



Team Central Prayer Gathering

November 19, 2011

Lakeland, FL

Central Florida District Church of the Nazarene

Central Florida District

Family Prayer Requests

* A transformational movement of the Holy Spirit across Central Florida
* Children, teens, and adults responding to God’s call
* Enhanced training and development for those in the ministerial course of study
* Increased financial provisions for every Team Central congregation
* Pray that God will raise up at least 10 churches that are authentic “Houses of Prayer”

*"The corporate power of prayer is yet to reach its full potential." Larry Dennis*

Fire and Power

Jesus says emphatically, “*My house will be called a house of prayer*,” (Matthew 21:13). The fire of Godhas been drawing people to Him since the beginning of time. Throughout scripture, man’s hunger to draw close to God has been fueled by the connection between fire and the Holy Spirit.

God’s creation of the sun, Abraham’s fiery sacrifice, Moses and the burning bush, the fire on Mt. Sinai, and the flames of Pentecost . . . all point us to a savior who is passionate about purifying and empowering His children.

The hurting and broken people surrounding us are looking for an **authentic transformation**. All are hopeless and helpless without a bona fide encounter with God. When God’s children seek God’s face at any cost and our hearts burn with the fire of concern for the lost around us – revival will come.

*(Read more about “House of Prayer” on page 22)*

***Precious Lord we humble ourselves before you on the altar of sacrifice, honoring you with the fire of Praise and Worship.***

**“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”**

**Hebrews 13:15-16**

***Together, we ask for the illuminating fire of the Holy Spirit to fall upon our Prayer Gathering today. We humbly ask for the power of your Spirit to lead us to the Purity, Clarity, & Hope that comes only from You.***

Now, we begin by singing Praises to our Lord.

"*Don’t pray when you feel like it. Have an*

*appointment with the Lord and keep it.*

*A man is powerful on his knees."*

Corrie ten Boom



The Spirit’s Fire Brings Purity

Welcoming the Holy Spirit’s illuminating fire through our individual and corporate Humility and Confession

*Together, let us pray:*

A Confession Prayer

**Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry,**

**too real to hide, and too deep to undo.**

**Forgive what our lips tremble to name,**

**what our hearts can no longer bear,**

**and what has become for us**

**a consuming fire of judgment.**

**Set us free from the past that we cannot change;**

**open us to a future in which we can be changed;**

**and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image,**

**through Jesus Christ, the light of the world,**

**Amen.**

We have come together to demonstrate true repentance. We are following the example of Israel: “All the people of Israel mourned & sought after the Lord.” (I Samuel 7:2b) Let us bow down before our Maker, on our knees before God to pray & seek His face.

*Personal Prayer Time*

*Ask God to reveal any deterrents that keep you from knowing Christ intimately.*

**“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”**

**Psalms 139:23-24**

Sin always saps spiritual vitality. Spiritual power to do God’s work with fruitfulness is available only when sin is properly dealt with.



*Pray that the Lord will convict you, your family & your church of behavior that would hinder your prayers. Pray that these barriers will be removed by confession, reconciliation, & restitution:*

* *Attitudes… Habits… Lifestyle*
* *Self centeredness?*
* *Prayerlessness, apathy, disobedience, complacency*

Jesus is ordering his Church to repent of sin that is offensive to Him & damaging to His people.

*Ask God to reveal anything that you need to confess in order to claim His promise of forgiveness and cleansing:*

**“If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.” I John 2:1b-2**

*Notes:*

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Responsive Reading

Embracing the Cleansing Fire of His Holiness

*All:* **Thank you Father for the promise and provision through Christ’s blood to cleanse and purify me.**

**“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.” Ezekiel 36:25-27**

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*Pause and reflect on His cleansing & purity.*

*All:* **Change my heart Lord. May all that I say and do bring Glory to your Holy name.**

**“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:17**

**“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. . . not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.” I Corinthians 10:31, 33**

*Pause and reflect on God, worthy to be glorified in all we say and do.*

*All:* **Precious Savior, transform me. Create in me the desire and ability to live a life in front of others that reflects Your Holiness.**

**“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflectthe Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” II Corinthians 3:18**

**“Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.” II Corinthians 7:1**

****** *Pause and reflect on God’s will and power to transform us.*

*All:***Revival will come when your children are Sanctified . . . totally set apart for your will and service.**

**“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.” I Thessalonians 5:23-24**



*Pause and reflect on what it means for my life to be set apart for God’s purpose and use.*

Sanctification is Total Surrender…

Only those truly hungry for His presence – those who are desperate, aching and starving for His presence can embrace the sanctified life.

How hungry are we? We say we are hungry for God, but are we really? What are we hungry for? What are we filling ourselves with? If we are already full of the lesser pleasures of this world, how can we really have an appetite for God?

People who are desperately hungry will do almost anything to satisfy that hunger. Those who are willing to move out of their normal routine and to seek the presence of God will be challenged and encouraged in praying the following prayer . . .



