Levites in the house of the Lord with stringed instruments... according to the commandment of David...for thus was the commandment of the Lord. (2 Chr. 29:25)
- B. Around 1,000 BC, David established 4,000 full-time paid musicians and singers and 4,000 gatekeepers (1 Chr. 23:5; 25:7).
- C. David financed about 10,000 "staff" to facilitate worship. Israel was commanded to support the singers/musicians in the temple as a full-time occupation (1 Chr. 9:33; 16:37; 23:5; 25:7; 2 Chr. 31:4; 2 Chr. 8:12-14; 31:4-6, 16; 2 Chr. 34:9, 12; Neh. 10:37-39; 11:22-23; 12:44-47; 13:5-12).
³³The singers...were free from other duties; they were employed in that work day and night. (1 Chr. 9:33)

- D. When Israel went astray, God raised up spiritual reformers with a vision to restore worship as David commanded it. All of the 7 “revivals” in OT times restored Davidic worship.
- E. Solomon established the singers (about 970 BC) according to the order of David.
14According to the order of David his father, he [Solomon] appointed...Levites for their duties to praise...as the duty of each day required...for so David...commanded. (2 Chr. 8:14)
- F. Jehoshaphat’s reform (about 870 BC) included establishing singers and musicians.
19The Levites...stood up to praise the Lord...21He appointed those who should sing to the Lord...28They came...with stringed instruments...to the house of the Lord. (2 Chr. 20:19-28)
- G. Jehoiada the high priest restored temple worship in the order of David (about 835 B.C) with singers and musicians and enthroned King Jehoash (Joash) when he was only 7 years old.
16Jehoiada [high priest] made a covenant between himself, the people, and the king, that they should be the LORD's people...18Jehoiada appointed the oversight of the house of the LORD to...the Levites...with singing, as it was established by David. (2 Chr. 23:16-18)
- H. Hezekiah’s revival (about 725 BC) included restoring singers/musicians as David commanded.
25He stationed the Levites in the house of the Lord with...stringed instruments...according to the commandment of David...27The song of the LORD began... (2 Chr. 29:25-27)
- I. Josiah’s revival (about 625 BC) restored full-time singers and musicians as David commanded.
***3He said to the Levites...4“Prepare yourselves...following the instruction of David...”**
15The singers...were in their places, according to the command of David... (2 Chr. 35:3-15)*
- J. Zerubbabel (about 536 BC) established full-time singers and musicians as commanded by David.
10The Levites...to praise the LORD, according to the ordinance of David. (Ezra 3:10)
47 In the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah all Israel gave the portions for the singers and the gatekeepers, a portion for each day. (Neh. 12:47)
- K. Ezra and Nehemiah (445 BC) established full-time singers and musicians as David commanded.
24 The Levites...give thanks...according to the command of David...45The singers and the gatekeepers kept the charge of God...according to the command of David... (Neh. 12:24, 45)

III. THE VALUE OF NIGHT AND DAY PRAYER IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- A. Revelation 4-5 describes the worship order around God’s throne. Those nearest the throne agree with Him in 24/7 worship and intercession as the most exalted occupation in heaven. The highest ideal is seen around the throne. The worthiness of God is the value that will be embraced forever.

⁸*The four living creatures...do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy..." (Rev. 4:8)*

B. David commanded the kings of Israel to raise up full time signers and musicians (2 Chr. 29:25). This was expressed in all seven revivals in the OT after David established it.

C. Isaiah prophesied that unceasing prayer would be established on earth before the Lord returns. He prophesied of prayer ministries that would continue 24/7 until Jesus returns and restores Jerusalem as a praise in the earth. Individual intercessors will not keep silent day or night. God promised to set intercessors in place which includes making provision for this calling.

⁶*I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace [be silent, NAS] day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, ⁷and give Him no rest till He...makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth [at the second coming]. (Isa. 62:6-7)*

D. Isaiah 42:10-15 gives us the clearest picture of the place of prophetic singing before Jesus' return. This prophetic description presupposes there will be places focused on it in a heightened way. Isaiah prophesied about a global intercessory worship movement (v. 10-12), which will be dynamically connected to Jesus' return (v. 13) and His end-time judgments (v. 14-15).

