Growth Conference

Session 3: The Global Prayer Movement

I. The Prophesied Global End Time Prayer Movement:

God delighted in David's worship reality; it was an environment where men were able to touch a realm of God previously unknown up to that time in history. He left us with the best earthly example of how God wants night and day worship to look like.

A. David's Tabernacle will be Restored:

There is still a burning desire in the heart of God for that expression of worship and for the spirit that rested upon the tabernacle of David to be released again. There are in fact prophecies about the prayer movement at the end of the age that state that the Lord will release grace upon the body of Christ on a global scale to restore David's fallen Tabernacle.

"In that day I will restore David's fallen tent. I will repair its broken places, restore its ruins, and build it as it used to be (Am. 9:11)."

"'After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things' that have been known for ages (Ac. 15:16-18)."

B. As it Used to Be:

If we are to understand what will be restored, we need to see how things were during David's Tabernacle. The way things were was intended to be a glimpse into the divine order of worship around the Throne of God in Heaven. According to Revelation chapters 4 and 5 we can see that the two primary activities around the throne are worship (they are holding harps) and intercession (bowls filled with the prayers of the saints); this is the model that David employed and so when it is restored these same principles will be at play.

"And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints (Re. 5:8)."

C. Global Restoration:

God has mandated that the model of Davidic worship be restored by God fearing Gentiles across the Earth. This means that there will be expressions, not just of some version of the house of prayer but specifically expressions of the restored Tabernacle of David throughout the nations of the Earth.

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D. Using the Term House of Prayer:
The term "house of prayer" is a biblical one (Is. 56:7; Mt. 21:13), though the scripture doesn't define it so concisely in any one passage. It is a ministry that is primarily about starting and maintaining prayer meetings. While there are certainly broader definitions of the term, for the sake of this study we are going to focus on and define a house of prayer as ministries that hold several corporate prayer meetings each week with a desire to have a significant number of weekly meetings once they have the ability to sustain them.

II. Church Culture is Shifting:

Leaders from across the global missions movement say that we are now living in the generation that will see the completion of the 2000-year-old mission of bringing the Gospel to every tribe and language. Just on the heels of this missions movement is a sudden rise of night and day prayer which is beginning to fill the Earth. The overlap of these trends is strategic in God's plan with the prayer and worship movement playing a crucial role to the Great Commission. Dynamic shifts are already underway in the missions movement as the dialogue has turned toward the subject of sustaining prayer. As a result there has been significant partnership between the prayer and missions movements over the past few years. This combination of emphasis on intercession and the great commission has begun to form a new reality, The Praying Church.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles…Every day they continued to meet together…And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved (Ac. 2:42-47)."

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ (Co. 4:2-3)."

A. Increased Dialogue on Prayer:
As the culture is shifting into a praying people, the need for resources on the subject is growing. The last few years have seen a massive spike in the amount of available trainings and books and conferences on what it looks like to become a Praying Church.
1. Annual leadership summits that operated for years.
2. HOP consulting weekends.
3. Co-Op led National HOP Leadership Summit.
4. Wide variety of groups have held Praying Church conferences.

B. Wide-Scale Prayer Initiatives:
As the Lord has been combining these two initiatives, His plan was to use them as catalysts to launch something much larger. Since 1999 many things have slingshot into existence that now form the landscape of the global prayer movement.
1. Some form of 24/7 prayer on every continent and nearly every nation.
2. Large solemn assemblies (The Call, The Response, Awaken the Dawn).
3. The Global Day of Prayer began in 2004.
4. Massive increase in the number of the various expressions of prayer.
5. Explosive increase in publications and books on prayer.
6. The OneCry Movement.
7. Awaken the Dawn.
8. Movements aimed at planting houses of prayer on college campuses.
9. Mobilization conferences and ministries.
10. Missions bases with training schools sprouting up in the nations.
11. Countless new groups focusing on prayer.

C. The Trend of Praying Churches:
The Praying Church is defined by prayer, wanting to see prayer given the proper attention once again in the lifestyle of every believer. When we say the term "Praying Church" we are talking about God's Church wherever she may be found that is embracing prayer as fundamental to the way we express church, not merely as one of the many ministries that a local body of believers has on their list of activities offered in their midst.
1. Restoration of prayer:
We see that the early Church embodied the corporate lifestyle of prayer; we believe that God wants to restore this to His Church as it was in the first century.
2. Role of prayer in the life of a church:
The Praying Church movement seeks to take steps to see prayer become a normal part of Christian fellowship, the discipleship of the believer and the way decisions are made and mission is launched.
3. Mission of the Praying Church:
The mission of the Praying Church Movement is to see prayer infiltrate the culture of the Church. This aspect of the mission is still embryonic and is something that the Lord is wanting in the conversation of the Church in this hour. We want to begin the dialogue of how to take the mission and DNA of the Praying Church and inject it into the broader context of the Body of Christ.