*Now, open your heart to the Lord as you pray these sacrificial prayers:*

**Holy God, am I hungry enough to abandon all my rights?**

**Have I abandoned my right to …**

* **defend myself**
* **be understood**
* **possess things**
* **be treated with respect**

 *My greatest challenge in this area is:*

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  **Have I abandoned my right to …**

* **get recognition for what I have done**
* **feel offended/hurt**
* **be/become angry**
* **exercise my own choice**
* **pleasure/enjoyments/nice things**

*My greatest challenge in this area is:*

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**Have I abandoned my right to …**

* **my own finances**
* **my own ambitions**
* **my right to comfort**
* **my right to plan my own future**
* **my right to privacy.**

*My greatest challenge in this area is:*

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Abandonment to self is an unending process, beginning with our willingness to be crucified with Christ.

**“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”**

**Galatians 2:20**

*What does this passage say to me personally?*

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**“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” I Corinthians 10:31**

*Huddle Up*

*Now assemble into groups of 3 or 4. Ask those who are willing, to share their responses to the questions above. Take a moment if appropriate to pray for any specific needs.*

*Once finished, please return to your seats quietly to allow the other groups to finish.*

*Please maintain the atmosphere of quiet reflection and prayer.*

*"God does nothing except in response to believing prayer."*

John Wesley

The Spirit’s Fire Brings Clarity

*O Lord, open our eyes with the fire of your Word!*

If we truly believe that God’s voice can be heard through His Word, then surely He communicates to us though the Holy Scriptures.

**“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12**

*Read…**Mark 10:46-52 slowly to reacquaint yourself with the story.*

**“. . . a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means ‘son of Timaeus’), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’**

 **Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’**

 **Jesus stopped and said, ‘Call him.’**

 **So they called to the blind man, ‘Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.’ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.**

 **‘What do you want me to do for you?’ Jesus asked him. The blind man said, ‘Rabbi, I want to see.’**

 **‘Go,’ said Jesus, ‘your faith has healed you.’ Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.”**

*Reflect…*

*Review the passage again slowly and focus on Bartimaeus. Ask the Lord to open your eyes, ears and heart as if you are reading it for the very first time. Listen for the Holy Spirit’s voice. List any new insights:*

* **Does this passage remind you of something or someone in your life? Do you know any person or organization that is desperate and in need of transformation?**

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* **Time for a “heart-to-heart” talk with Jesus.** **Is He our only hope? Can our hearts, lives, churches and communities be transformed without His miraculous and powerful touch?**

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* **How’s my faith? Have I given up? Do I really believe God can help me with my greatest need?**

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*Rest…*

*Now, read the passage one more time. Close your eyes and ask God to help you imagine what your life, home, church and community will look like when totally yielded to God’s control.*

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*"The men who have done the most for God*

*in this world have been early on their knees.”*

E.M. Bounds

The Spirit’s Fire Brings Hope

*Lifting Our Fires of Faith to the Lord*

**“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.” Hebrews 11:1-2**

Hope for Our Lives

*Please visit the prayer huddles in designated areas of the sanctuary foyer & balcony in order of your greatest concern.*

Spouse and Immediate Family

Unsaved Children

Finances

Local Church

Discouragement

The Cross . . . (Spiritual Concerns)

Your Ministry

Confession

Schools

Military and Government Workers

Health Concerns, others or ourselves

Neighbors

Churches of Hope

**Lord, we celebrate the fire of Your Holy Spirit that is burning in the hearts of our pastors.**



*Pray for pastors to experience the joy of leading people into the transforming experience of entire sanctification.*

**“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.” Ezekiel 36:26**



*Ask the Lord to fan into flame the holy fire of your divine call upon the lives of our pastors.*

**“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.” I Thessalonians 5:23-24**

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*Celebrate your Pastor’s commitment to proclaiming the power of Holy Living to all people . . . youth, young adults, middle adults and seniors.*

**“It is God's will that you should be sanctified . . . For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you His Holy Spirit.” I Thessalonians 4: 3, 7-8**



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*Pray for your pastor’s family, that God will build a hedge of protection around their marriage. Pray that their family time will be protected.*

**“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:4-5**

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*Pray that God will bring godly friends and encouragers to your pastor’s spouse and their family to strengthen them for the ministry and to provide meaningful fellowship, accountability, and times of rest. (Ps. 55:14; 119:63)*

**“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work; If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!” Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**

Hope for Our World

**Lord, we cry out to You, believing that the Fire of the Holy Spirit is burning around the world.**

**We pray specifically for our general superintendents. We pray for their ministry and safety, as they lead the global Church of the Nazarene:**

Dr. Jerry Porter
Dr. Jesse Middendorf
Dr. J.K. Warrick
Dr. David Graves
Dr. Stan Toler

Dr. Eugenio Duarte

**We remember and pray now for the specific needs of our brothers and sisters in each world region:**

**Africa Region—Filimao Chambo,** *Director*

People suffering from the famine in the Horn of Africa and from the AIDS pandemic

**Asia-Pacific Region—Verne Ward,** *Director*

Missionaries Rolf and Debbie Kleinfeld as they return to the field and supervise the work in Cambodia

**Eurasia Region—Gustavo Crocker,** *Director*

JESUS Film team workers, specifically in Bangladesh and gospel-resistant countries

**Mesomerica Region—Carlos Saenz,** *Director*

Dan and Brenda Hopkins, Central Florida’s own missionaries and for their work in Dominica

 **South America Region—Christian Sarmiento,** *Director*

Extreme Mission Project in Paraguay to plant new churches and revitalize the Church of the Nazarene with missionary leader Felix Vargas

**USA/Canada Region—Bob Broadbooks,** *Director*

Our Nazarene congregations to continue to support missions financially, especially in paying the World Evangelism Fund, with great sacrifice in this time of a struggling economy

Fulfilling the Great Commission requires intercession by all of us. While not all of us are called to serve cross-culturally, we are called to pray for our global church.

