

Section Three

Follow-Up

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A Concert of Prayer rally isn't merely an event. A Concert of Prayer is part of a larger movement of united prayer that has many facets.

The Concert of Prayer rally is an entry point for many people into the movement of united prayer. Concerts of Prayer also unlock prayer efforts on many other levels.

As you plan and conduct a Concert of Prayer rally, whether in your church or in your community, it is important to think beyond the actual event.

Your commitment to follow-up displays an understanding that this is just one part of a building cycle of prayer toward spiritual awakening and global evangelization.

Cycle or Rhythms of Prayer

The Concert of Prayer rally fits into a cycle or “rhythm” of prayer within a community.

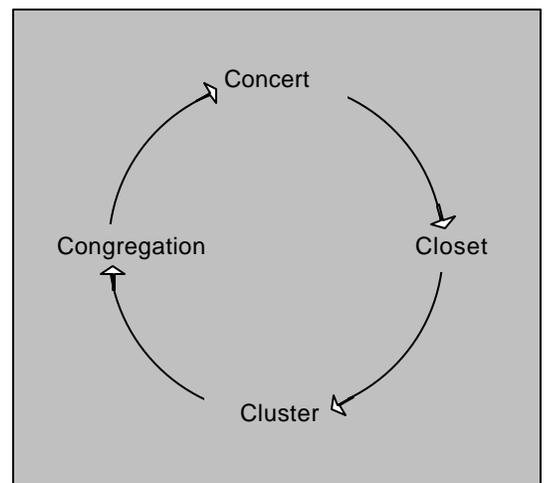
The Cycle of Prayer involves four distinct parts that we call the 4 C's—Concert, Closet, Cluster, Congregation. There is no one beginning definite starting point in the cycle. Instead, these rhythms of prayer build on and fuel one another.

In the descriptions below, you'll see how the Concert of Prayer rally—either community-wide or within a congregation—can serve as a starting or entry point into a building cycle of prayer:

Concert — A core of participants from a broad spectrum of the body of Christ meet in regular interdenominational gatherings. Initially, they are made up of prayer “pacesetters” who have a conviction relative to prayer and a vision of what a revived Church would be like. As the prayer movement builds, more and more of God's people join in these “concerted” prayer events for revival and world evangelization.

Closet — People carry the vision and spirit of hope from the Concert of Prayer back into their own times of daily prayer and devotions. Individuals begin to pray in new

A community prayer movement is a cycle set in motion



ways, seeking God on matters of concern not just to the local body, but to the national and global Church as well.

Clusters — The prayer agenda for spiritual awakening and world evangelization begins to surface in various small groups. Here the revitalized pray-ers are able to share in praise and prayer with their families, in Bible study groups, growth groups, prayer bands, or prayer triplets.

Congregations — Gradually, the thrust of the Concert of Prayer movement works its way into corporate times of prayer in the local church. This usually occurs through the efforts of spiritual leaders and pacesetters within each local body. The entire congregation begins to set aside times of united prayer for spiritual awakening and world evangelization. This may occur, for example, during ten minutes in each morning worship service. Or, it may happen through regular church-wide Concerts of Prayer.

Concert — The initial pacesetters continue to return to each city-wide Concert of Prayer to renew their own vision and faith and to be encouraged by connecting up with similar prayer-concerned Christians from other churches. In addition, they bring others from their own small groups or congregations. This helps mobilize more people into the movement of prayer where they live.

These four parts of a building prayer rhythm show what can happen after a citywide rally, with follow-up in local congregations. In the diagram, when a whole congregation prays together it's shown under Congregation, although a Concert of Prayer can also take place within a single congregation.

Principles for Sustaining

Frequently, the positive long-term results of Christian events are lost because of a lack of concern for working to sustain the bigger vision. A Concert of Prayer rally has value in itself. However, its greater value is in its ability to contribute to an ongoing movement of prayer that can mobilize the Church to seek Christ in a new way and experience His fullness in a much greater degree than ever before.

Remember, a vibrant, growing movement of prayer is *multi-faceted*. It draws its strength from a variety of churches, agencies, and interest groups.

A Concert of Prayer is just one facet of a prayer movement.

A Concert of Prayer rally is just one facet of a prayer movement. Adding to the four C's outlined above, a community-wide prayer movement may also include pastor prayer summits, small group prayer meetings, youth events, business community noon-time prayer meetings, campus prayer movements, special days of prayer, mission prayer groups, women's prayer ministries, denominational prayer events, prayer partnerships, prayer marches, 24-hour prayer vigils, and other prayer gatherings.

To help build and sustain a multi-faceted prayer movement in your area, here are just a few suggestions your Steering Committee might consider:

- Subscribe to newsletters and periodicals which share news of other prayer movements around the country and beyond. For example, the quarterly *In Concert* newsletter from *Concerts of Prayer International* contains updates on regional prayer movements.
- Organize an area-wide pastor's prayer retreat with no other agenda than for pastors to talk and pray together for an extended period of time.
- Make copies of David Bryant's book *The Hope at Hand* available for distribution or sale at the rally (*ordering information is included in the back of this Manual*). This kind of practical tool will help people understand the purpose behind the prayer movement and how their individual involvement relates to the prayer movement world-wide.
- Assist in training pastors or lay leaders on how to translate the 7 R's of the Concert of Prayer rally back into their own congregations or small groups for use on an individual or corporate basis.
- Contact local Christian radio stations about promoting prayer events and carrying programs related to the prayer movement.
- Pray regularly for the ministry of *Concerts of Prayer International* and for prayer movements in other cities for at least one year following your citywide rally.
- Hold a post-rally event to gain ideas and feedback from those involved. Following a community-wide event, invite Key Leaders from each participating congregation. Announce a date for the next year's Concert of Prayer rally and seek their continued input.

