

## Section Five

# *Program*

The program approach that follows has proven very effective in a wide variety of settings. We believe it reflects many of the vital insights that God has given to us and to leaders like you, over the years.

This format is not the only way to organize a Concert of Prayer program. However, it is presented as a way of introducing you to the *possibilities* for your rally.

If this is the first time you are conducting a Concert of Prayer you will probably want to follow it quite closely. Occasionally a Steering Committee may wonder whether this program is too structured. The concern is that a very structured program may keep the Holy Spirit from moving freely in the rally. Adhering closely to this “classic” format is like using training wheels on a bicycle. You don’t need them forever, but they help you keep your balance when you’re learning something new.

After you have used this format for several rallies, you may wish to try another approach. For example, you’ll find another popular Concert of Prayer format outlined in the resource book *Operation: Prayer II* available from the *Concerts of Prayer International* office.

Before detailing the program format itself, we’d like to share some thoughts on several other areas closely related to the program.

## **A Critical Objective**

Much of what happens at a Concert of Prayer rally is focused on one overriding objective: To mobilize and equip a movement of united prayer for revival and world-wide evangelization.

One important goal then, is to create an environment where large numbers of people from different groups, congregations, backgrounds, and traditions can come together in a meaningful, dynamic, spiritual experience in prayer with the living Christ.

The 7 R’s program format presented in this Manual is a classic format which been carefully developed over a number of years to make it possible for people with diverse backgrounds to pray together.

In any Concert of Prayer, people come to the gathering from different experiences and traditions. Some have prayed for years and have a deep and active prayer life. Others have had little prayer experience, particularly in public. In fact, some will have never prayed out loud before. In a city-wide rally, some participants will have Charismatic and Pentecostal backgrounds where it may be common for several people to pray out loud at the same time. Others will never have experienced this kind of public prayer. In some churches public prayers are usually read. In others, public prayers are usually extemporaneous.

Because of this diversity, it's important to draw on as many prayer traditions as you can to give the participants a sampling of a whole variety of ways to express themselves to the Lord. Concerts of Prayer are committed to providing a united prayer experience that draws on the strengths of various praying traditions—just as an orchestral piece draws on the strengths of the various instrument sections within the orchestra. Participants need to feel represented, as well as enriched, through how they pray together.

The 7 R's Concert of Prayer format helps facilitate prayer with all of these varied individual backgrounds and approaches.

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## Keeping it Simple

This program also lends itself to simplicity—a hallmark of every effective Concert of Prayer.

Simplicity is important for a number of reasons:

- 1. We need to focus people on the basics.** Our major emphasis should be on encouraging an interface between the Word of God and united prayer. Leading people through the seven basic themes (Rejoice, Repent, Resist, Restore, Release, Receive, and Recommit) helps them explore the whole counsel of God in a very comprehensive, yet simple manner.
- 2. We want people to become involved in a structure and flow of corporate prayer that is easily transferable and reproducible.** This program format can be used easily in an individual's personal prayer life, in small groups, or within a single congregation.

3. **Simplicity allows those who attend to be far more involved as participants, concentrating their time in actual prayer.** When people are less concerned about performance, which creates spectators, they can become more focused on participation.
4. **Simplicity of approach provides a prayer experience that allows the Holy Spirit freedom in which to work.** Our chief desire is for each person to encounter Christ before the evening is over.

The 7 R's approach that follows satisfies each of these objectives for simplicity. It is a powerful tool, which the Spirit of God has used over and over to unite people from diverse backgrounds and prayer experiences to seek God's glory and Kingdom in Jesus Christ.

# Program Outline

On this page is a basic outline of the 7 R's Concert of Prayer program format. This outline (without the suggested time frames) can be handed out to the audience at the rally or included as part of a larger printed program. This will help give people a sense of what will happen during the evening. It also gives participants something to take back into personal prayer time, small groups, or churches to further the positive influence of the Concert of Prayer.

## **I. Preparation**

**Prelude (15 minutes before start time)**

**Worship and Praise (10 minutes)**

**Welcome and Introductions (10 minutes)**

**Offering\***

## **II. Biblical Vision—A Call to Hope (12 minutes)**

## **III. An Invitation for Christ to Lead Us (3 minutes)**

## **IV. Concerted Prayer Toward the Hope (75 minutes)**

**Rejoice**

**Repent**

**Resist**

**Restore**

**Release**

**Receive**

**Recommit**

## **V. Grand Finale**

**Celebration with Offering\* (8 minutes)**

**Benediction (2 minutes)**

**Postlude (as people exit)**

*\* An offering may be included after the Welcome and Introductions or as a follow-up to the time of Recommitment. In either case, additional music may take place during the offering—either in congregational singing or through a special presentation.*

In the pages that follow, we'll work through this program outline format again in greater depth, explaining each segment and offering more ideas and suggestions for your Concert of Prayer. First, however, a few words about two other key areas relating to the program itself:

## Pre-Event Meeting

Before the actual Concert of Prayer program begins, plan a time to meet and pray with members of the Steering Committee and any others who are praying from the platform.

This meeting is very important for those praying from the platform. It gives you an opportunity to pray together over the evening to come and to prepare and synchronize the leadership efforts.

Generally, the pre-event meeting begins about two hours before the actual event. When the Concert of Prayer is taking place in a public auditorium, make sure you have a private room unlocked and available to you. Then, take time to share together and to talk through the program.

