

Becoming a Prayer-Devoted Church

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Alvin Vander Griend, D. Min

Introduction

“A church without a well-organized and systematic prayer program (ministry) is simply operating a religious treadmill.” Paul Billheimer

“We live in a day characterized by the multiplication of man’s machinery and the diminution of God’s power. The great cry of our day is ‘work, work, work, organize, organize, organize; give us some new group, tell us some new method, devise us some new machinery.’ But, the greatest need of our day is prayer, more prayer, and better prayer.” R. A. Torrey

1. Why Become a Prayer-Devoted Church

- Prayer is God’s purposeful _____ for a healthy church.
“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind always keep on praying for all the saints.” (Acts 2:42, Col. 4:2, Eph. 6:18).
- Prayer is key to effective _____.
“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.” (John 14:12-14)
- Prayer is a crucial factor in _____.
“Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name ... I protected them and kept them safe by that name that you gave me ... my prayer is that you ... protect them from the evil one.” (Jn. 17:11, 2, 15).
- Prayer is a necessary element in effective _____ and _____.
“I urge, therefore, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone ... This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all persons to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:1, 3, 4).
- Prayer is a key factor in _____ transformation.
“Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” (Jer. 29:7, also 1 Tim. 2:2)

2. *How to Become a Prayer-Devoted Church*

- _____ the current state of prayer in your congregation.
- Lay a strong _____ of prayer. Consider corporate repentance.
- Appoint and mandate a Prayer _____ . Give them a place on the church team.
- Provide intercessory _____ for the pastor and staff.
- Involve _____ leaders from the start.
- Provide solid prayer _____ for all ministry activities.
- Integrate meaningful prayer into all _____ activities.
- Offer a variety of _____, _____, & _____ for prayer.
- Regularly _____ prayer needs, answers, and opportunities.
- Regularly _____ & _____ on prayer.
- Strive for a balance of _____ - directed & _____ -directed prayer.
- Intentionally develop _____ of prayer (Eph. 6:18)
- Make _____ prayer a high priority.
- Encourage _____ and _____ prayer.
- Plan _____ - _____ prayer initiatives.
- Develop ties to the larger prayer_____.

3. What Will *Help* You Become a Prayer-Devoted Church

- You can appeal to the _____ .
- Your born-again members already _____ pray.
- Your church has useful _____ in place.
- Many helpful _____ are readily available.
- You will get a boost by connecting with _____ - _____ prayer initiatives.

4. What May *Hinder* You from Becoming a Prayer-Devoted Church

- A _____ understanding of prayer.
- Widespread _____ of prayer.
- Culturally induced _____ that leaves little time for prayer.
- Over _____ in the flesh; prayer not necessary.
- _____ of praying out loud in public.
- Inability to “_____” God speak.
- Lack of vision or heart for _____ prayer.
- The _____ tenacious opposition to prayer

5. Some *Best Practices* of Prayer-Devoted Churches

- On-location prayer in the church
- Intercession over a list of unsaved persons
- Handwritten prayer requests
- Small group corporate prayer
- Prayer-based visitor follow-up
- Households prayed for each other
- Prayer opened doors in the community
- A Church that canvassed by prayer
- Prayer that protected a store