Survey of Participating Congregations or Groups

If you desire to seek and prepare for spiritual awakening and to bring others along with you, you are not alone! God is at work in your church and your community, stirring others with a desire for world revival.

As you begin to plan for a Concert of Prayer rally, it is important to find out where God is working, in whom He is working, and to then move with Him to serve them. Pools of renewal have already been dug in churches and fellowships all throughout the body of Christ. A Concert of Prayer rally is one way to “dig the trenches” between these pools of renewal, so they flow together to form reservoirs of renewal, and ultimately rivers of renewal for the whole earth.

One way to uncover those who share a vision for revival is through the use of a survey. The questions that follow can be used as the basis for a survey of believers in participating congregations. Although most Christians have never been asked these questions, in many cases they help express what God is already placing on their hearts. Many leaders are amazed to find how many give positive responses. They learn that God has already prepared many to be a part of His movement of prayer toward revival.

These questions are in a logical sequence. They begin by identifying an individual’s sense of the need for revival, and what he or she considers to be the strategic role of prayer especially. Then, the questionnaire helps a person define the degree of hope he or she has about what God is getting ready to do, as well as his or her own readiness to get involved.

From experience in using this survey, you **will probably find many hundreds of people within your community whom God is calling right now to seek and prepare for world revival.**

Here is a short form of the survey. An expanded version is included in the Appendix. When you design a pre-event survey, feel free to substitute wording that would be meaningful to the individual church:

- 1. Is the Church in need of revival?**
Circle one: no maybe yes
- 2. Will revival have an impact on the world?**
Circle one: no maybe yes

3. **Must we pursue revival by united prayer?**
Circle one: no maybe yes
4. **Is God ready to give us revival?**
Circle one: no maybe yes
5. **Is God ready to help us pray as we should?**
Circle one: no maybe yes
6. **Am I ready to be involved?**
Circle one: no maybe yes

This survey can be used in two ways. First, **it can be used in a Sunday worship service as a bulletin insert.** For five minutes a participating pastor may guide his congregation through the six questions. That provides an excellent opportunity to expose the congregation to a new way of thinking what God is up to. That in itself makes the questionnaire worthwhile. But it also helps to get a reading on the congregation's thinking about revival.

To help insure a candid response, those answering need not give their names.

In most congregations a majority will answer "yes" to the questions above. If you use the more thorough questionnaire included in the Appendix, most people will identify themselves toward the right side of each continuum. It is a tremendous experience for a local church to have its pastor report back the following Sunday that half of the congregation (or more) are not only convinced that revival is needed and is coming, but also that they are willing to pray and prepare for it personally. Once those results have been made known, the church will act with renewed confidence to get involved in a Concert of Prayer rally, which is designed to foster a revival vision.

A second approach is to involve a number of churches within a community to give the survey on the same Sunday. Those preparing for a city-wide Concert of Prayer might seek the cooperation of all the pastors who are serving on the Board of Reference.

In the week afterward, these pastors can tabulate the results for their own congregations and then pool the responses. The finding can then be reported back the following Sunday to each congregation. It is often a revelation both to pastors and churches to discover that (possibly) thousands of others throughout the local body of Christ feel the same about a coming revival.

This often instills a new level of camaraderie among the churches to seek and prepare for revival together, lending new levels of involvement to the Concert of Prayer rally. Though this survey is given before the actual community or church-wide event, it helps sustain the impact of the rally by helping individual believers understand that the rally is just one facet in a movement of prayer.

Prayer Involvement Response Cards

One final, yet important follow-up tool to the Concert of Prayer, especially for pastors in participating churches, is the Prayer Involvement Response Card.

The Prayer Involvement Response Card is to be completed by participants at the actual Concert of Prayer rally. It allows each person to indicate his or her current level of commitment to the prayer movement. It also gives participants an opportunity to volunteer to become involved in the united prayer movement on an individual, church-wide, or community-wide basis.

You'll find a sample of a Prayer Involvement Response Card in the Appendix. These cards can be pre-printed, or you can simply use blank 3 x 5 cards.

Early in the Concert of Prayer event have everyone fill in their name, address, and local church. The cards can then be held up in the prayer triplets and huddles as a quick and easy way of introduction.

At the end of the Concert of Prayer, collect the cards. Be sure to remind each person to check the appropriate box or boxes indicating his or her interest or level of commitment to the local prayer movement. If you're working with a 3 x 5 card, you can ask people to draw symbols on the card indicating the interest level. For example, drawing a circle on the card could show an individual's desire to grow personally in his or her prayer life. A square could show a desire to help develop a more dynamic prayer ministry in his or her local church. Finally, a triangle could show the participant's willingness to serve in leadership in the city-wide prayer movement.

These cards should be collected and tallied by the Steering Committee. Then the information can be sent back to the pastor as a part of the Concert of Prayer follow-up. This is a good incentive for a pastor to involve his congregation in a city-wide rally, because it's a way to secure the names of potential prayer leaders within each congregation.

***Response Cards
provide a means
of introduction
and follow-up.***