Remind those praying from the front to pray with energy and to remember the same four B's you'll be sharing later with the audience:

- 1. Keep your prayers biblical.** The Word of God is what unites everyone in a common prayer agenda. When possible, relate your prayers to the Scripture texts chosen for the night. You might use a verse, or refer to a biblical incident, in the midst of your prayer.
- 2. Make your prayers bold.** Pray boldly, as you've never prayed before. God is not only able to answer our prayers, He is willing and ready! A united prayer gathering needs to feel upbeat at many points along the way. Pray according to your personality and temperament, to be sure, but pray with animation and conviction.
- 3. Make your prayers a blessing.** Remember that those participating come from many different backgrounds, so be sure that your style of prayer is a blessing to everyone.
- 4. Finally, keep your prayers brief!** Prayers from the platform are usually no longer than :60 in length. Keeping the prayers brief keeps the program moving and helps keep the attention of those in the audience who are new to the concept of united prayer. It also allows more leaders from more areas to participate.

Allow the emcee a few moments to explain how he or she will signal those praying from the microphone. When only 15 seconds are remaining, the emcee will give the pray-er a tap on the back. At 60 seconds the emcee

will give the pray-er a gentle squeeze on the arm. This system keeps the program moving, while allowing the emcee some freedom in following the Holy Spirit's leading during the program.

These guidelines are flexible. For a Concert of Prayer in a single congregation, you may wish to have fewer prayer leaders and allot more time for each prayer.

## Music

Occasionally we have had the experience of meeting people at a Concert of Prayer who came thinking it was to be a *musical* concert! Were they ever surprised... often pleasantly, we might add. But it is easy to understand the confusion.

Although a Concert of Prayer is a *prayer* concert, most rallies do rely on music as well. In fact, by the end of a prayer gathering, most people leave feeling unsure as to whether they have praised or prayed! In point of fact, you can't do one without the other. All praise compels us to seek God for even more of His glory. And all intercession, based on His Word, takes us back to praise Him whose glory will be revealed in the answers.

*Although it is a Concert of Prayer, music does play a very significant role.*

Because a Concert of Prayer has a quality of celebration throughout, music does play a very significant role.

We have found it helpful to have someone on the keyboard playing along quietly while the audience prays in triplets or huddles. This not only gives the praying buoyancy and flow, but continues to keep an atmosphere of praise alive, even during some of the intense moments of repentance praying or prayer for the release of Christ's Spirit among the unreached.

Solos and duets are a great addition. These can be used to close a theme in prayer (such as repent) or to introduce a new one (such as resist).

**Because of the various traditions represented in a city-wide rally, be sure that the times of singing offer a good mixture of hymns, choruses, and Scripture songs.** It might also be good to lead the music with a variety of instruments, anywhere from a guitar to the pipe organ. Provide a balance. Work toward maximum participation by offering experiences that are reflective of the multiple traditions represented in the audience.

In leading hymns and choruses, link the themes of one song or hymn to another, so the audience has a sense of continuity between each piece that is sung. Sometimes the linkage may be obvious. At other times it may be necessary for the song leader to say a sentence or two to help make the connection in the mind of the audience.

Your music director should have no problem finding hymns and choruses related to the 7 R's themes. In fact, over 200 hymns have been categorized under these themes in the small book, *Creative Approaches for Concerts of Prayer*, available through the *Concerts of Prayer International* office. Subtitled, *Techniques to Enliven and Enrich Your Concert of Prayer*, this book would be a good additional resource for your Steering Committee, emcee, or music director. (*See order form.*)

Now, we are in no way suggesting that you overwhelm a Concert of Prayer with too much singing. It is a *prayer* meeting. Music, however, does play a key role in a number of ways in a Concert of Prayer:

- 1. It opens our hearts, our faith, and our hope toward God.**
- 2. It helps to focus our minds (by the texts of the hymns or choruses) on some of the critical issues we need to address in prayer.**
- 3. It provides a context in which people can begin to warm up to each other, to pray, and to seek the face of the Lord.**
- 4. It creates a bridge that helps us transition between various segments in a Concert of Prayer.**
- 5. It allows us to express our prayers by actually praying through some of the hymns and songs.**

According to Ephesians 5:17—21, the more we sing to one another the more we will be filled with the Holy Spirit. Since it is the Spirit of Jesus that actively conducts the Concert of Prayer, using music in our rally gives the Holy Spirit the opportunity to fill our prayer meeting the way He fills the one going on in heaven right now!

# *Concert of Prayer 7 R's Program Format*

## **I. Preparation 20 minutes (with offering)**

### **Prelude (prior to start time)**

Before the Concert of Prayer even begins it is helpful to create a proper environment for prayer. For the 15 minutes before the rally begins, the worship/leadership team may begin playing worship music, or leading those who are present in singing.

In churches or smaller city-wide rallies, an overhead projector can be used to lead the people in the worship songs. For larger gatherings it may be necessary, although somewhat more expensive, to actually print out the worship songs and hymns in a printed program.

### **Worship and Praise (10 minutes)**

Although preceded by the Prelude, this period of worship and praise forms the opening minutes of the actual Concert of Prayer itself. It should focus exclusively on Christ and His Kingdom. This is a good time for the worship/leadership team to pull out all the stops and lift the audience to a great sense of the grandeur, majesty, and glory of the Lord. Remind the audience that it is for the Lord's sake we have met to pray in concert.

