

HOW TO KICK-START A PRAYER REVOLUTION?

1. WHY IS PRAYER SO IMPORTANT?

- **INTIMACY** – we participate in the Divine Nature (2 Peter 1:4; John 14:23). Prayer is a wide river with many tributaries. It can be described in a number of ways: dialogue with God, surrender to God, petition, and even silent contemplation.
- **DEPENDANCY** (John 15:5)
- **PARTICIPATION** – Through prayer we participate in the intercession of the Spirit (Romans 8:26.27) and the Lord Jesus, our Great High Priest and Advocate with the Father (Hebrews 7:25). Jesus is the open door into the presence and glory of the Father, and the Holy Spirit enables the connection and guides us through the door.
- **PARTNERSHIP** – ‘And I sought for a man among them who should 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 no one (Ezekiel 22:30). In Revelation, the prayers of God people are mingled with incense and poured out on earth to the accompaniment of rumblings, thunder, lightning and earthquakes. This is followed by the blowing of seven trumpets that unleash God’s judgement on the world (Revelation 8:1-5). A practical illustration of partnership is found in Moses’ dialogue with God (Exodus 32-33).
- **ACTIVATION** – Prayer creates the attentiveness and sensitivity to the Spirit that are required to hear God speaking in his Word. The Holy Spirit is regarded as the ‘Spirit of wisdom and revelation’ (Ephesians 1:15-22; 1 John 2:27; John 16:13). The word is activated by prayer (John 15:7.8)
- **GROWTH** (John 15:16.17).
- **PERSPECTIVE** – Prayer enables you to see the world from God’s perspective. We see things through our Father’s eyes.
- **PEACE** (Phil.4:6.7).

2. HOW TO PRIORITISE PERSONAL PRAYER?

- ORGANISE A PRAYER MENTORING PROGRAMME
- ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO ESTABLISH A RULE OF LIFE
- ORGANISE YOUR PRAYER LIFE – materials, requests.
- EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT METHODS OF PRAYER – prayer is not a menu that consists of one dish.

- **INTRODUCE VARIETY** – prayer walks, retreats, creative tasks and prayer.
- **MULTI-TASK AND USE MUNDANE JOBS FOR PRAYER**
- **KEEP A PRAYER JOURNAL**
- **MAKE YOURSELF ACCOUNTABLE TO AVOID THE COMMON PRAYER RELAPSE.**

3. HOW TO REVITALISE CHURCH PRAYER?

- **SELECT A PRAYER LEADER OR LEADERS.** This person must have a track record as an intercessor and have the administrative gifts to organise prayer. In my view, this role is more important than that of the pastor.
- **INTRODUCE A PRAYER THEME EACH MONTH**
 1. Worship, praise and gratitude
 2. Prayer as participation in the life of God
 3. Confession, reconciliation and restitution
 4. Listening to God
 5. Petition
 6. Intercession
 7. Praying the promises of God
 8. Prayer and faith
 9. The problem of unanswered prayer
 10. Prayer and the gifts of the Spirit
 11. Prayer and spiritual warfare
 12. Types of inarticulate prayer.
- **WRITE PRAYER INTO THE WEEKLY, MONTHLY AND ANNUAL PROGRAMME OF THE CHURCH.** Prayer should be given priority over everything else in the church. All ministry, fellowship, growth and mission flow from the life of prayer.
- **BE CREATIVE IN PRAYER PROGRAMMING -WhatsApp and Zoom prayer, prayer requests, themed prayer retreats, prayer walks, join national prayer initiatives.**
- **PLAN PRAYER MEETINGS CAREFULLY BUT LEAVE ROOM FOR THE INTERVENTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**
(Introduce a prayer programme)
- **UNLESS THE SPIRIT CONVICTS AND LEADS TO REPENTANCE, DO YOUR CONFESSING AT HOME.** long, depressing confessions of the 'woe is me' type
- **ENCOURAGE AUDIBLE PARTICIPATION IN PRAYER**

- **ALLOW FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION** – people have different ways of expressing themselves. We must give people permission to be themselves and accept diversity of expression in prayer
- **OBSTACLES TO PRAYER:**
 - Long prayers
 - Lack of participation
 - Self-centred prayers
 - A lack of specificity
 - A reluctance to step out in faith and use the gifts of the Spirit.
 - Long established habits of piety that become inflexible systems. A Rule of Life should liberate and not inhibit and restrict.
 - Broken relationships and a refusal to forgive – leads to a dead hand in prayer gatherings.

4. HOW TO SUSTAIN THE PRAYER LIFE OF A CHURCH

- a. Introduce a monthly review
- b. Record requests and answers to prayer
- c. Encourage testimonies of answered prayer
- d. Planned book reviews on prayer/prayer book of the month
- e. Arrange a varied prayer menu of retreats, teaching on prayer, etc.
- f. Keep the pot boiling by constantly teaching and reintroducing the topic of prayer.