

A Week of Prayer October 2019
Prayers for a Front-Yard Revival

INTRODUCTION: Begin by reading Acts 1:1-8 This week of prayer is all about asking God to bring revival to our church and transformation to ourselves, our family, our neighbors, our community and our world. We are asking God to pour out his Spirit and draw our neighbors, the next generation and the nations to Himself. We are asking God for more of Him than we have ever experienced. And we are asking him to start with me. I AM THE PROJECT. First don't forget that the Spirit and every good thing is a gift from God.

1. Take Some Time to Tell God Thank You!

- In the last four years we have helped to launch two new congregations; started two new gathering; and moved the location of two of our gatherings. In the midst of a lot of activity and a bit more than a little chaos, God has moved in so many people's lives.
- We hosted a great Global Leadership Summits. We had people from local schools, business owners, pastors from a variety of central PA congregations, non-profit leaders and a host of amazing people from Calvary. Many commented how the two days grabbed their heart and minds like never before.
- Events such as Destination Unknown, Fall Fest, PSU Launch Week, and outreach opportunities at each of our sites have brought a number of guests through our door.
- Leaders are being developed through our Residency project and coaching training.
- Every week I hear new stories of people who are reaching out and loving their neighbors.
- As a movement we are reaching more children than ever. Every weekend ~250 kids are being taught about Jesus at Calvary.
- Calvary's youth group continues to grow and see students draw closer to Christ.
- We have our largest class ever at ICTS Bible School in Myanmar and many Burmese Buddhists have become Christians.
- We have been a part of reaching the next generation in Myanmar, the Dominican Republic and Rwanda. Few things will grab your heart more than listening to 100+ Burmese kids praying and worshipping at 5:45 in the morning!
- Flood and our joint worship times with Unity have been soaked in the presence of the Spirit of God.
- For what else are you thankful?

2. Read Acts 1:1-8, Luke 10 and Matthew 25:31-40. We have a mission locally (our Jerusalem) that we call our front-yard mission. We have a mission to the margins (our Samaria – the invisible least of these), those who are marginalized, broken, ignored and invisible. We have a mission to prepare the towns in the central PA for Jesus to come and visit. Because of where we live (PSU) the world has come to our door. So write down and pray through your front-yard mission... Who is in it? Here are some categories...

- Neighbors, Next Gen and the Nations
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- People in the Margins of Life
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- Ask God to send others out into the harvest... on their own front-yard mission! Pray for specific people.

3. Read Romans 8 – First write down some of the reasons listed in this chapter that should cause us to be expectant for what God is doing and going to do in our front-yard missions and throughout central PA.

Now – Write down some ways that God might want to show the people in your 8 that He loves them, that nothing can separate them from his love.

Travailing Prayer is hopeful intercession. It's might involve labor or pain, but it's pain with a glorious purpose. Ask God to give you a sense of expectancy for your 8 but also ask Him to give you a holy burden for them as well.

4. Read Luke 11:5-13 – Spend time asking for God to give you and us the gift of the Spirit. God uses the Spirit to shape us to be more like Jesus. Ephesians 3:14-21 is a description of those who are filled with the Spirit. Imagine what would happen in our church and our community if Ephesians 3:14-21 were to be the end goal of "I AM THE PROJECT!" Now realize that God can do even more than the best we can imagine. Take time to pray through these requests. Pause when God lays one of them more heavily on your heart.

GOD GIVE US MORE OF THE POWER OF YOUR SPIRIT IN OUR INNER BEING.

Give us the endurance to persevere when you call us to move forward but the way is difficult. Fill us with the strength that comes from hope, so that we can be hope-givers to those who are in the midst of great difficulty. Give us the power to share your love and the hope of the gospel with our 8.

Pray for inner strength for your 8.

GOD GIVE US MORE OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST THAT IS BEYOND UNDERSTANDING

Help us to be known for the love we have for God, for each other and for our neighbors. Help us to be the world's greatest neighbors. Bring your love to marriages and families that are hurting. Help those who are single to find deeply satisfying relationships that can come from being part of the Body of Christ. Pray for those who are lonely, discouraged, and depressed that the Spirit would pour out the love of God into their hearts. Make a list of some of the ways your 8 can experience Christ's love...Pray through the list.