We have found that this time of musical worship and celebration greatly enhances the spirit and dynamic of an evening of prayer. Be sure to carefully select the people who lead this period of worship, to ensure that the musical expression of the musicians is focused on the Lord and effectively communicated to the whole audience.

Carefully select the choruses and hymns that are to be used. Look for music and text that will communicate our love to God, our commitment and dedication to His person and purposes, and our gratefulness for our salvation and all that we have received. Let the music build the sense of hope for spiritual awakening and world evangelization.

***Focus the  
time of  
worship and  
praise  
exclusively on  
Christ and  
His kingdom.***



## **Welcome and Introductions (10 minutes)**

### ***Welcome and Background***

Once the time of worship and praise is completed, someone from the leadership team welcomes everyone who has come to participate in the Concert of Prayer.

Point out that participants come from many varied backgrounds and worship experiences.

Instruct the audience briefly on the concept of a Concert of Prayer, perhaps making reference to the historical usage of the term and also using the imagery provided by an “orchestra, the score, and the director.” You can make use of material from Section 1 of this Manual or from the videotapes that are a part of this training package.

Share a few brief reports on current developments in the united prayer movement around the world. Use this chance to expand the vision of the audience for how God is working through the prayers of many believers in many places.

### ***Prayer Triplets and Huddles***

Next, take a moment to divide the audience into triplets and huddles. Remember, triplets form within a single row. Huddles are made up of two triplets—usually from two different rows. This makes it easier to move into triplets and huddles very quickly. Have each person within their triplet choose a number—one, two, or three.

If you are using a Prayer Involvement Response Card, have them first complete the name and address part of the card. Then, when they form their triplets and huddles, they can show each other the information on the card as a way to quickly get acquainted. Filling the card out early in the Concert of Prayer also helps reduce “down time” later on in the evening. Music can play quietly in the background as people form their huddles and share.

### ***Brief Prayers of Praise***

After triplets and huddles have been formed, have people remain standing in their huddles for a couple of minutes. Encourage two or three people in each huddle to offer up prayers of praise to God. Encourage them to pick up on some of the themes in the music you have just sung, and turn it into praise. This gives everyone a sense that they have begun to pray before much of the evening has passed. These prayers are also a wonderful gift to God.

***Explain the image of the orchestra, the score, and Christ as director.***

***Triplets form across the rows; huddles are usually from two rows.***

***Remind participants to pray brief prayers.***

Be sure to remind people to pray brief prayers. Explain early in the evening that shorter prayers allow everyone to participate in a much fuller way. If there's time, people can pray more than once.

**Offering (5 minutes)**  
***During the Welcome and Introduction***

A variety of approaches to taking the offering during a Concert of Prayer are available to you. In some rallies, it seems more effective to take the offering at the beginning, so that it doesn't compete with the momentum that develops in prayer toward the end of the evening. If this approach is taken, then an additional appeal for the offering could also be made right before the benediction, noting that offering buckets will be available at the exit doors for freewill gifts to finance the future of the local prayer movement.

When the offering is taken toward the beginning, lead the audience in a period of worship singing while the baskets are being passed. This allows additional worship to take place at the start of the gathering.

OR

***During the Grand Finale***

If your situation seems to suggest that it's more appropriate for the offering to be received toward the end of the evening, it can take place just before the season of celebration in the Grand Finale. This certainly fits into the celebration segment, since God calls us to "give hilariously," and since giving to this particular rally and to the growth of the prayer movement is a wonderful way to celebrate all God has done during the Concert of Prayer. Singing of celebration can take place while the buckets are being passed.

Whenever the offering is taken, fill the time with praise. In some cases, a special solo might be presented at this time.

**Communicate the Need and Intent**

As you take the offering, be sure to explain what the expenses of the evening have been, and how that works out in giving per person. For example, if the entire event costs \$4,000 and there are 1,000 participants, each person needs to consider the possibility of giving \$4 or more in the offering.

You will also want to explain how monies over and above the expenses of the evening will be invested in the growth of the prayer movement locally, in helping to plant prayer movements in other cities, or to benefit a local non-denominational charity.

***The offering generally takes about 5 minutes and can be incorporated as a part of the worship in the Preparation section or as a part of the praise in the Celebration section.***

***Communicate your need and how you will use any surplus.***

## II. Biblical Vision - A Call to Hope (12 minutes)

The single greatest principle for igniting and sustaining a work of prayer and a movement of prayer, is to help people be clear on the hope that they are praying toward.

This segment of the Concert of Prayer gives the audience a vision for what God is able, willing, and ready to do through the united prayer movement. This biblical vision can be presented by one person. Or, in some cases, three different pastors from the community can talk for four minutes each, with each building on the thoughts of the others to paint a single picture of true spiritual revival.

**First, a key biblical text is highlighted.** This may have been determined in advance by the leadership team, who prayerfully select a passage most relevant to the needs of their churches and city. Again, this passage will relate to the hope God has set before us all. You may find it helpful to read David Bryant's book *The Hope at Hand*, as a way to provide background on the hope toward which we pray.

This brief message needs to focus people biblically on the issues that need to be addressed in prayer. Also, this biblical vision provides a Scripture text to which they can refer back to throughout the evening as their prayers develop.

