

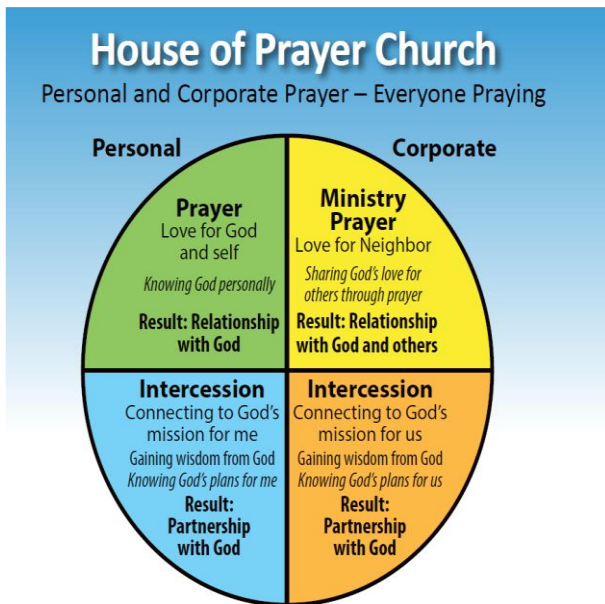
4 Keys to Effective Church and Ministry Prayer - Increasing "spiritual communication"

What difference would it make if the members of our churches and ministries developed a **life-long fellowship with God through prayer**? Ex: Enoch walked with God (Heb. 11:5) _____

Prayer Definition: "Prayer involves us in **enjoying the conversational part of the most important love relationship in our lives—our love relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**"
Dr. Alvin VanderGriend

Effective Ministry Prayer aligns us with God's mission for our ministry

A well-rounded local church prayer ministry is strong in both Personal and Corporate Prayer:



1. Personal Prayer: Knowing God personally.
Result: Relationship with God

2. Personal Intercession: Gaining wisdom from God. Knowing God's plan for me. **Result:** Personal partnership with God.

3. Ministry Prayer: Showing God's love for others through prayer. **Result:** Relationship with God and others.

4. Corporate Intercession: Gaining wisdom from God. Knowing God's plan for us. **Result:** Corporate Partnership with God

4 Keys to Effective Prayer: L.E.A.D - "Prayer Champions" Pray and Lead Others to Pray

Key #1: L - Leadership - A praying church or ministry requires praying leaders

1. A praying church or ministry **requires praying leaders**
2. "Whenever God calls His people to Himself, **He uses His leaders.**" (Blackaby) We must call our people to prayer and spiritual activity.
3. The **greatest single factor** in mobilizing prayer is the leader himself. We must lead others to pray by praying with them.
4. "The man who mobilizes the church to pray will have the **greatest impact on world evangelization** than anyone in history."
Andrew Murray

5. "The prayer level of the church never grows beyond the **personal example and passion of the senior leaders.**" D. Henderson
6. "People **don't drift naturally** toward prayer and evangelism." Leadership is required to keep these ministries on task. Rick Shepherd
7. There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in **united prayer.**" Dr. A.T. Pierson
8. "**Young people in student led prayer bands** have been at the forefront in almost every awakening." J Edwin Orr

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Ministry Prayer Considerations

- Leaders need **mentors, training, resources**
- Prayer can be seen as lost time – taking away from the work of ministry
- Volunteers need **leadership and training**
- Use ministry prayer to anchor team to God’s mission for the ministry

“Prayer Champions”: Effective ministry prayer is led by **“Prayer Champions”**.

Prayer Champion by Pastor Phil Miglioratti (nppn.org)

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| <p>1. Practices prayer: Prays himself.</p> <p>2. Teaches prayer: Provide biblical foundation for prayer for those he/she leads.</p> <p>3. Promotes prayer: Casts vision for having a ministry saturated with prayer.</p> <p>4. Participates in prayer: The Ministry experiences the leader by praying with him</p> | <p>5. Provides places of prayer: Provide places and opportunities for prayer, takes prayer to where people are – groups, committees, etc.</p> <p>6. Prayer Lists: Includes prayer requests that would make a difference to the ministry and those who the ministry serves.</p> |
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Reflect: How is God inviting me to grow as a prayer ministry leader?:

Key #2: E – Evaluation – Assess current state of your prayer ministry

A. How to Evaluate the Prayer Life of a Congregation Questions by Daniel Henderson¹

<p>• HEIGHT: To what degree is the leadership team modeling prayer, cultivating prayer among their ranks, teaching on prayer, highlighting stories about prayer and training others to lead in prayer?</p>	<p>• BREADTH: Are we helping our people understand the need for a prayer culture beyond prayer “activities” as we encourage and highlight prayer as a pervasive reality in all we do as a church?</p>
<p>• WIDTH: How are we raising up other leaders to provide a broad variety of prayer opportunities that appeal to various interests and that are sustained [by] consistent and competent leadership?</p>	<p>• DEPTH: Are we encouraging and equipping our people to develop a depth in private prayer that will also be evidenced in marriage, family, work and community relationships?</p>