GOD FILL US WITH ALL THE FULLNESS OF LIFE THAT COMES FROM YOU.

May the lure of stuff lose its power in each of us. May we bring the life God offers to the people around us. Pray that the life of God would so fill us that pornography would lose all power in people's lives. Pray that the life of God would so fill people that addictions would fall away and not be attractive. Pray for life for your 8.

GOD IS ABLE TO DO FAR MORE THAN WE CAN DREAM...

Pray for these specific requests knowing that God is able. And He is able to do more. In the following categories, pray for people in your front-yard mission who fit the description; OR pray for people in those categories who are or will engage in a front-yard mission...

- List a marriage or two that is struggling or broken...kids in a family hit by conflict and strife, kids in the system because of a broken family.

- List five next generation people. Middle-school, High-School and College Students who don't know Jesus. Ask the Spirit to draw them to Jesus this year.

- Out of your 8, who do you think is or will be the most receptive to the gospel? Pray for God to deeply work in that person's life so that you can have a neighbor-partner! Pray for revival to start in your 8.

- Write down and pray for five congregations in our region. Pray that God would bless them, revive them, use them. Pray for an unprecedented move of unity and prayer throughout the congregations and the campus ministries of our region. Pray that they would join us in adopting their front-yard mission. What if the next decade were to see 100,000 people praying for and loving 1,000,000 people in PA?

- Write down and pray for five PSU or SCASD teachers/administrators who are Christians. Ask God to call them into a front-yard mission of reaching the next generation.

- Ask the Spirit of God to draw us to prayer and ignite a movement of prayer in our region. That we would live in a region where everyone is prayed for by name on a regular basis.

FINALLY – Paul says in Ephesians 3:20-21, that God is able to do more than we can imagine – ACCORDING TO THE POWER THAT IS AT WORK WITHIN US. What needs to happen in us (I AM THE PROJECT) for God to trust us with that kind of power? We need to practice the postures...answer the questions and let them lead you to prayer...

- 1. The Posture of Surrender** – What do I need to surrender? Where am I trying to hang on to control? What is God calling me to give up, give away, or give-in? My time? Stuff? An attitude? A relationship? A secret sin? Pride? A dream? The ultimate issue of surrender is “who is in control?” What must I pray about here?
- 2. The Posture of Brokenness** – Am I depending on my giftedness and capacities or God’s? Do I pray like I really believe that the best things won’t happen without God? Where do I need to embrace my brokenness and boast in my weakness so that God’s strength would be made whole in me? God places His gracious hand upon those who are desperately dependent far more than often than those who are wondrously gifted. In Heaven's economy, desperate dependence is of greater value than gifted capacity. The ultimate issue of brokenness is upon what do I depend? What must I pray about here?
- 3. The Posture of Vulnerability** – Am I willing to get rid of the mask that hides the parts of me that I think are unworthy? Can I be honestly authentic with those in my 8? Will I admit that I need you, perhaps even more than you need me? Will I move through the awkward moments into relationship, into friendship or will I continue to isolate? The ultimate issue of vulnerability is will I move closer rather than farther away? What must I pray about here?

RA Torrey once gave a prescription for revival. First, let a few Christians get thoroughly right with God. If this is not done, the rest will come to nothing! Second, let those few Christians bind themselves together to pray for revival until God opens the windows of heaven and comes down. Finally, let those few Christians put themselves at the disposal of God for His use as He sees fit in winning others to Christ. As you work through the postures, you are putting yourself in the circle to get right with God...may revival come!

Finally, close your time of prayer with the prayer we introduced in our study of the book of Acts, **THE UPSIDE DOWN PRAYER**

Lord, like those in the early days of our movement, I want to be one who turns the world upside down. Even if it means you must turn my life upside down, Lord would you do it again? Even if it means I have to bottom out before I get right-side up, Lord would you do it again?

Show me where I'm grabbing control. I relinquish it.

Show me what I haven't surrendered. I release it.

Show me when you are asking for a step of faith. I'll redirect.

Show me who you want me to love. I'm ready to share.

Turn our region upside down. Even if it requires my upside down life, Lord would you do it again?