Remember, "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." As we help the audience discern God's purposes and promises outlined in His Word, then direct them to pursue those purposes and promises in prayer throughout the evening, we are encouraging a prayer experience that flows from a deepened reservoir of faith.

During this time of biblical teaching it's also important to **give a clear definition to the two major agendas in every Concert of Prayer—spiritual awakening and worldwide evangelization.** These are also referred to as "fullness" and "fulfillment." These two agendas will surface again and again as you pray through the 7 R's.

Finally, the vision-giving message should alert the audience to the importance of united prayer, and the connection between a prayer movement and spiritual awakening. If possible, the speaker can also give some perspective on how this particular prayer rally and the local prayer movement link together with other developments around the country and across the globe.

*The biblical vision helps clarify the hope toward which we pray and provides a united prayer agenda for the rally.*

Some key texts to consider include Psalm 102:1—22; Colossians 1:24—2:3; Ephesians 1:18—23; Joel 2:1—3, 10-19, 25—32; Acts 4:23—35; Acts 5:11—16; Ezekiel 37:1—14; Isaiah 40:1—11; Isaiah 62:1—7; Luke 4:13—32; Jeremiah 33:1—16; 1 Thessalonians 1:1—10; 2 Samuel 5:1—12; Revelation 5:1—14.

### **III. An Invitation for Christ to Lead Us (3 minutes)**

.This opening segment of the Concerted Prayer Toward the Hope only takes a couple of minutes. However, **these moments to commit the prayer meeting to Christ’s leadership by the Holy Spirit, make up the single most important segment in the entire Concert of Prayer.**

The eternal significance and impact of a Concert of Prayer is guaranteed only to the degree that Jesus Christ Himself comes among us in all authority, gathers us to Himself in true unity, and begins to live out His high priestly ministry through us.

*If possible,  
invite the  
audience to  
kneel.*

In these sacred moments, invite those who are physically able to get down on their knees. Allow a few moments of silence to pass before anything is prayed. Then have one person from the microphone pray, inviting Christ to come and conduct the Concert of Prayer and be Lord over us in the praying and over everything that transpires as a result.

You may choose to conclude with a brief confession of His Lordship in song, such as “You Are Lord,” “Blessed Be the Name,” or “Jesus Shall Reign.”

### **IV. Concerted Prayer Toward the Hope - 75 minutes**

This is the segment of the Concert of Prayer when the prayer begins in earnest. This is also the time you will lead the audience through the 7 R’s of rejoice, repent, resist, restore, release, receive, and recommit.

These seven components, or themes, are the part of the prayer rally that is most translatable into personal prayer time, small group prayer, and congregational prayer experiences. These 7 R’s also incorporate a basic overview of the entire concept of prayer.

We have developed these seven major themes over the years by listening to what God is teaching His Church worldwide about prayer, and seeing how He renews the Church in the call to concerted prayer.

Before the evening is over, encourage people to use these 7 R's in the future in their personal prayer lives or in prayer events in their local churches.

### **Variety and Balance**

There are many different ways to lead an audience in responding to the Lord in prayer under each of the 7 R's. At times the audience will be broken into prayer triplets. At others they will work together in huddles. Sometimes members of the worship/leadership team will lead prayer from the microphone. Occasionally the audience may respond antiphonally, responsively, or in unison. There may be an occasion to pray simultaneously out loud together. And, of course, there will be times of quietness and listening to God.

When you move people into their prayer triplets and huddles have the triplets pray sitting and the huddles pray standing. This adds movement and variety to the Concert of Prayer.

Music can also be used to provide movement and variety through each of these segments. However, it is recommended that the music be used in a simple way so those leaving a Concert of Prayer feel confident they can lead others through the 7 R's, the way they have been led, including the use of music.

When planning your program remember to "mix it up." A fresh and creative approach to each segment gives variety to your program. Rather than quenching what the Holy Spirit might want to do, it opens people up to accepting new ways of expressing themselves to God and to each other.

**HINT:** *Throughout the program continue to remind people to keep their prayers short. Although each prayer is brief together they are focused to create a wonderful concert to the Lord. It is also helpful to end each segment of prayer in the triplets or huddles with a music bridge and a transitional 15 second prayer over the music by one of the leaders up front. Remember, a printed program helps those who are new to a Concert of Prayer and also encourages them to carry the overall approach to other times of prayer.*

***Variety in a  
Concert of  
Prayer opens  
up new ways  
of expressing  
ourselves to  
God.***

## The 7 R's (Approximately 75 minutes)

### 1. REJOICE

*Praise and celebration of the hope that God has set before us in Christ.*

#### *Overview:*

Rejoicing prayers, including praise and thanksgiving, look forward to what God is preparing to bring forth in true spiritual awakening.

The prayers in this section should celebrate specific promises and purposes you believe God is setting before you, your church or churches, and this generation. These prayers should celebrate the glory you believe spiritual awakening will bring to Jesus Christ among the nations.