¹⁰*Sing to the LORD a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you coastlands...¹¹*Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains...¹³*The LORD shall go forth [Jesus' second coming] like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies...¹⁵*I will lay waste [by earthquakes] the mountains ..."* (Isa. 42:10-15)***

E. **From the ends of the earth**: five challenging areas that will engage in the worship movement

1. **Go down to the sea**: includes the nearly 12,000 inhabited islands of the earth
2. **Coastlands**: includes the major population and resource centers on the coastlands
3. **Wilderness**: includes the small cities in the wilderness and desert regions
4. **Villages of Kedar and Sela**: Islamic villages in Jordan (Sela) and Saudi Arabia (Kedar)

F. Our vision is to see 24/7 prayer with worship established in every tribe and tongue on earth.

G. God promised the priests of Zadok a blessing for faithfully keeping the worship sanctuary.

¹⁵*But the priests...the sons of Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from Me, they shall come near Me to minister to Me... (Ezek. 44:15)*

IV. THE VALUE OF NIGHT AND DAY PRAYER IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

A. God's desire to be worshipped on earth as He is in heaven has not changed. The Spirit has not emphasized this through history, but now is in many nations. The order of worship that God commanded David to embrace, such as establishing singers and musicians in God's House, is timeless and valid today. The application of this has differed in each generation and culture.

¹⁰*Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Mt 6:10)*

- B. Jesus called the end-time Church to night and day prayer (Lk. 18:7-8) referencing Isaiah 62:6. He connected the release of justice to night and day prayer. This is in context to the end times. Jesus emphasized prayer more than any other specific activity when speaking about the generation He returns (Mt. 24:42-43; 25:13; Mk. 13:9, 33-38; Lk. 21:36; Rev. 3:3; 16:15).

⁷*Shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him. (Lk. 18:7)*

- C. The New Testament highlights people who gave themselves in an extravagant way to prayer. The calling on Anna is an “extreme” example of an intercessory missionary. Very few people at IHOPKC are called to the actual lifestyle of Anna. Paul embraced night and day prayer in various seasons (1 Thes. 3:10; 2 Tim. 1:3) and called widows to this ministry (1 Tim. 5:5).

³⁷*Not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. (Lk. 2:37)*

¹⁰*Night and day praying exceedingly that we may...perfect what is lacking in your faith. (1 Thes. 3:10)*

³*Without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day... (2 Tim. 1:3)*

⁵*She who is a widow...continues in supplications and prayers night and day. (1 Tim. 5:5)*

- D. Jesus valued the lifestyle of *Mary of Bethany* in sitting before Him. He called it necessary and good (Lk. 10:38-42). *Cornelius’* continual prayers are a memorial before God (Acts 10:4). We assume that *John the Baptist* and the *apostles* had a focused and strong prayer life (Acts 6:4).

⁴*We will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word. (Acts 6:4)*

- E. The fact of night and day prayer ministries through Church history testifies that the Spirit has given this mandate to various ministries. What we are doing has been done throughout history.
- F. The Holy Spirit is raising up the most powerful prayer and worship movement in history (Lk. 18:7-8; Rev. 5:8; 8:4; 22:17; Isa. 24:14-16; 25:9; 26:8-9; 27:2-5, 13; 30:18-19; 42:10-13; 43:26; 51:11; 52:8; 62:6-7; Jer. 31:7). It is one of the major themes of end times prophecy. The conflict at the end of the age will be between two global worship movements. The Antichrist will raise up a state-financed false worship worldwide movement (Rev. 13:4, 8, 12, 15).
- G. The Lord prophetically called us to keep a 24/7 worship sanctuary. In May 1983: ***“I will release 24-hour a day prayer in the spirit of the Tabernacle of David.”*** It is a great privilege to be called by God to a lifestyle of prayer and to be set in a community that seeks to walk it out.
- H. ***Why we keep a 24/7 sanctuary:*** To minister to God, release His power, and encounter His heart. In prayer, we contend for a breakthrough of power on our heart, in ministry, and in revelation.

1. We ***minister to God*** by declaring His worth in an unceasing way on earth as a witness to how He is ministered to continually in heaven (Mt. 6:10).
2. We ***labor in intercession*** to release God's power to win the lost, revive the Church, and impact society as we do works of justice and compassion.
3. We ***grow in intimacy with God*** by personally encountering Him by the indwelling Spirit. We receive greater grace to love, obey and partner with Him, as we are fascinated by who He is.
4. We ***grow in revelation of the Word*** gaining insight into His will, ways, and salvation and to understand the unique dynamics of His end-time plan to transition the earth to the age to come.