

Chapter One: The Sourcebook

A Prayer Pacesetter's Dream

The Sourcebook

The Vision
Ignition
Mechanics
Dynamics
Projects
Appendices

FROM NEW YORK City to San Francisco, from Minneapolis to Miami, and in Nairobi, Amsterdam, Jakarta, Capetown, Hong Kong, Seoul, London, as well as throughout Central America, Eastern Europe, and Canada . . . God is raising up a movement of united prayer for spiritual awakening and world evangelization.

Christians compelled by a growing desire to see the Great Commission completed are gathering within cities and communities in regular concerts of prayer. They're meeting in churches and offices, in homes and on campuses. Concerted prayer is growing on a scale far larger than anything we have known before.

And prayer pacesetters are leading the way!

Think back to the last time you saw the start of the Indianapolis 500 car race. You'll remember that one car circled the track slightly ahead of the others and was given the responsibility of bringing the whole field up to speed and getting them into the race. While people don't usually think about the important role of the pace car, you can't have a race without one. And you can't have a prayer movement without prayer pacesetters. No question about it—biblically and historically, prayer pacesetters have been essential to igniting and sustaining a movement of united prayer. The same is true today. Thousands of prayer pacesetters are needed now to serve prayer movements emerging world-wide. And the good news is that thousands are surfacing right now. You may be one of them.

This manual is specifically for prayer pacesetters. Are you a prayer pacesetter? You may have never used the term before, but you may already be functioning as one, or have a growing desire to do so. Here are some clues:

- Pacesetters want to grow as men and women of prayer and help others to do the same. Do you?
- Pacesetters believe the key to world evangelization is Christians united in prayer for spiritual awakening. Do you?
- Pacesetters notice a growing hope inside of them that God is, in fact, bringing the Church to the threshold of a true spiritual awakening. Do you?
- Pacesetters desire to be part of the worldwide movement of prayer by joining up with others in united prayer right where they live. Do you?

Why it Exists

Who This is For

- Pacesetters are ready for a change from the same old approaches to corporate prayer and are ready to pray with new vision and spirit. Are you?
- Pacesetters are willing to commit themselves to others to pray Kingdom prayers until God answers, for their community and beyond. Are you?
- Pacesetters are willing to begin, if necessary, with just a handful of others because they know the time has come for such a strategic effort. Are you?
- Pacesetters sense a good possibility that God is asking them to help set the pace for a movement of concerted prayer in their churches or their community and are looking for all the encouragement they can find. Are you?

If you answered yes to these questions, then consider yourself a prayer pacesetter. And if you're like most pacesetters, you recognize the need for some help and direction as you take up the exciting work of serving united prayer where you live. What you really need is some good coaching, and that's exactly what this Source-book represents.

Consisting of over 100 proven principles, this resource manual represents a collection of the shared wisdom and experiences of those who are leading established prayer movements. It has been compiled following an extensive process of learning and interaction among some of these leaders and through consultations with an even wider international network. The core of the material is derived from in-depth debriefing of thirty-five urban prayer movements, twenty from North America and fifteen from Europe, Africa, and Asia.

In fact, the quotes highlighted along the way are actual statements made by these prayer leaders from around the world. They will tell it to you just as it is.

The Sourcebook also describes the way in which God has been giving a unity of vision and practical implementational approaches across a diverse set of localities. The Sourcebook brings together what God has been teaching his church in this matter of united prayer. It's not merely a collection of man's ideas, but a debriefing of the historical workings of the living God in various parts of the world. These are rehearsed in a logical fashion for you to study and then select what might work best in your situation to release the fullness of the vision of Christ in your community.

Although this Sourcebook can be read like a novel, that is not its intended purpose. Written principally to help those already leading a prayer movement, whether of 20 or 20,000, or those sensing a call to do so, it is designed to be a practical workbook. Ideally a local leadership team will work through the manual prayerfully, and diligently consider each of the worksheets that are appropriate to the stage of development of their particular prayer movement.