**To help prepare those praying from the platform, have the leaders consider these questions ahead of time:**

1. Where do we see God's victories already taking place in spiritual awakening and/or world evangelization?
2. How is God already revealing the glory of Christ in various situations all around us?
3. What sense of hope do we have that God is ready and willing to bring about a change in the status quo, either within our churches or among the nations?
4. What promises and purposes has He set before us that we cannot live without, and that we are convinced He is ready to accomplish among us?
5. If God were to give spiritual awakening and new advances of His Kingdom worldwide, what more of Jesus would be revealed? What greater glory would be brought to the name of the Father? What greater works of the Spirit would be shown to us all?
6. How shall we praise Him for all of this? How shall we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God? (Romans 5:2)

#### *Suggestions for Prayer:*

- Begin with three prayers of 45 seconds each from the platform.

- Relying on answers to the questions above, these prayers should praise God for all that He is already doing and all He is preparing to do. They should be biblical and specific.
- Next, move the audience into prayer huddles. Ask each group to have one person begin by offering a 30 second prayer praising God for every evidence of Christ already at work in renewing the lives of individuals.
- After 30 seconds, ask for someone else in the huddle to praise God for every evidence of Christ’s renewing power in your local church or churches.
- Next, ask for a third person to pray, praising God for His renewing work in your city, nation, and world.
- Finally, have a fourth person pray, rejoicing in all God is going to do out the prayer movement in your city.

**HINT:** *When transitioning between pray-ers in triplets and huddles, the emcee can ring a bell to signal the time to close one prayer and begin another. That way he or she can explain the series of prayers at the start of a segment, then ring the bell and give just a few words during the prayer time to move the group along.*

**Transition** — Conclude this segment with a relevant hymn or chorus and a “wrap up” prayer from the microphone that summarizes what the Rejoice “R” was about.

## 2. REPENT

*Turning away, both individually and corporately, from all that might hinder the fulfillment of the hope that God has given.*

### **Overview:**

During this time, participants are given the opportunity to participate in both individual and corporate times of repentance. The major emphasis in a Concert of Prayer, however, is corporate repentance. Through these prayers we repent on behalf of the whole body of Christ, confessing the sins the whole Church “shares” that are in any sense hindering God’s great work of spiritual awakening and world evangelization.

Corporate sins are common issues that we share across ethnic, denominational, and cultural boundaries.

Questions that can help you target key repentance concerns include:

1. What are the barriers and problems found inside the Church?

2. How is the Church-at-large responsible for its current condition and for the spiritual condition of our nation and of the world.
3. How are we in our own local churches responsible.
4. What do we need to confess, either for ourselves or “in solidarity” with the whole people of God?
5. Where do we need forgiveness?
6. How do we need to change?
7. Where should we confess our weaknesses, our disobedience, our struggles, and most of all our rebellion and sin?

***Suggestions for Prayer:***

- Begin by explaining that we are, primarily, admitting our corporate culpability for the collective sins of the Church and of our nation. This kind of confession of corporate sin is often overlooked or ignored, but it is well-documented in Scripture as a pre-requisite for the renewing of God among His people.
- Move the audience into triplets. Tell them they will begin with a brainstorm time. Each person will take :20 to share with the other two what they consider to be major sins facing the Church that are keeping us from experiencing revival. Tell them to begin with the number one person in the triplet. After 20 seconds signal number two to share, by voice or bell. Finally, have the third person in the triplet share.
- Next, have each person pray silently, confessing any sins he or she is personally involved in.
- After a few moments, two or three pastors pray from the microphone for 45 seconds each. The first prayer will focus on repentance for the Church locally. The second will concentrate on sins in the national Church. Finally, the third prayer will focus on corporate repentance for the sins of the Church around the world.
- Moving people now into huddles, take one minute to have them participate in a vocal litany of the sins hindering revival in the Church. Within each group, ask them to speak words or phrases out loud that represent prevalent sins—for example, materialism, racism, disunity, prayerlessness, pride, competition, etc.



- Next, have the emcee ask the audience to cover their faces as a way of physically acting out our shame. Have them repeat, phrase by phrase, the following prayer:

**Lamb of God**

**who takes away the sin of the world**

**have mercy on me.**

**Have mercy on us all.**

**By your blood:**

**Forgive us,**

**Cleanse us,**

**Purify us,**

**Restore us,**

**Raise us up,**

**Fill us,**

**And send us forth.**

**Lamb of God.**

**Lamb of Mercy.**

**Lamb of God.**

**Precious Lord.**

- Allow a moment of silence after this prayer. You may also want to conclude this time of repentance prayer by allowing people to silently confess one area of personal sin that God has shown them in the midst of corporate confession.

**HINT:** *During the litany segment where people are listing areas of corporate sin, stop the music. This time of spoken confession by all the groups in the auditorium will blend together as a kind vocal chorus of repentance praying.*

Transition — Pause for a few moments of quiet while soft, gentle music plays.

### 3. RESIST

*Intercession at every point where the Enemy is seeking to thwart the unfolding of what God has promised to His Church and to its mission in the world.*

#### **Overview:**

Having dealt with the challenges to spiritual awakening and world evangelization within the Church through our prayers of repentance, we must now face the battles on the outside of the Church.

Satan is ready at many points to oppose the hope that God has set before us, and in which we so greatly rejoice. His attacks must be resisted in united prayer. **During this time you should seek the Father together to bring Christ's victorious reign to bear upon the powers of darkness, and upon all of their schemes and endeavors.**

It should be acknowledged that the forces of Satan will not be pleased or compliant to the development of such an important event as a church or city-wide prayer rally. Therefore, expect that the rally itself, the development of a prayer movement, and the lives of the leadership involved will be under intensive spiritual attack.

