Prayer Current Making Disciples Through Prayer Making Disciples Through Prayer

DECEMBER 2021



The Work of Heavenly Construction

eaven is "Under Construction." So are we. One day heaven will be completed, and will descend as a mighty edifice from above. In Revelation, the Bible gives us the picture of a massive garden city, as long and wide and high as Alberta and Saskatchewan.

But it's still under construction. Jesus said: "*I go to prepare a place for you*," (John 14:3). This city is being built by God of the living stones of born-again believers, and there are many more stones to set and place: *You are being built up as living stones into a spiritual house...* (1 Peter 2:5). Those who are already part of this New Jerusalem are not yet part of a finished product. There are more stones to add! God has something better planned: *Apart from us they should not be made perfect* (Hebrews 11:40).

Because this city is under construction, God is seeking foremen, craftsmen, leaders, workers and supporters to put their whole heart into building the city. When the original tent of meeting was being constructed in Exodus 35, God put willing and skillful men and women to work: Everyone who was willing and whose heart moved them came and brought an offering to the LORD for the work on the tent of meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the LORD.

The women brought spun yarn and linen; Israelites donated stones and gems to decorate the great structure; and *"every skilled person to whom the LORD had given ability"* came to build the sanctuary. God used the work of their hands to construct something magnificent.

Prayer Current is under construction too. We have outgrown our present structures and ways of doing things. Most of our ministry is beyond our reach for travel. We need to create a home base where people can come to find training, resources, coaching and encouragement to grow and train others in kingdom prayer. This newsletter shares stories of our expanding projects both in North America and around the world. On the last page, we will share the opportunity and the need.

The key to our fruitfulness will be as God raises up skilled men and women to become the foremen, skilled workers, leaders and supporters of this construction project. At Prayer Current, these skilled workers are the apostolic leaders, trainers of trainers, and ground level workers being sent forth to find more godly workers for building the City of God.

Father, LORD of the Harvest, as we seek to enter your heavenly construction project, pour out a spirit of grace and supplication, so that we might see revival. Strengthen our foundations that we may multiply your kingdom for future generations. Multiply this ministry to magnify your honor.



What God is building in North America

here is a reason you don't usually see a lot of North American stories featured in our newsletter.

This is because we often highlight what God is doing through our partners overseas. Prayer has a way of breaking out and breaking through in cultures where believers are being persecuted.

In contrast, in Canada and in the United States, we often find churches full of Christians but lacking in time, passion, or energy to pray. Coming out of COVID-19, the North American church is especially weary. In a recent survey of pastors, 90 percent are frequently fatigued and worn out and 71 percent are burned out and battle depression beyond fatigue on a weekly and even a daily basis.

Only 26 percent regularly had personal devotions and felt they were adequately fed spiritually; 23 percent felt happy and content on a regular basis with who they are in Christ, in their church, and in their home.

On a cultural level, 81 percent said there was no regular discipleship program or effective effort of mentoring their people or teaching them to deepen their Christian formation at their church.

We have witnessed this first hand in our many conversations and training with leaders in North America. In this context, is it any surprise we have wondered:

Is a prayer revolution in our own backyard possible?

God is clear on the answer: YES.

As the world continues to spin into unchartered new territory in its own post-pandemic construction reality, the good news is we are seeing a new openness to and a deeper realization of our desperate need for transformative prayer.

Prayer discipleship is the greatest benefit we can offer to serve the church!

We are delighted to share these stories of how God is working in North America through your partnership and prayers.

HUBERT'S STORY:

A Reluctant Lay Leader

Hamilton East

loneliness unemployment

homolessness

mental illness

boken families - angry / defiant

sustainable housing

be present available

get to know / build relationships ecipiocal relationship

(thay can serve us too)

y God's grace there has been a massive shift in my prayer life. A cultural shift, you could say, that has affected every part of my life."

Hubert Bethlehem, a business man and elder at a church in Hamilton, Ontario, was reluctant when his pastor suggested he attend World Street Experience 2019 in Vancouver. "How on earth am I going to sit through a course for four days on training about prayer?" he asked himself. He'd been having small but transformative moments of prayer breaking into his life. He decided to try it out.

At first, he felt "reserved, hesitant, and uncomfortable." He resisted doing prayer evangelism on the streets of Vancouver. But as he began walking around the city and opening himself up to the leading of God, he found himself led into conversations with others. It was working!

"These experiences, these changes, new ideas, rhythms, and challenges all were starting to have a profound impact on me. I was starting to realize how things needed to change in my life and my view of prayer."

Builds a Culture of Prayer

A prayer tent offering prayers and a free book for people at a music festival

THE OPEN

PRAY

Following World Street, Hubert began to see the need for a "cultural shift" in his own church that would prioritize prayer.

Back in his church in Ontario, Hubert is helping build prayer into every nook and cranny of the life of the church.

They started prayer groups like '6 at 6' (a.m. that is!), 9 at 9 (pm that is), prayer gathering before services, prayer walking the community and the streets of the city.

In 2021, Hubert invited us to do a prayer training conference in Hamilton. We saw a much higher turnout than usual for a church in North America: more than 70 people representing six churches. Typically we might see around 15.

