

Redeemer Prayer Team: A Ministry of Intercession

Kingdom-Centered Prayer for Redeemer Leaders, its Ministries, and the City

The Prayer Team has a rich history in our church. We want to continue to build upon that as well as protect its purpose – to be a ministry of intercession for our church leaders, its ministries, and our City.

West Side Prayer Team members commit to:

- **Pray consistent** (e.g. daily, 5–6 days a week), **intentional, Kingdom-centered prayers for Redeemer and the City.** This commitment is unto the Lord, instead of to man. Members will receive bi-weekly (sometimes weekly) prayer emails. We commit to keeping all prayer requests *confidential*, not forwarding emails and refraining from conversation about them, even if they're not 'confidential' per se.
- **Gather one Sunday afternoon each quarter for group prayer.** We realize there are people who can't meet to pray in person due to travel schedules, young children at home, living out of the city, etc. We ask that those who can gather for quarterly prayer please make it a priority.
- **Participate in prayer gatherings on Sunday mornings** (one or more times every 4–6 weeks). The prayer focus will be on those leading the service and people attending, especially those who are not yet believers. These gatherings are open to the entire congregation.
- Additional and/or special prayer sessions are scheduled when urgently needed.

Optional:

- **Attend Leaders@7 and West Side Summit meetings.** These times are to equip the lay church leadership.
- **Fast when we want to approach the Lord for special prayer requests.** Some do partial fasting; others a 24-hour fast. Some fast from food; others from other things. This is recommended as a spiritual discipline, but optional. Others may fast near the time of special prayer because they are unable to do so on the actual day we will be praying.

The commitment runs for one ministry calendar year (September – July) or as long as you sense a calling from the Lord. You can renew each year as the Lord leads. Some will go off for a particularly busy season in their lives, and return at a later time.

Prerequisites: We ask that prior to joining the Prayer Team you are a **member of Redeemer**. Our intent is not to be legalistic about church membership. Because at times we are entrusted with confidential or sensitive prayer requests, we think of church membership as a way of saying, in effect, that the relationship with the church and its leadership and people is a committed one. We also ask that you are an **active member of a Community Group**, since that is the primary place where you are known and cared for at Redeemer.

If you are interested in joining the West Side Prayer Team: email wsprayer@redeemer.com

Are You Called to Redeemer's Prayer Team?

"Epaphras, who is one of you, and a servant of Jesus Christ... is always wrestling in prayer for you that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured." – Col 4: 12

"All Christians have a role as intercessors but some have a gift and ministry above the ordinary." – C. P. Wagner

"Kingdom Centered Prayer: It is focused on God's presence and kingdom. It is bold and specific. It is prevailing. It calls to corporate repentance and longing for God." – Redeemer Church Planting Center

Identifying Those With a Ministry of Prayer

We are looking for the people who may be hidden, who enjoy behind-the-scenes ministry, who want to partner with those on the front line but don't know how to – or no one has ever asked. We want to equip and encourage them. We don't need to orchestrate how they are to pray – the Spirit will do that – we will just let them know who specifically to pray for and the vision God has given Redeemer. We will pair intercessors with the pastoral staff, ministry departments, church planters, special needs – not for a relationship, or contact even, but for committed, intentional daily prayer for those on the firing line.

Earmarks of one called to a ministry of intercession (some, not all, is typical):

- Love to pray... praying for extended periods of time is a joy and delight!
- Content to be in ministry behind-the-scenes – or if also involved in front line ministry, make prayer a priority in that ministry engagement
- Desire to grow in praying and to learn more about prayer
- Expect God to hear their prayer and to answer according to His wisdom
- See answers to prayer regularly
- Receive regular insight and scripture that informs their praying
- Keep tenaciously a personal confidence of another
- Place pastors and/or ministries as a high priority in their total prayer life
- Sought after by others for prayer
- Enjoy intimacy with the Lord in their daily walk with Him
- Has often a compassion/mercy gifting
- Feel comfortable praying alone, with others, in different environments, at various times of the day

If these qualities describe you and you are interested in joining the West Side Prayer Team:

email wsprayer@redeemer.com

What is Kingdom-Centered Prayer?

We often think about prayer as a means to get our personal needs met. However, prayer is really a means to praise and adore God, to know Him, to come into His presence, and be transformed by Him. We need to better learn how to pray, repent, and petition God as a people.

“Kingdom-centered prayer is not mere instinct but it is Spirit enabled; not man-centered but God-centered; not self-serving but Kingdom-serving; not sentimental but Scriptural; not solo but concerted; not timid but bold; not passive resignation but proactive cooperation. Kingdom-centered prayer is the Spirit-enabled reverent cry of God’s adopted sons and daughters, seeking their Father’s glory by persistently asking Him for the nations, their promised inheritance.” – Archie Parrish

Biblically and historically, the one non-negotiable, universal ingredient in times of spiritual renewal is corporate, prevailing, intensive, and kingdom-centered prayer. What is that?

1. It is focused on God's presence and kingdom. Jack Miller talks about the difference between “maintenance prayer” and “frontline” prayer meetings. Maintenance prayer meetings are short, mechanical, and totally focused on physical needs inside the church. But frontline prayer has three basic traits: 1) a request for grace to confess sins and humble ourselves; 2) a compassion and zeal for the flourishing of the church and reaching the lost; and 3) a yearning to know God, to see His face, to see His glory. Now these are not trite statements. It is quite clear when listening to a prayer meeting whether these traits are present. Most interesting is to study Biblical prayer for revival such as in Acts 4 or Exodus 33 or Nehemiah 1. In these passages, the three elements are easy to see. Notice, for example, in Acts 4, that the disciples, whose lives had been threatened, did not ask for protection for themselves and their families, but only boldness to keep preaching!

2. It is bold and specific. Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones notes that the greatest men were quite bold in prayer, highly specific, and filled their mouths with arguments. In commenting on Moses’ prayer for glory in Exodus 33, he writes: “I commend to you the reading of biographies of men who have been used by God in the church throughout the centuries, especially in revival. And you will find this same holy boldness, this argumentation, this reasoning, this putting the case to God, pleading His own promises. Oh, that is the whole secret of prayer, I sometimes think. Thomas Goodwin uses a wonderful term. He says, ‘Sue Him for it, sue Him for it.’ Do not leave Him alone. Pester Him, as it were, with His own promise. Quote the Scripture to Him. And, you know, God delights to hear us doing it, as a Father likes to see this element in His own child who has obviously been listening to what his Father has been saying.”

3. It is prevailing, corporate. By this we mean simply that prayer should be constant, not sporadic and brief. Why? Are we to think that God wants to see us grovel? Why do we not simply put our request in and wait? The answer is that we had not been so impertinent. Sporadic, brief prayer is so because we do not make time for it. It shows a lack of dependence, a self-sufficiency, and thus we have not built an altar that God can honor with his fire. We must pray without ceasing, pray long, pray hard, and we will find that the very process is bringing about that which we are asking for—to have our hard hearts melted, to tear down barriers, to have the glory of God break through.

4. It calls to corporate repentance and longing for God. In addition, kingdom-centered prayer is characterized by repentance over our lack of love, joy, zeal for the lost, hunger for God, and so on. Any church has corporate sins. This must be done wisely! It must be accompanied by (and based on) enormous *hope*. We have hope in the gospel that God can do mighty things in our midst. Corporate repentance should usually be done in conjunction with setting concrete plans for change and outreach. Prayer meetings should also combine repentance with keeping accounts of answered prayer, new conversions and other victories. See 2 Corinthians 7 for the dangers of falling into depressing remorse and regret, rather than repentance that brings zeal.