What It Represents

How To Use It

Those of you who are in the initial phases of a prayer movement may want to begin at the beginning and work straight through. Others of you may be part of a prayer movement already several years in development, and you may want some specific coaching right now on an issue found further back in the Sourcebook. If so, begin immediately with that section. Whatever you decide, the way to use this Sourcebook most effectively is to make it a central aspect of regular leadership team meetings. Think of it as being able to have the leaders of over 35 prayer movements from around the world sitting in on your meetings to offer you their expert counsel and guidance.

As you and your team discuss and pray over these vital principles, you will discover how transferable they are to your specific situation.

Although we find prayer pacesetters scattered everywhere throughout the Body of Christ, the basic principles of prayer mobilization are much the same. With little effort, the concepts represented here have also been used in local congregations, on campuses, and with mission and ministry organizations. Someone once said that creativity was the ability to take an idea and make it applicable for your own situation. Be creative and let your imagination flourish as you read this.

Choose a section appropriate to your situation. The Sourcebook attempts to scratch the places where prayer movements have been known to itch. Be honest in your evaluation and choose prayerfully. If your group has not yet dealt with Vision, it is highly recommended that you start with Chapter Two.

Step One:

Ask your committee ahead of time to read the appropriate section related to the worksheet. Stress that they read it before coming and suggest they:

Step Two:

- a. summarize the principles it contains,
- b. prayerfully consider and list local applications—don't be afraid to dream!
- c. note any proposals that they might like to make to the leadership team as a result,
- d. pray over the possibilities and insights that surface,
- e. review the accompanying worksheet for that section.

At the meeting:

Step Three:

- a. Share summaries of the principles.
- b. Work through the worksheets, highlighting insights and possibilities relevant to your situation.
- c. Pray over the discussions.
- d. Make clear decisions.
- e. Delegate and take the appropriate steps.
- f. Assign another section of the manual for the next time.

g. Begin or conclude with a mini-concert of prayer. (That's your priority!)

To kick things off, you might want to conduct a Prayer Pacesetters Leadership Retreat, possibly as outlined in Chapter Six. During this time you could spend much time in prayer, in analysis of the current situation (using the section in Chapter Six on Developing Your Own Case Study), and in discussion of some of the other articles in the chapter on The Vision of Prayer Movements. You might even determine a schedule and a procedure for tackling more of the Sourcebook in regular team meetings after the retreat.

Second, be sure to bring scripture into each time your team of pacesetters comes together. To help you in this, you may want to refer to our new resource "Everybody Pray" containing hundreds of theme related Scriptures. You may also want to examine some of the inspiring "case studies" of spiritual awakening in scripture, such as the many found in II Chronicles as well as in the book of Acts. Also helpful are Isaiah's paintings of spiritual awakening, especially from chapter 40 onward, and the focus of Paul's model prayers (such as in Ephesians).

Whatever else you do, don't look upon this Sourcebook as simply a collection of mechanics designed to provide a fail-safe way to succeed in mobilizing united prayer. Of course, the manual is brimming with powerful pragmatism, gleaned from all we've learned through existing grassroots prayer movements worldwide. But the aim of this tool goes far beyond principles and worksheets.

The Sourcebook is aimed at unlocking a prayer movement that God is already giving you so that you might see Christ breakthrough into your churches, into your city, and to the ends of the earth.

We must not be satisfied with developing dynamic new "prayer programs." As many in concerts of prayer are learning, united prayer is nothing less than rebellion against the status quo! We are defying the principalities and powers of darkness. We are wrestling with the sickness and paralysis of faith within our churches. We are confronting the overwhelming crises throughout our world, especially among earth's totally unreached. We are challenging things as they are, intent on pursuing from God's hand all that he desires and deserves in Jesus Christ. We refuse to take rest or give God any rest until he establishes his people victorious in Jesus Christ and makes us his praise in the earth once again (Isaiah 62:6-7).

Use the Sourcebook only to the degree that it will foster, strengthen, encourage and equip God's people to join in this rebellion. Let's not be satisfied until we have seen the "status quo" in our churches and among

Two Other Suggestions

Committed To A Breakthrough

the nations overthrown by a whole new breakthrough in spiritual awakening and worldwide evangelization!