However reluctant, God is using lay leaders like Hubert to create a cultural shift in his home church that in turn is spilling out onto the streets of the city. "God is using this time right now to foster this new culture of prayer!" Hubert says.

CHRISTINE'S STORY:

Christine Henrichs.

The Open Room is located on the main drag of Mahoment's downtown. Anyone from the community is invited to come for a coffee or a conversation. People come to meet with a friend, study, or host gatherings. It's also a Christian space, born out of Christine's heart for discipleship and hospitality. It is a space that is open to all, where all can be open to God. There is a designated space for prayer, including a prayer wall and opportunities for prayer walks.

Recently, Christine attended a conference where she learned about the centrality of prayer in the life of the Chinese church. The Open Room had always prioritized prayer, but seeing how it was enacted in these small. Chinese churches made her wonder why so many North American churches lacked a rich prayer life.

Gathering for Prayer Revolution study groups in The Open I



A Kingdom-sized Difference Saturates a Small Town

ahomet, Illinois is home to 9,000 people. It's also home to a small, non-profit gathering space called The Open Room, run by

After coming home from the conference with one of our books in hand, Christine decided to buy 500 copies of *Prayer Revolution*: *Rebuilding Church and City* to give away. They hosted a prayer tent at a local music festival, offering the book to and praying with people.

In this small town, fourteen churches have united to begin prayer training and ministry. Twenty prayer leaders have been trained. And at least one *Prayer Revolution* book group meets in The Open Room every day.

"People are experiencing prayer in a different way than they ever have before," says Christine.

Father, we thank you for how you are awakening your people, one at a time, to the power of knowing you and moving with you through prayer. We pray that you would raise up more prayer labourers and leaders for the harvest. Multiply movements of prayer in North America and around the world, for your glory.

GLOBAL SNAPSHOTS: Impacting the Nations through Prayer Discipleship

MALAWI: Our impact multiplies internationally through partnerships with trainers in other organizations. Overseas, multiplication happens often immediately.

"I recently did the Seven Days of Prayer with Jesus course. Once I grasped the concept, I went to teach the others. The prayer of Jesus has changed a lot of people. When they are praying, they're praying with zeal, and so many that have been drawn to a place of prayer. We are seeing masses, praying, and it's becoming a joy to the entire body of Christ. These teachings are very, very impactful."

~Evan, Equipping Leaders International

ASIA: We continue to provide prayer training to several hundred churches, where prayer is more than polite or theoretical—prayer is a weapon and protection in a very real battle. They pray to manifest the power of the gospel with great patience in the face of persecution and suffering.

"The current training that Prayer Current is doing with our movement of churches has solid, biblical prayer theology that deeply roots in the crucified, resurrected, ascended, and reigning Christ and the descended Spirit. The testimonies from the participating churches are genuine and hope-lifting. I am very encouraged and am prayerfully watcing how God will lead and bless this movement."

~E., Movement Leader in Asia

KOREA: As a land of immigrants, North America can reach the nations from right here. Through our World Street Experience, we gather to equip leaders like Bill Sim, the Korean Ministries Director at Mission to North America.

Since he attended World Street in 2019, Bill is actively working with the pastors of 70 Korean churches in the United States to recruit and train new prayer leaders. Recognizing how burdened Korean pastors already are, he intentionally sought to raise up emerging lay leaders to disciple them as prayer leaders.

Bill is currently meeting biweekly for prayer, training, and discipleship with 52 leaders from 7 churches. His vision is to grow it to 80 leaders from 10 churches.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUILDING PRAYER MOVEMENTS

s you read the stories of transformation, you can see God has set before us an open door (Revelation 3:8) commissioning us to make and multiply disciples through prayer.

Our current platform is outdated and limited in capacity, especially for places where extensive travel is not an option. This includes building deeper partnerships and creating a richer, more deeply resourced North America hub from which to respond.

The ark is too small to contain what God is sending!

We are grateful for you. Will you help us build for future generations? We invite you, with humble gratitude, to help us **reach our faith goal of \$78,300 raised** or pledged by Dec. 31 to fulfill this next "building phase" in Prayer Current's ministry.

Will you invest in partnering with us to:

REACH NORTH AMERICA

REACH THE NATIONS

- Launch a prayer movement in Mohamet, Illinois with 12 churches
- Provide catalytic training and coaching for 35 churches that are ready to start or multiply prayer
- Hire a part time US director for Prayer Current
- Equip 80 churches in Asia to do prayer evangelism with migrant workers and persecuted minorities
- Multiply prayer through Redeemer City to City New York to bring prayer to global hub cities in 5 continents
- Raise up 2 new global leaders and 5 new city prayer strategies

- MULTIPLY TRAINERS
- Train more prayer training coaches and 3 trainer of trainers
- Build an accessible and downloadable online resource library

Every gift makes a difference today and eternally. Your gift today enables us to effectively serve the leaders in the growth of the global prayer movement.

If you are already supporting us, thank you! We hope you are encouraged by how God is working through your partnership!

Will you join us? **GIVE ONLINE:** www.prayercurrent.com/donate