This section of a Concert of Prayer can be very important to successfully bringing together many people for an evening of prayer and building protection for the ongoing development of a local movement of prayer. At this point, prayer is made to counteract this anticipated attack of our enemy.

**When considering how the enemy is hindering the advancement of Christ's Kingdom outside the Church, here are some questions to be discussed by the leadership:**

1. In what specific ways do we anticipate the churches in our city are or will be engaged in spiritual warfare?
2. At what points do we believe Satan will come against our ministries, and most specifically against the movement of united prayer.
3. In what ways are we already under spiritual attack from the enemy?
4. How do we anticipate this attack to intensify?
5. On what new fronts may the battle develop?

6. How do we anticipate Satan opposing the hope before us, in any specific fulfillment of that hope?
7. As we look at the growth of the prayer movement worldwide, at what points do we need to resist the enemy in prayer?
8. As we anticipate the outpouring of spiritual awakening on the Church, where do we know Satan will work to undermine that new release of spiritual vitality and reality?
9. As we consider the cause of world evangelization, where do we see Satan on the offensive?
10. Where do we expect the battle to be engaged even more fully in the years ahead?
11. How should we, in united prayer, cast him out?

***Suggestions for Prayer:***

- Move the audience into prayer triplets for another brainstorm time. Again, have each person in the triplet take :20 to share their thoughts on what the enemy is doing to try to hinder the work of revival and mission outside the Church. Use a vocal cue or bell to switch between number one, two, and three in the triplet.
- Explain to the audience that they are going to pray out loud, together, simultaneously, asking God to come and defeat the work of the Enemy in our day. Remind them not to pray *to* Satan, but instead to invite *God* to come and fight the battle against our enemy. Instruct them not to pray so loud others can't concentrate, but loud enough to give a sense of an army working together.
- Tell the audience to stand together like an army. Begin this prayer time with three pastor prayers from the platform. Again, these prayers should be bold and biblical. In preparing these prayers, they should reflect on the questions listed in the overview above.
- Once the platform prayers are concluded, the audience will pray out loud together about the barriers they brainstormed together. Start this one-minute segment by saying, "Let's all begin praying together now."
- Conclude this segment with a rousing hymn of praise. Let the musicians signal the close of the prayer time with the introduction to this hymn.

**HINT:** *This type of simultaneous prayer time will feel more comfortable to those with a Charismatic or Pentecostal background than to those from a more traditional church setting. Begin the instructions By asking how many have prayed this way before. Explain that this is actually a good cross-cultural experience. Many in the United States don't pray this way in church very often. But in the Church around the world, this type of group praying is quite common, no matter what the denominational background may be.*

Transition — Use the hymn of praise and triumph that concludes the Resist section to serve as a transition to Restore.

#### **4. RESTORE**

*Praying for God to fill the Church with the fullness of the life of Christ.*

#### **5. RELEASE**

*Asking God to release many new works of His Kingdom, both locally and worldwide.*

**Overview:**

Now that you have rejoiced, repented, and resisted, the time has come to concentrate fully on asking and receiving, all that we believe our Father is preparing to do in and through His people.

Praying in this section will again be focused on two major areas:

- 1. Restore — A greater fullness of Christ and His powerful works inside our lives and in our churches. This is called Restore praying.**
- 2. Release — An accelerated fulfillment of Christ's mission through His church within our city; our nation, and among the nations. We call this Release praying.**

The issues we deal with in prayer should reflect what we believe God is already preparing to do in us as Christ's body (fullness/restore praying), and what He is preparing to do through us in Christ's mission (fulfillment/release praying).

These are Kingdom issues. They have to do with God's reign over us as believers, so that His Kingdom and reign might be extended to those who do not yet know Him.

From one perspective, Restore praying is the positive side of our Repentance prayers. Now, we're asking God to revive and transform the Church in all the areas where we have failed Christ.

*In some settings, Restore and Release are collapsed into one category called Request. Because of this, the Overview below covers both categories. However, we have provided complete Suggestions for Prayer for both Restore and Release.*

In the same way, Release praying addresses many of the issues faced during the Resistance prayers, only now we are asking God to replace the works of darkness with the fruits of Christ's reign.

As we seek Christ's reign more completely in our own lives and churches, we desire even more for His reign to be extended to the ends of the earth. During the Release period of prayer we intercede for those who have not received the reign of Christ, whether they live across the street or across the ocean, whether they are neighbors or a part of totally unreached segment of our own society or an unreached people group in another nation. We also want to pray for our own city, as well as key cities of the world.

**The following questions can help the leadership team get a handle on the two major categories of Restore and Release, and help them determine specifically what to pray about:**

1. Based on the hope God gives for change, either in the Church or in the world, what do we need to seek from Him?
2. What promises, purposes, and principles revealed in Scripture can become the basis for the "new things" we are asking God to do in spiritual awakening and world evangelization?
3. Again, if God were to answer our prayers (for fullness or fulfillment) to the fullest extent we could possible imagine, in view of what He has said in His Word and who we know Him to be, what might those answers look like? (This answer will determine much of the content of your praying in this section.)
4. Has God given us the gift of faith on a specific issue related to these two major themes—especially an issue related to the body of Christ or the mission of Christ within our own community?

