

**“God is in the Details”**  
**Mobilizing your Church and your Conference to Pray**  
*When I pray, God works. My work is to pray and never give up.*  
*Workshop, Karen Martell, 2014*

**1 Pray for prayer. The Ministry of prayer is birthed by prayer.**

**All ministry is birthed by the ministry of prayer.**

- **Pray** and do not give up.
- **Pray with persistence** knowing that there will be opposition and setbacks. Persevere. Ask God to pour out a spirit of grace and supplication on the congregation. (Zech. 12:10)

**2 Establish Leadership Support**

- **Pray for your Church Leadership. Involve them in the planning process.** It is *critical* that you have the support of the pastor and church leadership. One way to do this is to create a time in the service when the congregation as a whole can pray for the pastor and his family. The New Year, or after the nomination of new leadership, is a good time to start this. Having the congregation pray for the leadership and the pastor respond in prayer for the congregation is powerful.
- **Begin praying that God will pour** out a spirit of prayer in your congregation.
- **Select four or five individuals** who will be responsible to help plan and promote prayer in your conference/congregation. Seek His vision for your Church's prayer life. Include individuals from other ministries in your church.

**3 Lay the Groundwork.**

- **Assess the status of the pray-ers in your church.** Ask yourself these questions.
  - Are there any existing prayer ministries?
  - What has been tried in the past?
  - Are there any other church ministries into which an organized prayer ministry could be incorporated?
  - Is there money in the budget for prayer ministries?
  - How can you get the leadership interested?
- **Pray about a plan or strategy** that will move the prayer life of your church where you feel God wants it to be. Write down the ideas.
- Think of **long-term goals that are measurable.** Vision what God envisions.
- **Short-term goals.** What can you accomplish now that will demonstrate prayer will change the life of your church. How can you give the congregation and leadership a taste of what God wants to do over the long haul?
- **Write down some actions** you need to take to make this happen. Ask how will I accomplish this? Plans and vision must support Church mission /vision.

#### 4 Teach

- The number one failure in mobilizing a church to pray is that we fail to teach and model for the value in learning and experiencing prayer. We assume that all members have the same spiritual experience.
- We need to teach about God's perspective on prayer.
- For prayer to become the center of church activity, the congregation must understand why prayer is important for both the church and the individual. The people must be nurtured and fed. *Nurturing* can be done by sharing experiences of answered prayer....and actually inviting the congregation to participate in praying for others. This is different than a "garden of prayer" where everyone comes down and requests prayer for something. The one requesting prayer would share that need with the congregation and then the "body of Christ" would lift that person up in prayer. Making prayer the center of **every ministry** in the church is another way to nurture and feed the congregation.

#### 5 Implement

Offer/Model many different ways to pray, opportunities to pray and places for prayer so that everyone in the congregation can participate and feel a part of the experience.

- Consider the different types of personalities that may be present. Offer opportunities so that the person who is not use to praying will be comfortable.
- Create a way the quiet and shy, as well as the vocal can participate. Failure results when we create ways that meet our own needs and temperament and leave out the needs of others.
- Study different ways and methods of prayer/model these. Use Scripture and music.
- Recruit other to help you and train them to lead and serve.
- Provide the necessary materials and information. Pray for Holy Spirit guidance.
- Be sure that people know when to start and when to stop.
- Set a time frame for the prayer times. It establishes a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment and it prevents long dull prayer times and distractions.
- If you start a prayer ministry in your church with a team to back you up you are more apt to succeed and people will be more willing to participate in prayer.

#### 6 Maintain and assess.

- In a highly visible way, report answers to prayer and give feedback about what is happening through your prayer ministries to the whole congregation.
- Allow a time for testimonies to the congregation or to the prayer groups. Sharing answers to prayer is praise for what God is accomplishing. Not only does your story/testimony glorify God as you praise Him for it, one person's testimony may encourage someone else to pray or to confess.
- Show appreciation for those who are participating in prayer ministry with you.
- Never stop praying for prayer and asking God for new creative ways to pray.

*For this reason I never stop praying for you ...that you may know all His immeasurably great power that is at work in you to do more than you can ask or think. To Him be the glory, in you, in Christ and in the Church for all generations. Amen.*