

PRAYING 4 H.O.P.E.

Houses of Prayer Everywhere

“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

Mark 11:17

Imagine a church where:

- Guests from the community sense God’s presence and encounter His love in the church members.
- Testimonies of revival, conversions, changed lives, and prodigals finding their way home are abundant.
- People are experiencing freedom from addictions, healing from illnesses, and marriages and relationships are being restored.
- Christianity goes beyond mere talk, dry formality, heavy drudgery, hypocrisy, failure, and powerlessness.

If Jesus were present in our churches, we would certainly expect such miracles and mighty answers to prayers, wouldn’t we?

A CHURCH THAT PRAYED

God transformed the Immanuel SDA church in Toronto, Canada from being a prayerless church to a vibrant and Spirit-filled House of Prayer. It all began with two sisters on their knees, Sandra and Aileen, two of our 24/7 United Prayer regional coordinators. This is their testimony:

Approximately 10 years ago Immanuel church was a cold and dying church. Prayer was not the focus of the church at that time. In addition, people would not pray openly due to fear of criticism. The membership was small and mainly consisted of the older generation who were not receptive to change. There was a clear division in the church between the younger and older members. There was a lot of tension in the church instead of love.



24/7 UNITED PRAYER

*A chain of earnest, praying
believers should encircle the world.*

IN HEAVENLY PLACES, 93

2020 was a turning point for our church. Some church members regularly joined a global prayer call with the ministry 24/7 United Prayer. As a result, their lives were changed. They experienced the power of prayer and knew it would make a huge difference for our church. So a few of our church members (who became part of the 24/7 United Prayer Canada prayer call team) invited the 24/7 United Prayer ministry team to train our church on how to conduct a one-hour, Spirit-filled 24/7 United Prayer call. That training session transformed our church! Our church is now making God and prayer our first priority and lives are being changed. Prayers are being answered; miracles are taking place. Families who were infected with Covid were healed.

Today, we have an influx of young people taking part in the United Prayer call. Our youngest member is a young teen and serves as a prayer call tech facilitator once a week. We have older members joining the prayer call and praying. Those who were once skeptical about United Prayer have joined the prayer call and now believe in the power of praying together because they have experienced it themselves.

Currently, we are an active praying church and because of it, our church has grown. It comes, however, with growing pains and some resistance, of course, because the devil is still in our midst but with God on our side and a strong core leadership who puts prayer first in the church, we have seen God's hands moving mightily especially since we incorporate prayer in every aspect of the church.

We have seen miracle after miracle in our church! Young and old bonding and spending time together. Old members coming back. Church growth. Other churches hear about our church and want to know what we did to become a thriving church again. We also heard that individuals in other countries have heard about our church as well. God is good!

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We just finished 40 days of prayer in preparation for a 10-day evangelistic meeting. Every department of the church was involved each evening of the 40 days of prayer and prayed for their own departments, including the evangelistic meeting.

Individuals who had never prayed out loud during United Prayer are seeing their own answers to prayer and because of this, their view of prayer has changed! All the departments of our church are thriving because people see God is real and their faith is growing as prayers are answered! When we include God in everything, we will see the church prosper and this strengthens our faith as individuals and also as a whole.

A Sunday-keeping Christian couple from the country of Columbia attended our evangelistic meetings. They were drawn to our church because the name of their previous church was Immanuel and they figured that a church sharing the same name would be a good fit for them. After 3 months of attending our church, they asked to be baptized. This is just one of the many amazing stories! We are seeing new faces joining us Sabbath after Sabbath! We are seeing the community becoming more and more involved in the events and activities that our church offers.

Our prayer is that:

- The revival of our church will spark revivals in other churches around the world.
- People will be inspired to pray more, share testimonies of answered prayer, and teach others to pray.
- God will start a revival in communities, conferences, and divisions around the world.
- Pastors become praying pastors.