¹“GIVING OURSELVES TO PRAYER” (An Acts 6:4 Primer for Ministry) Dan R. Crawford, Compiler Chapter 60, pps 401–407. © 2008 America’s National Prayer Committee



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B. Linking Prayer with Ministry – Following the example of The Book of Acts

Discipleship (2:42): Train members to have an effective prayer life, disciple others in prayer, train their children to pray, etc.

Evangelism (House to House 2:47) Train members to pray those the church is trying to reach, for the lost/those they are witnessing to, for opportunities to witness, for their neighbors, etc.

Ministry (2:43, 3:6) Train members to pray for ministries, train ministry members to pray for those they minister to and for, for their ministry leaders, etc.

Leadership (1:24, 6:4) Train leaders to lead in prayer, to pray for their ministries, to mobilize people to pray for their ministries, to train those they lead in prayer, etc.

Missions (13:1-3) Train members to discern who to call to missions, pray for missionaries, for missions outreaches and events, for local and global mission activity, etc.

Worship (2:43, 47; 3:10) Train members to pray as part of their worship, pray for the worship gatherings, pray for others to worship, pray for worship leaders, etc.

Bold Witness (Community 4:33) Train members to pray for the church to boldly impact the community, for God to open doors of opportunity, etc.

Evaluate: How could our prayer ministry be more effective?: _____

Key # 3: A - Apprenticeship – A vibrant prayer life is developed through disciple-ship. We must be disciplined in prayer and disciple our people in prayer and prayer ministry.



Motivated by God's Love
and Love for Others

Intercede:

Pray **toward God's best**, according to the **promises in God's word**.

Pray **earnest, urgent, and bold appeals for divine action**.

1. Myself: My spiritual growth, my roles, my work/calling _____

Relationship with Lord Daily Schedule Family/Home Other Relationships

2. My Family/close relationships: _____

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3. My Pastor/Church/Ministry Leaders: Use "Scripture-based Prayers" as a guide

4. Ministr(ies) I am involved in or care about: _____

5. Areas of Community God places on my heart: _____

Family, Non-Profits, Media, Business, Arts & Entertainment, Education, Government

6. My City/County and Its Leaders: Federal, State and Local Leaders

Vision for the future - What if Every Believer prayed their "Prayer Share"?

- Every believer prayed for their neighbors
- Every married couple prayed for each other
- Every parent prayed for their children and each child left home with a legacy of prayer
- Every ministry had intercessory prayer team
- Every working person prayed for their effectiveness at work, boss, and company

Key # 4: D - Deployment – Being "on mission with God" requires a vibrant "prayer life."

1. **Praying for Each Other: Skills to Master:** Aligning with God / Ministering to the Person

Follow the lead of the Holy Spirit Listen attentively to the person and to God Be present and attend to the person Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Rom. 12:15	Intercede: Pray earnest, urgent, and bold appeals for divine action. Minister appropriately Escalate and report when needed Leave results to God
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2. Biblical Praying: Attitudes and Attributes to emphasize

- Be **Devoted** Romans 12:12, Col 4:2
- **Claim Bible promises** John 15:7, 1 John 5:14-15
- **Exercise faith** toward God James 5:15
- Pray **without ceasing** Col 1:9, 1 Thes 5:17
- With **Humility** "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done" Matt 6:10, James 4:6-10
- With **sympathy** Heb 4:15, Rom 12:15
- With **persistence** Matt. 7:7-8, Luke 18:1
- With **joy and thanksgiving** Phil 1:4, 4:6

4. Pray the Scriptures: God has obligated Himself to fulfill the promises in His Word!

"Praying the scriptures give us the right vocabulary for prayer" *Quote from The Power of Praying From Scripture, Pastor Daniel Henderson*

5. Strategic Opportunities for Community Prayer Engagement:

1. Pray for the Lost
2. Partnering with local schools and government agencies:
 Questions:
 - a. How can the church serve you?
 - b. What are your 3 greatest problems so we can pray effectively for you
3. "Spiritual shepherds"/Prayer Chaplains – Providing spiritual care for community members
4. Community Observation/Prayer Walking/Prayer Drive: Being "Community Missionaries"
5. Equip members for ministry and daily prayer roles

LEAD Evaluation (1-10) Leadership ____ Evaluation ____ Apprenticeship ____ Deployment ____