**Workers for the Harvest:**

Scripture tells us in Luke 10:2, *“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”*  There is a great need for people to hear and respond to God’s call to missions and ministry. Pray with NMI that the Lord will supply workers for the harvest.

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Benediction

We close our prayer gathering by singing together the prayer our Lord taught us to pray.

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father, which art in heaven,**

**Hallowed be thy Name.**

**Thy Kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done in earth,  As it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**As we forgive those that trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**But deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**The power, and the glory,**

**Forever and ever.**

**Amen**

*How many Team Central Pastors and lay leaders is God speaking to about leading their local church into becoming a House of Prayer?*

“My house will be called a house of prayer.” Matthew 21:13

**Nine Common Elements for “*House of Prayer”* Churches**

**1. Prayer is visible from the pulpit.**

The church believes in prayer as a change agent and reaffirms it as a solution every Sunday. Preaching in the church will show how prayer is a vital attribute of biblical character and shines the way through personal struggles and trials. Writing to Timothy about essential leadership qualities, Paul says, “I urge, then, *first of all,* that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone” (1 Tim. 2:1, *emphasis added).*Prayer will be a key, not a suggestion at the end of a sermon. The congregation will appreciate the importance of prayer in everything they do because they’ve heard repeatedly how it has been an integral part of the lives of Jesus, biblical characters, and their pastor.

**2. Prayer saturates every aspect of the service.**

Members have prayed throughout the week for the Sunday services and activities; several pray with the pastor before he speaks, and they pray during the service; people are available after the service to pray with anyone who desires it.

**3. The leadership is committed to prayer.**

The leadership, staff, and key lay leaders have a burden for prayer and sense of expectancy from it. They are convinced of its effectiveness. It is a way of life for them, and they devote significant periods of time to developing it in their personal lives.

**4. Prayer is an agenda item.**

Every group meeting—from leadership meetings and Sunday school classes to the least important board or committee meeting—will spend time praying. In addition to significant prayer at the beginning of meetings, they will stop and seek the Lord’s face for wisdom, guidance, and oneness of mind when difficulties arise.

**5. Prayer is part of Christian education.**

Periodically, Sunday school classes and/or small groups will do teaching series on prayer (in addition to their regular prayer commitments). They’ll make learning about prayer and practicing it a priority and they’ll strive to make it meaningful for all.

**6. The pastor has a strong prayer covering.**

Church leadership will receive unfailing prayer support for several reasons. First, leaders are prime targets for attack. Satan seems to watch for the best time— often landing blows right after a significant victory or when the leader is tired. Second, even the most godly leaders have weaknesses and cannot win the battle alone. Third, the people need to see and imitate leaders praying and being prayed for.

**7. Prayer is the first step, not the last resort.**

Groups of people pray spontaneously together about problems and interests. Prayer is always the first step in finding a solution. Thus, prayers are available after services for those who have specific needs. A prayer room may be designated for those who desire confidentiality or need a longer prayer time.

**8. Intercession is an integral part of the church life.**

A variety of times and places are available for people to gather for prayer—in the early morning, during lunch, or after work; at church, in homes, at a restaurant over a meal, at a business, or with other business people in the area. Prayer looks not only inward at the church, but will be a dynamic, powerful, and tangible means of influencing the city, state, government, and world.

**9. The church has a recognized prayer leader other than the senior pastor.**

As a church becomes excited about prayer and its developing prayer skills, it will seek more direction. A director of prayer (either paid staff or lay leader) will develop ministries and annual seminars that impact the local body and create a greater sense of awareness of the need for prayer.

It is no simple task to become a powerful house of prayer. Satan will fight every step of the way. The good news is that Jesus will aid every church into becoming a House of Prayer when we are willing to pay the price.

*Jonathan Graff, My House Shall Be A House of Prayer, NavPress, 2003*

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*"The prayer power has never been tried to its full capacity. "*

J. Hudson Taylor

*"No learning can make up for the failure to pray. No earnestness, no diligence, no study, no gifts will supply its lack."*

E.M. Bounds

*"The little estimate we put on prayer is evidence from the little time we give to it."*

E.M. Bounds

*"Prayer strikes the winning blow;*

*service is simply picking up the pieces."*

S.D. Gordon

*"Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons,*

*but they are* ***helpless*** *against our prayers."*

Sidlow Baxter