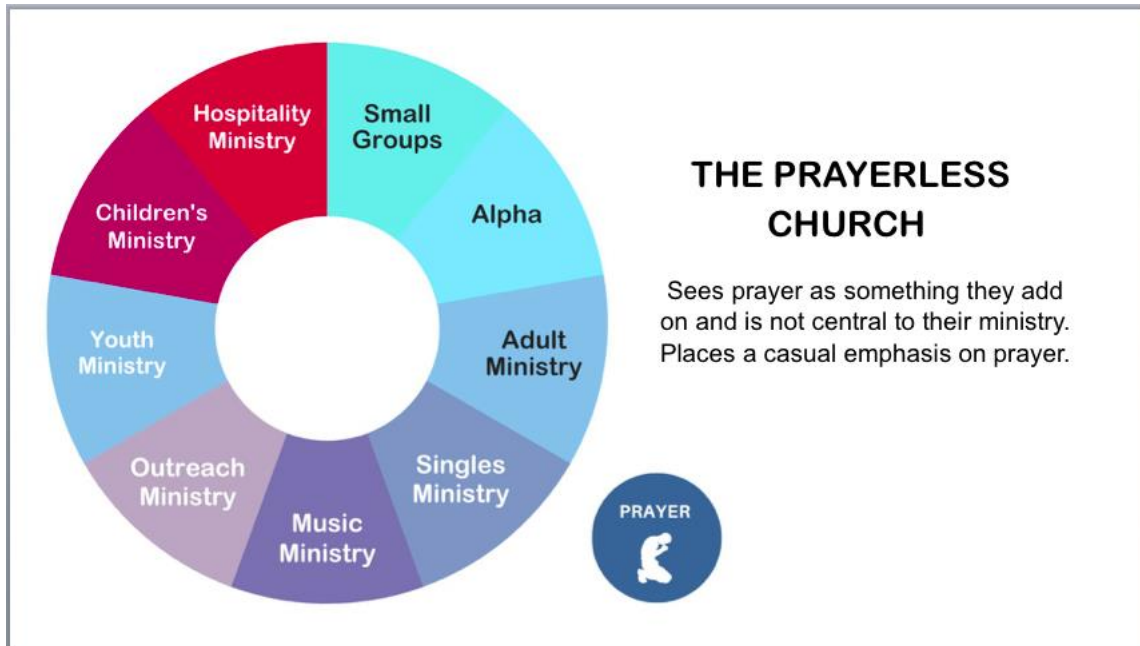
We believe that “We can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens us.”

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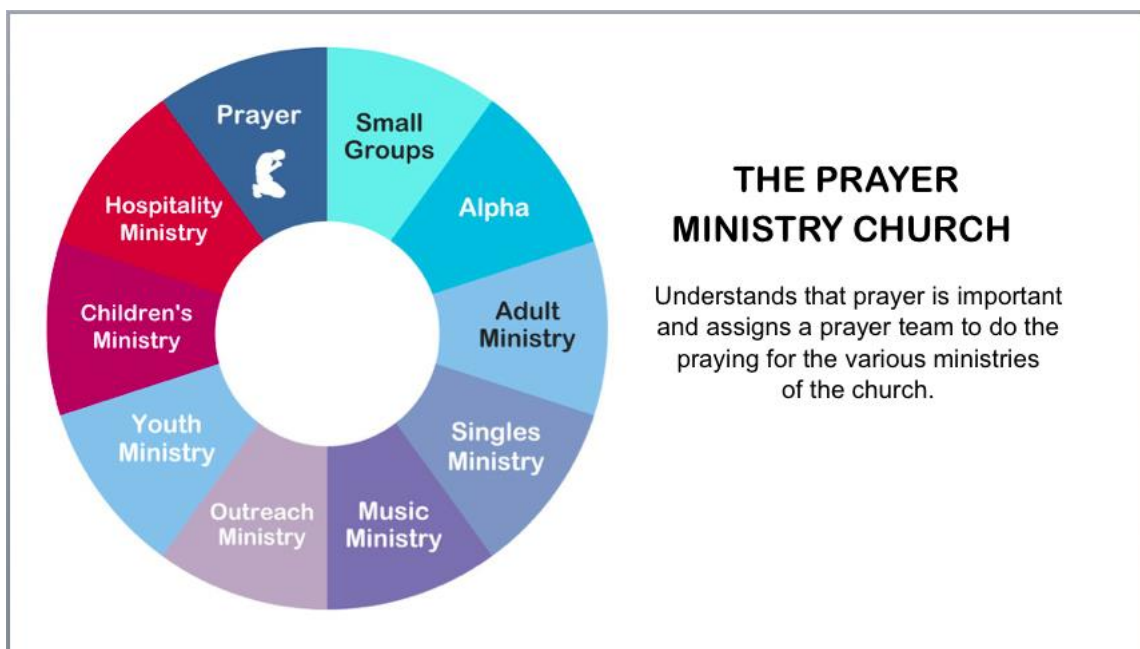
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IN HEAVENLY PLACES, 93

