

1: Prayer Ministry | Bridges Community Church | A Church for the Nations

Prayer is the church knowing God's heart and opening its mouth to ask for what is in God's heart. If the church does not do this, it does not have much use on earth. Many prayers for spiritual edification, prayers for fellowship, and prayers for supplication cannot replace prayers which are in the nature of work or ministry.

The threat of persecution could not stop it Acts 4. The threat of corruption could not stop it Acts 5. But the enemy still had another trick up his sleeve: The Greek-speaking Jews complained against the Hebrews that their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. The apostles called the church together and directly addressed the matter: Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. Prayer The apostles were devoted to prayer. Prayer was not what they did as they led the church. It was essential to their leadership. They had no dichotomy that separated work and prayer. Prayer was their work! This is what the church needs today. First, spiritual leaders must be devoted to private prayer. Communion with God in prayer should characterize our lives. It has been well said that what a minister is in his prayer closet before God alone is what he is—nothing more, nothing less. Spiritual leaders can only minister effectively when we pray consistently. Furthermore, spiritual leaders must be devoted to public prayer. The proclamation of the word is the most public thing that pastors do. It indicates that spiritual leaders are to be just as committed to leading the church to pray as we are in leading the church in the ministry of the word. The act of leading your congregation in prayer is a teaching opportunity we dare not approach negligently. We should do our best to prepare ourselves to lead the saints in corporate prayer. The Ministry of the Word Acts 6: But it does not apply to the office of deacons. And it is not used to describe the seven men selected to wait tables. Every Christian is a minister of Christ. But pastoral leaders have a unique calling. We serve Christ as ministers of the word. We are servants of the word. Some people think pastor-teachers do very little work. They think we play golf all week and get up when its time to preach and let it rip. But those who do that are not true men of God. Indeed, some men make their pulpit work look so easy that you would think that it did not cost them any effort. But they have to work hard to make it look easy. The faithful ministry of the word requires preparation as well as proclamation. Really, the proclamation is the easy part. The burden is in the preparation. Bible exposition does not grow on trees. God does not speak to preachers and supernaturally give them the exegesis of the text. Clear, faithful and consistent preaching and teaching is usually 90 percent perspiration and 10 percent inspiration. You do all you can do and then God does what you cannot do. What do you do to guard prayer and the ministry of the word in your life and ministry?

2: Prayer Ministry of the Church, The - Living Stream Ministry Bookstore

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We can provide general guidance on factors that will make for a more effective prayer ministry but the specifics depend on your church. Where you begin depends on a number of factors. The link above will take you to the Prayer Ministry training section on the site. To get that content plus more in document form, click on the image cover. Use Sunday School classes, small groups, and sermons to teach about prayer. You might suggest helpful resources about praying like books or articles. If your church already seems to have a culture of prayer, then it may just be a matter of putting a structure in place that works for them. Questions that follow will help you think through a plan tailored to your church. How many people are truly interested in being a part of a prayer team? While you probably desire a big turnout, you may need to start with people, while laying the groundwork in others. The excitement of meeting with God in those who come could be a contagion for others to join. What are the logistics you need to put in place before you begin such a ministry? While it is often good to connect meeting to pray to a time people are already at church, like before or at the end of a service, rather than making them come out special, it does present some challenges. You need to think that through in order to remove obstacles people might have in attending. For example, depending on the time your worship service ends, you may run into the lunch hour. Depending on the people who stay, you may have childcare issues. How will you structure the meeting? In some churches a rigid, formal approach may not work. In other churches a more spontaneous approach may not work. Think of the traditions of your church. Begin where people are and slowly take them beyond. Regardless of the structure, make it worth their while to be there. Make the real focus on meeting with God. What will you pray about? How will you determine what to pray about? Perhaps there are specifics you sense this meeting should focus on, growing out of the needs at your church. If you are going to have a pre-planned agenda, be clear with people about the purpose of the prayer time. If people come thinking you are going to pray for their personal needs and you never get around to it, they may soon stop attending. If you are going to open it for personal requests, guard against spending the majority of time taking requests with little time left for praying. Think through these questions with your church in mind. While you can learn from what others do, begin with where your people are and go from there.

3: What is Church Ministry | www.enganchecubano.com

8 The Prayer Ministry of the Church again. If he still refuses to listen, then tell the church. And if he does not listen to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a publican.

