

# Intercessory Prayer & Evangelism

## How to Integrate Intercessory Prayer into Your Evangelistic Campaign

Prayer plays a critical role in evangelism. When we pray, we admit our dependence on God who commanded us to go to all parts of the world to preach the everlasting Gospel message. It is an act of claiming His promise to be with us until the end. Through prayer we admit that we serve the all-sufficient, all-knowing and almighty God whom we can count on in the transformation of the human heart through the power of the Holy Spirit. He is our source of wisdom in planning, the security for His servants and properties, the provision of all our needs, and the One who brings peace and tranquility.

If you want to see success in any evangelism, there must be success in intercessory prayer. Although proper planning, good financial resources, good choirs, gifted preachers and excellent visitation strategies are essential in evangelism, the very things can be a source of failure if God is not in it. God can only be involved in our work for Him if He is invited. It is through prayer where we invite Him.

"Prayer is a necessity in our labor for the salvation of souls. God alone can give the increase of the seed we sow" (Testimonies, vol. 4, p. 528). "Only the work accomplished with much prayer, and sanctified by the merit of Christ, will, in the end, prove to have been efficient for good" (Desire of Ages, p. 362).

### 10 Ways the Holy Spirit Evangelizes the Community through Prayer

1. Imparts compassion for the lost
2. Brings repentance to the church and community
3. Teaches us how to effectively reach our community
4. Empowers Christians to witness
5. Grants laborers for the harvest
6. Guides our outreach
7. Gives means and resources
8. Gives vitality and life to the church
9. Brings unity
10. Fills us with the love of God

## Pre-Campaign Prayer

Prayer ministries coordinator should make sure all ministries of the church are prayer centered. Prayer and ministry are inextricably connected. Ministry without prayer becomes work in the power of the flesh while prayer without ministry is complacent Christianity.

- Encourage personal and family devotions in the church.
- Prayerfully recruit and train prayer intercessors who are committed to praying for the evangelistic campaign.
- Encourage church leaders to purposely, regularly come together in prayer because the church's greatest deficiency today is in prayer; not in programs, strategies, materials or ideas. The power for ministry can be released only through prayer.
- Invest considerable time in praying unitedly for:
  - The plans for the evangelistic campaign plans
  - The needed resources
  - The commitment of church members to God's work
  - Laborers to cover all parts of the program
  - The intended location for the campaign and the community around it
  - Unity in the church
  - The outpouring of the Holy Spirit
  - Any other needs identified by the local church

## Prayer During the Campaign

- Prepare a prayer room or prayer tent where prayer intercessors and visitors experience spiritual, emotional and physical healing.
- Provide a prayer basket or box and encourage people to place their prayer requests in the basket or box.
- Share specific prayer requests for each day with your intercessory team.
- Prayer intercessors should come before each meeting for a brief time of Bible reading, personal reflection and prayer for the prayer requests identified for the day.
- Visitors with prayer requests should be invited to come to the prayer room or tent at least 10 minutes before the meetings commence. Remember that the primary function of the prayer room/tent is to increase visitors' receptivity to the gospel.
- During song service, have 3-5 prayer intercessors do a prayer-walk around the vicinity of the evangelistic campaign. They should pray for spiritual authority in the region and for the visitors who are standing outside hesitating to come in.

- Whoever stands in the pulpit should be strengthened by a praying group in the tent/ prayer room; various groups should take turns lifting up the servants of God in the battlefield (Acts 4:29). The Spirit of Prophecy says "Happy is the minister who has a faithful Aaron and Hur to strengthen his hands when they become weary and to hold them up by faith and prayer. Such support is a powerful aid to the servant of Christ in his works and will often make the cause of truth to triumph gloriously" (Testimonies, vol 4, p. 531).
- During the alter call, the whole meeting ground should be saturated with prayer. Have the intercessors scatter throughout the audience and be continually praying in their hearts. Intercessors in the prayer room should be praying unitedly for the Holy spirit to take full control in the entire process.
- Let there be a special day in the week where the prayer requests in the box are prayed for before going home. The event is to be announced ahead of time.
- Here are some campaign prayer points which may be included in the prayer requests that are locally prepared:
  - For the devotional life of each laborer in the meetings to grow.
  - That each attendee will personally reflect on their spiritual journey and respond to God's call on their life.
  - For many visitors and members will attend each meeting.
  - For Holy Spirit to work freely and powerfully through the meetings.
  - For the evangelist(s) to be anointed with the Holy Spirit and speak His words.
  - For ample campaign finances.
  - For the conversion of the community around the campaign site.
  - For agreeable weather so no one will be kept away.
  - For the campaign equipment to function properly.
  - For the health of the evangelistic team.
  - For uplifting song services that help people focus on God.
  - For powerful, Biblical preaching of the Word.
  - For protection from the attacks of the devil.
  - For the prayer team to be guided by the Holy Spirit in their prayers.
  - For security, transportation, and campaign site.

## Post-Campaign

Prayer Ministry is not a program it is a lifetime experience; therefore prayers continue as a life of the church.

- Pray for traveling mercies for the evangelistic team as they return home.
- Arrange for a thanksgiving Sabbath immediately after the campaign. Make sure it is full of praises and testimonies to answered prayers. The newly baptized members should be actively involved in this praise service.
- Continue to pray for the new converts, for those who did not make their decision to follow Jesus but were touched by the message, and the community which received the gospel message.
- Pray for each new member to connect well with other church members and grow in their walk with God.
- Continue to strengthen church prayer meetings like Friday vespers and mid-week prayer.
- Encourage church members to participate in revival and reformation initiatives.
- Pray for church leadership as they plan for nature and retention.