THREE KINDS OF CHURCHES



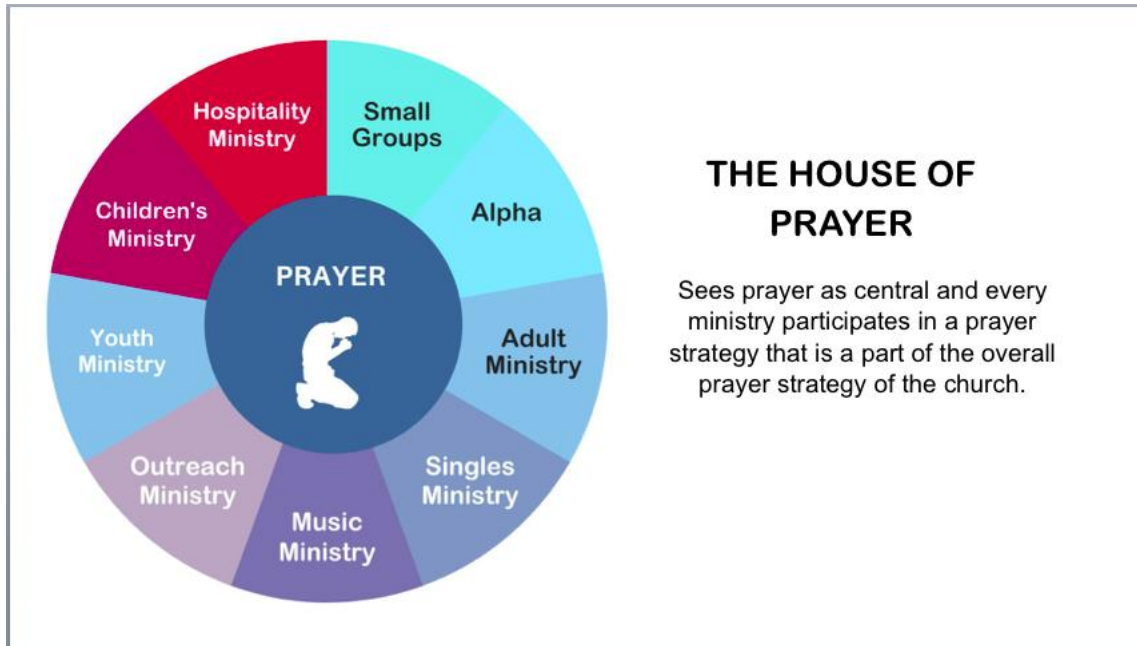
A survey of Adventist churches revealed that 5-10% of churches are prayerless. 70-80% of churches have a prayer ministry. And 5-10% are Houses of Prayer.



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“A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer” (1SM 121).

“Wherever the need of the Holy Spirit is a matter little thought of, there is seen spiritual drought, spiritual darkness, spiritual declension and death. Whenever minor matters occupy the attention, the divine power which is necessary for the growth and prosperity of the church, and which would bring all other blessings in its train, is lacking, though offered in infinite plenitude” (Acts of the Apostles, p. 50).

“We are too busy to pray, and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity, but we accomplish little; many services but few conversions; much machinery but few results.” - R.A. Torrey

Is your church prayerless, a prayer ministry church, or a House of Prayer?

*Are you dissatisfied with the status quo? Do you long to see your church become a House of Prayer where Jesus changes lives? If you are answering “Yes” to these questions, **God is calling you to get involved!***

BUILDING A HOUSE OF PRAYER IS NOT ROCKET SCIENCE

Four things are needed in order to cooperate with the prayer hearing and prayer answering God to build a house of prayer:

1. Recognition of our weakness and our total dependence on God
2. Faith
3. Prayer
4. Persistence

“And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness’” (2 Cor. 12:9).

“God uses people who are weak and feeble enough to lean on Him.”

– Hudson Taylor

“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, the watch man stays awake in vain” (Ps. 129:1).

“True faith and true prayer—how strong they are! They are as two arms by which the human suppliant lays hold upon the power of Infinite Love” (GW 259).

“God will do the work if we will furnish Him the instruments” (ChS 257).

“All that Christ received from God we too may have. Then ask and receive. With the persevering faith of Jacob, with the unyielding persistence of Elijah, claim for yourself all that God has promised” (COL 149)

“God will be to us everything we will let Him be. Our languid, halfhearted prayers will not bring us returns from heaven. Oh, we need to press our petitions! Ask in faith, wait in faith, receive in faith, rejoice in hope, for everyone that seeketh findeth. Be in earnest in the matter. Seek God with all the heart” (Pr 56).