This paper will attempt to briefly define my biblical philosophy of church ministry by addressing the following questions: What is the purpose of ministry? Why does the church exist? These are fundamental questions that a biblical theology of ministry must answer. Christian ministry is the activity and responsibility of the local church in the fulfillment of its biblically defined mandate in the world. The ministry of the church can be defined in several ways. Firstly, the ministry of the Christian church can be defined as the fulfillment of the Great Commandment of our Lord: Secondly, Christian ministry can be defined in terms of the Great Commission of our Lord: Fourthly, ministry can be defined in terms of the model of the early church - viz. This continues to be the basis of biblical, balanced ministry today. From these summary texts and the broad scope of Scripture, it is evident that Christian ministry has as its priority the worship of God, followed by service for God in the proclamation of the gospel the fruit of which is the baptism of repentant sinners, and the edification of the saints. The tendency is for us to make up their own philosophy of ministry, based on our own concept of what the church is supposed to do. The truth is, however, that God has clearly laid out for us in Scripture what the ministry of the church is. God has already done that because the church is his institution on earth not ours! Our responsibility is to determine how to most effectively and appropriately achieve our biblical mandate in our local community at our time in history. A philosophy of ministry is a statement that consolidates and synthesizes the biblical material on the subject in systematic form. By articulating a philosophy of ministry, you establish a benchmark that acts as the standard to which you strive. It is a yardstick that enables you to measure the degree to which you are achieving your ministry responsibilities. There are a number of practical benefits that flow from defining a biblical philosophy of ministry. It forces you to be biblical. This keeps you from making up your own philosophy which might be unbiblical. It makes practical sense. It helps you set actual goals that are consistent with your biblical mandate cf. It improves efficiency by preventing you from spending time on activities or beginning ministry efforts which are not part of the biblical mandate for the church. It is an objective measuring stick by which to make decisions regarding potential ministry activities. It heightens your effectiveness. The early church knew exactly why they existed and where they were going and all their activity was focused on achieving those ends. It helps you to be faithful to your call to ministry. We need to keep on course in our own ministry, doing what God has called us and mandated us to do. A Biblical Theology of Church Ministry This theology is organized under seven areas of church ministry. The sequence in which these topics are presented is not intended to indicate their order of priority but simply to provide systematic headings for these essential aspects of a biblically-based ministry. This is best done by systematically preaching through books of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, so that the whole scope of Scripture is covered. The pulpit ministry, while very important, is only part of the whole process of Christian education and nourishment. I believe that the education, exhortation and encouragement of believers takes place in a balanced environment of personal study of the Word, small groups, individual mentoring and discipleship, and pulpit ministry. What is of paramount importance is that the Word is preached and taught accurately and relevantly. However, this is not fair or accurate. Second, the confidence for ministry is prayer Acts 2: An active and dynamic prayer ministry is vital for the survival and growth of each believer individually and the church corporately. A prayer ministry should be diverse in its form e. Prayer should be part of the life of the church on a consistent basis cf. Among other things, the church is to pray for its leaders 1 Thess. Third, the power for ministry is the Holy Spirit Acts 1: The Holy Spirit can and does make the ministry of the church effective and powerful. He alone has the power to convict people of sin Jn. Fourth, the bond of ministry is the fellowship of believers Acts 2: Our common bond in Christ is the source of our fellowship and our unity. Through fellowship believers express the local representation of the body of Christ 1 Jn. When believers are interconnected through authentic, loving relationships, they form a unity that provides strength and stability to the church. This fellowship is demonstrated by caring for one

another physically, emotionally, psychologically, economically, and spiritually. As Gene Getz puts it: They need to experience each other. Fifth, the expression of ministry is passionate worship Acts 2: In worship the church expresses collectively its awe of God and its debt of gratitude to God for who he is and what he has done. Worship must be a lifelong, daily practice for all believers individually in order for corporate worship to be effective and meaningful. Public worship includes singing praise to God, reading Scripture, corporate prayer, preaching the Word, and the observance of the church ordinances. The event to which the entire O. Sixth, the thrust of ministry is the salvation of the lost Acts 2: Not only is practical Christian ministry expressed in caring about each other as believers, but also in caring about unbelievers. Christian ministry boldly proclaims the goodness of God in the gospel in order to reach the lost for Christ Rom. This should be done in culturally relevant ways, both personally and corporately. In this way the church and its members become a light for God in the community Matt. Through prayer and financial support, they can also contribute to world evangelization through missions. Church leaders should facilitate corporate outreach, encourage and train the members in personal outreach, and motivate participation in world outreach. Seventh, the scope of ministry is church-wide 1 Cor. Ministry is a task to which every believer has been called Eph. As Christians learn and grow, so they must use the gifts God has given them in his service and for the benefit of the whole church 1 Cor. The leaders of the church should affirm the members in their spiritual gifts, train them in the use of those gifts, provide them with opportunity to use them, motivate them to do so Eph. In this process, new leaders are also identified and trained to provide spiritual leadership. Indeed, church-wide ministry is not limited to each individual local church but extends to the body of Christ in its broadest scope. Thus, churches of similar theological persuasion should co-operate together at a local and national level 1 to orchestrate the full scope of church ministry that a local church may not be able to do on its own; 2 to hold local churches accountable to a wider body; 3 to give visible evidence of the truth that we compose a united body; and 4 to make united decisions on issues that might otherwise be divisive. This practice was evident in the early church in discipleship Acts If a church becomes self-focused and separatistic in its attitude it runs the risk of becoming cultish if not an outright cult; it cuts itself off from the larger body of believers and fails to operate in practice as a N. Conclusion What, then, is ministry? In sum the purpose of ministry is 1 to bring people to saving faith in Christ and then assist them to grow in Christ-likeness; and 2 to bring every believer into a vital, authentic relationship with God through the grace of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, such that every believer glorifies God in thought, word, and deed both in the church and in the world with the ultimate goal of presenting every one complete in Christ Col. The church must draw its essence from God and his righteousness and holiness. It must take shape based on his worth as Creator. It must reflect his glory as God, and when it meets and ministers, it ought to express back to God the glory due his name. There must be more to church than simple psychological encouragements, tips for improving interpersonal relationships, and helpful religious seminars. It is not about numerical growth but spiritual growth. It is not about programs but about people - people who are wholly focused on God, powerfully filled with the Spirit, and happily united in a community of grace; people who vibrantly exalt Christ, openly perform works of faith, accurately teach the truth, boldly proclaim the gospel in word and deed, and authentically depend upon prayer. W Publishing Group, , Victor Books, , Carson, Worship by the Book, ed. Zondervan, ,

