BUILDING A PRAYER TEAM

# *PRAYER IS THE BATTLE:*

Prayer is foundational to our strategy.  Church multiplication is a spiritual matter.  Without the power of God we cannot take the strongholds of Satan.

* **BE ASSURED OF IT’S SIGNIFICANCE**
	+ Prayer gives us access to the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8-14; John 15:5).
	+ Prayer is our greatest safeguard against temptation (Matthew 6:13; John 17:15).
	+ Prayer is our greatest asset in dealing with wicked men (II Thessalonians 3:1-4).
	+ Prayer is our source of discernment in choosing leaders (Luke 6:12-13; Acts 1:24-26).
	+ Prayer is the place where God adjusts our perspectives (Acts 10:1-4,9).
	+ Prayer is the place where God gives us His direction (Acts 13:1-3).
* **THREE POINTS OF ATTACK**
	+ Every church planter/pastor must be committed to personal prayer
	+ Every church planter/pastor must be committed to the formation of a prayer team - A group of intercessors who will pray for the planter/pastor and the ministry faithfully
	+ Every church planter/pastor must be committed to developing the prayer ministry of the church. Jesus said His Church is to be a House of Prayer.

# *BUILDING THE PRAYER TEAM*

* **THE PURPOSE OF THE PRAYER TEAM/INTERCESSORS**
	+ Hold you up when you grow weary (Exodus 17:8-13).
	+ Pray for boldness to proclaim the mystery of the Gospel (Ephesians 6:19).
	+ Pray for God to open doors for the ministry of the Gospel (Colossians 4:2-3)

We ask church planters to build a team of at least 25 prayer partners who will pray for them and their ministry daily. However, following is a modification of how one of our planters has built his team. This is based a bit on the life of Christ

* **THE TEAM OF 3 (Peter, James and John)**
1. These are people you can call on, any day or night with immediate needs.
2. They are people you can trust with very personal requests.
3. They are people who can keep a confidence.
* **THE TEAM OF 12**
1. This team includes the first three
2. Communicate with this team weekly – letting them know what you are working on; discipling relationships you are building; important meetings; studies you are preparing; personal challenges, etc.
3. This is a team you also trust to keep confidences – they are people you trust with day to day information.
* **THE TEAM OF 70**
1. If 70 seems unwieldy, then at least the 25 (the teams of 3 and 12 can be a part of this team).
2. Communicate with this team at least monthly. Keep them informed of progress, next steps, challenges, etc.
3. What you share with this team can be shared with anyone.

**BUILDING THE TEAMS**

* **THE TEAMS OF 3 & 12**
1. Pray and ask God to raise up intercessors for you, your family, and ministry.
2. Make a list of those who:
	1. You know to be people of prayer
	2. You are comfortable sharing your hurts, and failures
	3. Will celebrate the little wins as well as the big ones
	4. You know to keep confidences
3. Invite them to be a part of this prayer team
4. Clarify and agree upon mutual commitments
	1. Confidentiality
	2. Your commitment to communicate with them **at least weekly**
	3. Your permission for them to contact you if they do not hear from you
	4. Their commitment to pray for you daily
	5. Your permission for them to ask about your own journey with the Lord
	6. Ask for a two-year commitment
5. Give this team lots of feedback
	1. Your honesty is key to their informed praying
	2. Weekly communication is essential – more frequent as needs arise.
	3. Intercessors like to be fed prayer requests.
* **THE TEAM OF 25-70**
1. Pray and ask God to raise up intercessors for you, your family, and ministry.
2. Make a list of any people:
	1. Who have said they will pray for you
	2. Who call and ask for prayer requests
	3. Who ask if you have had answers to prayer
	4. Who you know to be people of prayer
3. Invite them to join your intercession team
4. Clarify and agree upon mutual commitments
	1. Confidentiality
	2. How frequently they can expect to hear from you (at least monthly and perhaps more frequently during specific seasons of ministry).
	3. Expectations – pray for you daily
	4. Have them pray for you in at least two ways:
		1. Wisdom for guiding God’s Church (James 1:5)
		2. A shield of protection around you (John17:15)
	5. Ask for a two-year commitment
5. Give your prayer partners lots of feedback
	1. Communicate at least monthly – more frequently as needed
	2. Be certain to share answers to prayer
	3. Flag special needs
6. Pray for your prayer teams at least weekly – you might consider praying for a few each day of the week. Ask God to put a shield of protection around them. Follow the examples of Paul’s prayers in Colossians, Philippians and Ephesians.
7. Personally contact your prayer team near the end of the two years to see if they are active or not, if they need to be released, or if they need a different kind of “reward” to stay motivated (usually more frequent contact). Use this information to update your prayer support. If you are not hearing from some on the team you may need to touch base with them earlier than two years to see if they are still on board or need to be released.

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