SEVEN SIMPLE STEPS TO BUILD A HOUSE OF PRAYER

Step 1 – BELIEVE, BELIEVE, BELIEVE! With God all things are possible!

Jesus said to him, “**If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes**” (Mark 9:23).

Jesus answered and said to them, “**Have faith in God.** For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says” (Mark 11:22-23).

“He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God's will; we must ask for the things that He has promised, and whatever we receive must be used in doing His will. **The conditions met, the promise is unequivocal**” (Ed 257).

“It is not the capabilities you now possess or ever will have that will give you success. It is that which the Lord can do for you. **We need to have far less confidence in what man can do and far more confidence in what God can do for every believing soul.** He longs to have you reach after Him by faith. He longs to have you expect great things from Him” (COL 146).

“**He is well pleased when they make the very highest demands upon Him, that they may glorify His name.** They may expect large things if they have faith in His promises” (DA 668).

“**Go forward, the Lord says; I will send you help. It is for My name's glory that you ask, and you shall receive.** I will be honored before those who are watching for your failure. They shall see My word triumph gloriously. ‘All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.’ Matthew 21:22” (COL 173).

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Step 2 - PRAY, PRAY, PRAY! Seek earnestly the blessing of God!

Without earnest prayer in the closet, there is no successful prayer meeting. And without much prayer, there is no House of Prayer. Much personal prayer must precede the prayer meeting; much united prayer must precede the building of a House of Prayer. Remember that it takes much prayer to make prayer happen. And the greatest answer to prayer is MORE prayer.

The Pen of Inspiration tells us exactly how revival is birthed in churches:

“When churches are revived, it is because some individual seeks earnestly for the blessing of God. He hungers and thirsts after God, and asks in faith, and receives accordingly. He goes to work in earnest, feeling his great dependence upon the Lord, and souls are aroused to seek for a like blessing, and a season of refreshing falls on the hearts of men” (ChS 121).

Revival begins with one individual (or a handful of individuals) who commit to praying and fasting together until God sends revival to the church. You can preach 52 sermons in a row on prayer and revival for a whole year, but there will be no revival if there is no one on their knees “seeking earnestly the blessing of God.” God needs men and women of prayer who “will hunger and thirst after God” and can be unobstructed channels through which the Holy Spirit and His blessings can flow out to others.

“What the Church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use – men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men – men of prayer.”

-E.M. Bounds, *Power Through Prayer*

“God can use every person just in proportion as He can put His Spirit into the soul temple” (7T 144).

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The main point is this: agonizing comes first before organizing and strategizing. John Bunyan said it best: “You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.”

You can build a House of Prayer and so much more after you have prayed earnestly, but you cannot do more than pray earnestly until you have prayed earnestly.

Is the cry of your heart, “Nearer my God to Thee, Nearer to Thee”? Do you long for a greater infilling of God’s Spirit? Are you daily uniting with others in prayer? If you are saying “Yes,” God wants to work through you to bring revival to your church.

If you will make yourself available, God will fill you with His Spirit and work through you to transform your church. Make sure you keep your eyes focused on Jesus and not on your talents or abilities. Jesus can work mightily in you, by you, with you, for you, through you, and in spite of you to build a House of Prayer, i.e. a body of praying believers.

Step 3 – Pray for Spirit-filled praying people who will share the burden and help pay the price for revival

“Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest’” (Matt. 9:37-38).

Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send forth Spirit-filled people in your church who hunger for revival to join you as prayer partners. Also recruit the people in your church who simply love to pray. Invite them to join you in praying daily for the following:

1. God would empty us of self and turn us into unobstructed channels that the Holy Spirit can flow through.

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2. God would pour out the Holy Spirit, i.e. the spirit of earnest prayer, upon the church pastor, elders, and leaders of the various ministries of the church. Pray for the pastors and leaders by name, claiming specific promises in the Bible.
3. God would breathe His Spirit upon the members of the church and transform them into Spirit-filled praying laborers.
4. God would build for us a house of prayer for “unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain that build it” (Psalm 127:1).
5. And other requests the Lord lays on your heart.

Few in the church would argue that we are in desperate need of revival. But are we willing to pay the price? True revival has a cost. Revival comes to those who long for it and sacrifice for it in earnest prayer, fasting, and tears. Will you join those who are willing to pay the price?