In the final analysis, what we are asking during these two sections can be summed up as follows:

1. In what ways does the Church and each of us personally need to be Restored into the fullness of the life of Christ?
2. To fulfill Christ's global cause, in what ways do we need to pray for the Release of God's mighty Kingdom works through our own lives and churches, and within our city, our society, and among the nations?

## **RESTORE** —*Suggestions for Prayer:*

- Begin this section by grouping the audience into prayer triplets, encouraging them to pray for each other and for themselves. Tell them to take 30 seconds each, seeking God to help them know Christ in new ways, receiving His total reign in their lives. Signal the change between pray-ers by voice or bell.
- Next, three to six pastors from within the community will lead in short (45—60 second) prayers from the platform. These prayers should request renewal in specific areas of our church or the churches of our community. These can be prayers for pastors, youth, families, unity, etc. Two or three of these leaders might also pray for spiritual awakening in the body of Christ nationwide and worldwide, to illustrate that our concern must be not only local, but global as well.
- Finally, ask people to get into their prayer huddles and pray further for issues that were brought up by the individual prayer leaders. Also, they should pray for other issues related to awakening in local churches. They should also pray for their pastoral staff and other leaders. Again, remind them to pray short prayers so everyone can participate. People can pray more than once. Also, encourage them to pray not only for their own churches, but for other churches in the city. They can even expand their praying to include the body of Christ worldwide.

The emcee can follow the Spirit's leading on when to bring this segment to a close, keeping in mind the overall schedule. Often, this final prayer time runs 7—8 minutes.

**HINT:** *A powerful way to follow this final prayer time is to ask all/pastors in the audience to stand. Then, ask everyone who is on a pastoral staff to stand. Finally, ask anyone who is a spiritual leader (like an elder or a deacon) in a local church to stand. Take a few moments to have someone from the platform pray for those standing.*

**Transition** — Because these two areas are closely related, no music is recommended in the move from Restore to Release. Include at least 30—45 seconds of total silence to listen to God.

**HINT:** *In any of these transition times a brief prayer from the platform can be used: "Father we thank you, and again we ask you to: (Sum up previous prayer time. For example, fill the Church with the fullness of the life of Christ.)" "Now, be with us as we: (Sum up next prayer time. For example, "ask you to release many new works of your Kingdom, both locally and worldwide.")"*

## **RELEASE** *—Suggestions for Prayer*

- Divide again into prayer triplets. Begin with short prayers for our own personal involvement in the fulfillment of the Great Commission. This includes prayer for the lost in our own families, as well as the unreached peoples of the world. Signal the transition between pray-ers verbally or with a bell. Next, ask each person in the triplet to pray for one non-Christian friend in his or her life. The other two people within the triplet should pray in agreement, even vocalizing, “Yes, we agree with you.
- Once again, leaders from the platform will pray brief (45—60 second) prayers for the outreach of churches within your city. Leaders may pray for specific people, and for specific ministries within the community. They may also pray for reaching the community’s youth or for a special need area like the inner city. Prayers should be made for at least one unreached people group in your city or around the world.
- In the final part of this section, divide again into huddles to pray for the involvement of your own local congregation(s) in world evangelization. Huddles may remember specific missionaries, specific evangelistic thrusts, or they may pray for a specific unreached people group, even that somebody from out of this Concert of Prayer might go there to bring them the Gospel. Again, keeping in mind the overall schedule, this segment can run up to 7—8 minutes.

**HINT:** *In a large rally, especially, following the prayers from the platform, ask for any missionaries home from the field to stand Next, ask for anyone who is preparing to go to the mission field to stand Then ask anyone who is involved in a cross-cultural ministry within the city or in a ministry to those most often overlooked by the Church (for example, drug addicts, AIDS patients, or the poor) to stand Finally, ask anyone who feels God might be calling them into missions to stand Invite those around these people to surround them and lay their hands on them, while one person in each group prays for them.*

**Transition** — End the Release segment with a rousing hymn. This will be followed by a short time of silence when the Receive segment begins, to allow people again to listen to God.

## 6. RECEIVE

### *Listening to hear and confirm whatever new words of promise and mission God may be speaking to us.*

#### ***Overview:***

In all of our efforts in prayer, we need to understand what God is saying to us. In order to hear God speaking to us we need to practice the “strategy of silence.” We must spend sufficient time under the Word and before the Spirit, listening to what God wants to say back to us in the prayer gathering. Then, in council with one another, we can really come to understand the mind of Christ on each concern.

This segment of the prayer rally provides an opportunity to get God’s perspective, to understand His purposes, to meditate on His promises, to draw near to His Son, and to receive God’s answers with confidence, boldness, and clarity.

In this Receive section, participants will testify to one another what God has done in their hearts as the/ye prayed. They will also share any new commitments they have made to ministry and any new confidence they have been given as to how God might answer their prayers. (*See Appendix material on Prayer with a Purpose.*)

#### ***Suggestions for Prayer:***

Begin this segment by giving participants an extended time for listening to God— perhaps one or two minutes of quiet with music playing in the background. As you listen together, encourage people to ask themselves questions based on the preceding five R’s:

1. How has God confirmed to you the hope of revival and advance of Christ’s Kingdom around which we rejoiced?
2. What areas of repentance have brought you new resolve to live righteously and godly before Him?
3. What points of the battle became apparent during the Resistance prayer, that you must prepare to face in a new way?
4. As we made requests for revival in the Church, and Christ’s ministry to your city, nation, and the world, did God give any new dreams or visions for how you personally might fit in?
5. During this Concert of Prayer, did the Lord speak words of promise or encouragement about how specific answers might come?