The prayer of the church lays the tracks upon which God moves to fulfill His eternal purpose. In The Prayer Ministry of the Church, Watchman Nee presents the biblical principles involved in the type of prayer that can bind on earth what has been bound in Heaven and loose on earth what has been loosed in Heaven.

Yet God does not act independently; He will not do anything by Himself. Even though God has a will, He wants the free will on earth to echo His will before He does anything. If there is only a will in heaven, God will not move. The heavenly move is accomplished on earth only when the earth wants the same thing as heaven. Today this is called the ministry of the church. Brothers and sisters, the ministry of the church is not only the preaching of the gospel. This does not mean that we should not preach the gospel; it means that the ministry of the church is not merely the preaching of the gospel. The ministry of the church is to bring the will in heaven to earth. How does the church bring the will in heaven to earth? It is by prayer on earth. Prayer is not as small and insignificant as some may think. It is not something that is dispensable. Prayer is a work. If the church does not do this, it does not have much use on earth. Many prayers for spiritual edification, prayers for fellowship, and prayers for supplication cannot replace prayers which are in the nature of work or ministry. If all your prayers are prayers for spiritual edification, fellowship, and supplication, they are too small. Prayer is not just asking God for something. If the church declares this, the declaration will be effectual. Now let us consider three great principles in ministerial prayer from Matthew. It is the church because verse 17 mentions the church, and verse 18 is a continuation of verse 17. Whatever the church binds on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever the church looses on earth will be loosed in heaven. This is a very important principle: God cannot do anything at will; He has to do everything through the church. Without going through the church, God cannot do anything. Brothers and sisters, this is a very sober principle. God cannot do anything by Himself today. There is a free will besides His will. If this will does not cooperate with Him, He cannot do anything. The amount of power that the church has expresses the amount of power that God has because His power is expressed through the church. God has placed Himself in the church. If the power of the church is small and restricted, God cannot express the height or extensiveness of His power. If you want more water in your house, you have to install a larger pipe. Today God is expressed in the church; the capacity of the church determines the degree of the expression of God and also the amount of knowledge one can have about God. We hope that many will benefit from these spiritual riches. However, for the sake of avoiding confusion, we ask that none of these materials be downloaded or copied and republished elsewhere, electronically or otherwise. Living Stream Ministry retains full copyright on all these materials and hopes that our visitors will respect this. Downloading this material, even for personal use, is prohibited. Your IP address is Search Online Publications. Simply enter a word or phrase. Common words, such as "and", "is", and "the", also known as noise words, are bypassed in a search.

5: 5 Powerful Prayers for the Church - Lift Up the Body of Christ

The prayer of the church lays the tracks upon which God moves to fulfill His eternal purpose. In The Prayer Ministry of the Church Watchman Nee presents the biblical principles involved in the type of prayer that can bind on earth what has been bound in heaven and loose on earth what has been loosed in heaven.