Step 4 – Begin a daily prayer call

Invite your prayer partners to unite in praying every morning (or evening) at a time that works best for everyone. Also unite in corporate fasting once a week.

“The promise is made on condition that the united prayers of God’s people are offered, and in answer to these prayers there may be expected a power greater than that which comes in answer to private prayer” (9MR 303.3).

“There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.” – A.T. Pierson

If your group is small and struggling, we recommend that you and your prayer partners join one of our 24/7 United Prayer calls in the Boiler Room. It’s a blessing to unite in prayer with others who are filled with the Spirit and praying for their churches.

Step 5 – Share the vision with your church pastor

When you and your prayer partners sense the time is right, please share with your pastor the vision of building a House of Prayer. Getting your pastor on board is crucial in transforming your church into a House of Prayer.

Acts 6:4 tells us the two priorities of the apostles were to give themselves “continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

Pastors need to champion the value of prayer, preach on prayer, lead all major prayer gatherings and lead at least one weekly prayer meeting. This models the priority of prayer and helps pastors remain faithful in their calling to be praying leaders.

Tell your pastor about the upcoming 40 day prayer initiative PRAYING 4 H.O.P.E. (Houses of Prayer Everywhere). Pray that God will put it on his heart to join and also encourage the whole church to join.

Step 6 – Work together with the pastor to create a culture of prayer

Suggestions for creating a culture of prayer:

1. It begins with you – MOST IMPORTANT!
2. Turn your prayer meetings into meetings of prayer and not preaching
3. Preach or teach a series on prayer
4. Create prayer chains
5. Promote prayer partners
6. Use banners and slogans – Forward on our knees, etc.
7. Initiate a prayer focus
8. Call for times of fasting
9. Have prayer request cards readily available
- 10. Celebrate answered prayer through testimonies**

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A six-year study of Adventist churches revealed that the most effective way to inspire people to pray is through **testimonies**. Genuine, authentic, heartfelt testimonies will inspire like nothing else. When a mother stands up and says, “I’ve been praying for my son and praise the Lord, he is with us today,” that speaks volumes.

Most effective churches provide many different venues and opportunities for prayer. We cannot expect everyone to show up on Wednesday night for the midweek prayer meeting.

You need to struggle with God and He will give you ideas of what to do.

Join our 24/7 United Prayer FB group for the following:

- 1. Ideas from others on how to create a culture of prayer**
- 2. Inspiring testimonies from others**
- 3. Prayer support from others who are also building H.O.P.E.**

Step 7 – NEVER, NEVER, NEVER GIVE UP!

“Have I not command you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).

“When in faith we take hold of His strength, He will change, wonderfully change, the most hopeless, discouraging outlook. He will do this for the glory of His name. God calls upon His faithful ones, who believe in Him, to talk courage to those who are unbelieving and hopeless” (ChS 234).

“There can be no true prayer without true faith. “Without faith it is impossible to please him” (Hebrews 11:6). Prayer and faith are the arms by which the soul hangs upon the neck of infinite love, and grasps the hand of infinite power” (TDG 315).

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“Speak and act in harmony with your prayers. It will make an infinite difference with you whether trial shall prove your faith to be genuine, or show that your prayers are only a form” (COL 146).

“If you want faith, talk faith; talk hopefully, cheerfully” (1T 699).

“Every failure on the part of the children of God is due to their lack of faith” (PP 657).

“Take the word of Christ as your assurance. Has He not invited you to come unto Him? Never allow yourself to talk in a hopeless, discouraged way. If you do you will lose much. By looking at appearances and complaining when difficulties and pressure come, you give evidence of a sickly, enfeebled faith. **Talk and act as if your faith was invincible.** The Lord is rich in resources; He owns the world. Look heavenward in faith. Look to Him who has light and power and efficiency” (COL 146).

“A deep sense of our need, and a great desire for the things for which we ask, must characterize our prayers, else they will not be heard. But we are not to become weary, and cease our petitions because the answer is not immediately received. “The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force” (Matthew 11:12). **The violence here meant is a holy earnestness, such as Jacob manifested”** (YRP 27)

“Go forward, the Lord says; I will send you help. It is for My name’s glory that you ask, and you shall receive. I will be honored before those who are watching for your failure. They shall see My word triumph gloriously. ‘All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.’ Matthew 21:22” (COL 173).

HAVE FAITH IN GOD. THERE IS NO PLACE FOR DOUBT AND DISBELIEF IN THIS WORK. KEEP YOUR EYES FIXED ON JESUS!