6. Did He give you any new direction or any new steps of obedience you should take in response to the vision we prayed through during this Concert of Prayer?

Following this time of listening, go back into huddles and then divide the huddles into three pairs. Each pair will talk together~ sharing what God has said to them through the time of listening and throughout the evening. Then, they can also rejoice together about some of the times of prayer when they were convinced God had heard and would answer in powerful ways in the days ahead. Finally, this period of sharing (about three minutes) would be concluded in prayers of praise for what God has done.

Finally, in order to cement these thoughts, and to identify ways the Spirit of God may be encouraging participants to a deeper involvement in united prayer in the days to come, ask people to quietly complete the Prayer Involvement Response Card. (*See sample in Appendix.*)

After the cards are completed, have them pass the cards to the center aisle where the ushers can pick them up.

As a closing to this segment, you might have people move back into their pairs and share what they filled out on the card. Ask one person in each pair to pray for both, that God would be faithful to help them fulfill what they have written on their card.

Finally, you might instruct those in the pairs, to look each other in the eye, shake hands, and repeat:

**Thank you for praying with me.**

**I agree with you.**

**In Jesus name it shall be done.**

Then, if you want to be bold, have them repeat this final sentence:

**And incidentally, I love you.**

In many cases this segment ends in a spontaneous hug!

**HINT:** *If you have determined to take the offering later in the rally, people can hold onto their cards and drop them into the offering baskets during the Recommit segment that follows.*

**Transition** — Use a relevant hymn or chorus.

## 7. RECOMMIT

*Offering ourselves again to the Lord, in view of the great hope toward which we've prayed.*

### *Overview:*

At the close of a Concert of Prayer, participants need time to offer themselves back to God to be used in any way He chooses to be a part of the answers to their prayers. This commitment should be encouraged in spite of where it might lead, acknowledging that it might happen at a personal cost.

This is also a time to invite the Holy Spirit to fill us in ways that cause us to go out and live a life consistent with the concerns about which we've prayed.

The recommitment time should include a special focus on our recommitment to grow as men and women of prayer, to see our churches marked corporately as "houses of prayer," and to ask God to raise up a movement of prayer within our community and in the body of Christ worldwide.

### *Suggestions for Prayer:*

Begin this final segment with a brief vision statement (approximately two minutes) by the person who presented the original "Call to the Hope." This segment would paint a picture of what has happened in the Concert of Prayer, and what could happen if a prayer movement would continue to grow in their churches, and throughout the city, and accelerate in the days to come.

Ask everyone who is physically able to get down on their knees, either facing forward or over their seats. Other approaches like joining hands across the rows or holding hands up in front as if offering a gift to the Lord are also an option. Have someone from the platform offer a prayer of commitment for the whole gathering.

As a part of the Recommitment, you might ask people who have indicated their willingness to serve a broad-based prayer movement in the community to come forward. These individuals are often called "prayer pacesetters." They are Christ's gifts to the whole body of Christ within your community. In having them stand or come forward, it allows everyone to see tangible evidence that God is prepared to give a prayer movement, since He has already raised up the servants to serve it.

You can ask, “Will those who have made a commitment to serve the prayer movement city-wide, please stand. Others who are committed to serve the prayer movement in your local church, please join them in standing.”

Once they are standing, pray together, commissioning these Pacesetters to go forth and minister to the whole body as they assist and promote the prayer movement.

Conclude this segment with the prayers of two leaders from the platform. Have one pray specifically for the growth of the prayer movement. The other would pray a prayer of praise in anticipation of all the ways God is going to answer this particular Concert of Prayer by reviving the Church and advancing the Gospel.

**HINT:** *If you are taking the offering later in the rally, the first part of the Celebration section is a good time. A hymn or chorus of celebration is a good background to the offering and a good transition into the final time of Celebration.*

Transition — Conclude the Concerted Prayer Toward the Hope with a brief prayer from the platform, leading into a hymn of Celebration.

## **V. Grand Finale - 10 minutes**

### **Celebration (8 minutes)**

This final time of Celebration is mostly a time of singing and praise, emphasizing our tremendous anticipation of all God will do in answer to the Concert of Prayer.

### **Benediction (2 minutes)**

For the Benediction someone on the leadership team can offer a closing prayer that gives praise to God, and thanks Him for listening and responding. Then send the people forth in joy and hope to look for new evidences of spiritual awakening and Kingdom advance.

Another option for the Benediction is to have the audience repeat, phrase by phrase, Ephesians 3:20—21. Begin by saying, “Let’s put a benediction on the Lord. Repeat together:

**Now to Him  
who is able  
to do  
immeasurably more  
than all  
we ask or imagine,  
according to his power  
that is at work within us,  
to him be glory  
in the church and in Christ Jesus  
throughout all generations  
for ever and ever! Amen.”**

Close by saying goodnight.

### **Postlude**

As people exit, the worship team should continue to softly play music. Select melodies and words that remind people about all they have prayed, and all they anticipate God is prepared to do.

You will receive a more detailed explanation of the Program and actually be able to see how these 7 R's and transitions take place, by watching the videotapes that are a part of this training package.