For example, a great deal of time and money can be invested in places to eat food or play ball. Often churches have been willing to spare nothing to furnish, decorate, and equip the new fellowship hall or gymnasium so that these places can effectively serve their intended purpose. In the same way, a prayer room can let your people know that prayer is also going to have a place of priority in your church ministry. Your new prayer room could have the potential to become the MVP Most Valuable Place on your property if you were willing to invest as much as for these other place of physical nourishment and recreation. The great significance of a prayer room is not the place itself, but rather the purpose it serves. Suggestions Choose a room with a good location that is easily accessible and highly visible. Make sure the room has appropriate lighting and a window in the door. Make a nice sign for the door calling it The Prayer Room. Select furniture that will be comfortable for kneeling or sitting while praying. Select decorations with Scripture and quotes that focus the attention on prayer. You may wish to install a stereo system that allows you to play quiet music. Have a bookshelf filled with devotional type books and resources on prayer. Place a large world map on one wall. Prepare of display with pictures of church leaders and government leaders. Create a large diagram of your church facilities and identify people and places of significance on each part of the property. Plan to use the room for special times of prayer: The prayer room is the boiler room for spiritual life. Each part of your facilities represents another part of the church ministry. By praying room-to-room or by sending people to various locations in the building and on the property, you can thoroughly pray for every dimension of the ministry. Plan special times of prayer saturation for your ministry. Designate locations to pray in based on what actually takes places there choir loft, staff offices, Sunday School rooms, nursery, etc. Prepare lists of members or students who are involved to be prayed for by name. During your season of prayer, have individuals walk the perimeters of the property, prayer for the ministry as a whole protection, testimony, growth, etc. Whenever God is present, the property becomes Holy ground, and the building becomes a Holy place. Examples The home of a couple who is going through difficulty in their marriage The hospital room of a seriously ill or injured patient The home of a family who is dealing with unemployment or financial problems The home of parents deeply concerned for a wayward child This prayer team can be a significant blessing to people right where they are. There is 1 comment.

6: The Prayer Ministry of the Church () by Watchman Nee

Prayer Ministry of the Church is a collection of five messages on prayer by the great Chinese pastor and teacher, Watchman Nee.

In terms of free will alone, this explanation is incomplete and may lead to some misunderstanding. Nevertheless, it is true that He is willing to do more in the earth than we have given Him opportunity to do because we have not taken up His work in prayer. Harmonious Will -- God desires fellowship with us in His work. When we desire for His will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven, there is a marvelous harmony of wills through which God expresses His power to His glory. It is then incumbent upon us to pray that His will be done. If we do not, the burden becomes heavier under the prompting of the Spirit. When we are in harmony with the Spirit, we will be in harmony with each other, and can pray effective prayers. Are Gathered Together -- We gather because we are called to gather, not because we decide that it is a good thing to do. Pray Like This Matthew 6: It should not be used to glorify ourselves. Proper prayer will be rewarded. Not As the Gentiles -- We ought to pray with a right attitude of trust, faith, expectation, and heart desire. If we merely plead with God for what we selfishly desire, He will ignore us. Three Heart Desires Toward God "Hallowed be thy name" -- Each person must be personally brought to the place where their utmost desire is to glorify God before men. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth" -- God waits for His children to pray before He demonstrates His power. Three Requests for Ourselves "Give us this day our daily bread" -- We ought to learn to rely on God alone for the daily supply of our needs. We will lack boldness if we feel that we have offended someone. We must pray for deliverance so that we are not rendered ineffective by the evil one. The Importance of Forgiving -- Our relationships with other Christians are essential to the functioning of the Church. If we are not willing to forgive, then we will lose out on the Church life. We must daily know the work of the cross in our lives so that we may stand in the authority of that name. When we do, we represent Christ here on earth; what we ask in His name He will do. Authoritative Prayer Matthew We are now seated with Him in the heavenly places. Because Christ has been exalted above all things, the church in Christ is also above all things. Our position in Christ gives us the authority to remove whatever mountain blocks our spiritual course. Watch and Pray Ephesians 6: We must be watchful in guarding the time set aside for prayer, protecting the prayer that is being prayed, preventing all worthless and vain prayers, and precluding Satan from interrupting our prayers. We must watch for the effects of our previous prayers and adjust our current prayers accordingly. Prayer is a ministry -- a more excellent service. Also by Watchman Nee:

7: Prayer Ministry - The Rock Church

The Prayer Ministry of the Church (Matthew). The Earth Governs Heaven "Nee states that God's action in the earth is limited by the willingness of the Church to agree with His will in prayer.

8: Prayer Ministry - Atlantic Evangelical Free Church

It is the ministry of prayer, a ministry that is largely neglected by the church today. The church is to pray, "Hallowed be thy name. Th "My House shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples" (Isa).

9: The Prayer Ministry of the Church - by Watchman Nee

The act of leading your congregation in prayer is a teaching opportunity we dare not approach negligently. We should do our best to prepare ourselves to lead the saints in corporate prayer. The Ministry of the Word. Acts is often considered the institution of deacons in the church. But the word "deacon" is not used in this text.

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