III. What Began in 1999:

There has always been some small number of prayer expressions that reflect this priesthood concept but something is shifting quite dramatically right now; the Church across the globe is in transition as this subject of the priesthood is being restored in countless expressions in our generation. Things took off in a significant way in 1999 when the Lord began three catalytic prayer movements; one in America, one in Europe and the third in Jerusalem. All of these houses of prayer would go on to have widespread impact and serve to jump start the modern day house of prayer movement

that is sweeping the globe. It's sobering to look at what is occurring around us. By paying attention to this global trend, we can be empowered with the big picture of what we are doing and so see the part we play in the larger prayer movement. The weak offering that we lift in our mostly empty prayer rooms week to week is part of a far greater story that the Holy Spirit is writing.

A. 1999 International House of Prayer (Kansas City):
In the middle 1980's the Lord called Mike Bickle to pray and as a result he established a number of prayer groups and encouraged people to spend more time in prayer daily. In September of 1999 they began a 24/7 corporate prayer watch in Kansas City, MO. Their mission is to see similar prayer watches established all over the world. Mike and his team designed a model of prayer that combines scripture, worship, praise, spiritual warfare and intercession as an intentional restoration of David's Tabernacle (Ac. 15:16). Live worship led prayer has continued unbroken since 1999.

B. 1999 24/7 Prayer Europe:
A dynamic prayer movement began among the youth in England in September 1999 when Pete Greig challenged 200 young people in Chichester, England, to pray for their peers for 24 hours a day for 30 days. They prayed night-and-day for more than three months and by December 1999, a new prayer movement was established which came to be known simply as 24-7. Groups of young people creatively decorate a venue to serve as a prayer room and then start praying there for a week at a time or 168 hours. In some instances a prayer watch is kept open for a number of weeks. By the beginning of 2006, there were already 65 countries in which this 24-7 prayer movement had taken root and was growing and a number of sustained 24/7 Boiler Rooms established.

C. 1999 Succat Hallel Jerusalem:
The Lord brought Rick & Patti Ridings to Jerusalem in 1999 to birth Succat Hallel in their living room. The prayer ministry grew into watches in various locations and in November 2004 the Lord opened the door for Succat Hallel to relocate to a facility overlooking Mount Zion. Since then they have been crying out day and night 24/7. In Fall 2006 they opened a second, private prayer room in the City of David, the area where the original Tabernacle of David stood. The ministry is still growing and thriving.

D. 1999 Jerusalem House of Prayer for all Nations:
In 1987 Tom Hess moved to Jerusalem and established a 24-hour prayer watch to pray for peace in Jerusalem and for the nations of the world. The Gates of Jerusalem Watch is part of this prayer initiative: 12 prayer teams pray daily for 2 hours at the 12 gates of Jerusalem. In September 1999, Hess called together the first convocation for 24-hour prayer watches. Many nations were represented at this convocation and Hess is currently working hard to establish 24-hour prayer watches all over the world. During the past decade, several other prayer watches have been established in Israel.

E. 2000 Orange Farm South Africa:
In the year 2000 a pastor in a township near Soweto, South Africa, came up with the idea to saturate his township that has about 1.3 million inhabitants with prayer watches. The township is divided into 10 sectors and 10 smaller towns around it. The pastor established prayer watches in all 20 locations. Within a few years dozens of congregations had lasting prayer watches, 25 of them praying 24/7. This initiative got 40% of all the churches located in the township involved and there began to be a constant stream of people coming to Christ, with many reports of healings, restoration and deliverance abounding in the region.

F. 2000 Prayer Towers in Indonesia:
In Indonesia a national prayer network has established 24/7/365 prayer towers in more than 500 Indonesian cities and towns. There are literal 24/7 houses of prayer that are operated with an average of 16 or so intercessors that take responsibility to keep their prayer tower to pray going continually with each person taking four hours shifts per day. Children as young as 4 participate in helping to sustain these prayer towers and during the week others come in from the community to help. Sometimes intercessors will come and stay for a month or more just to help.

G. 2005 Prisons in Argentina and South Africa:
Amazingly the Lord has raised up night and day prayer in multiple prisons. In Argentina, believing inmates have established a dynamic 24/7/365 prayer watch where they pray for the other inmates, their families, their communities, the country and the world. Similarly there are several prisons in South Africa that have repeatedly prayed night-and-day for 7-day periods of time.

IV. What's Happening Across the Earth:

Prayer and praise is arising in the nations, night and day prayer expressions are starting all over the globe to ascribe His great name 24/7. What we are witnessing right now is unprecedented in human history; perpetual prayer and worship is coming forth from thousands of places that have never done so since Genesis chapter 1. There are now literally tens of thousands of ministries across the Earth that could be considered a house of prayer where their primary characteristic is that they do prayer meetings. This doesn't mean that prayer meetings are the only thing that they do, but that it is the primary thing that they are doing with their time and energies.

A. The Prayer Movement Across America:
The Lord has been doing profound things right here in America; in fact since we got started in 2005 we have witnessed a movement birthed in our nation. There has been a significant increase in number of these types of ministries and we must understand the impact that these ministries are making in the spiritual of our nation.
1. We know of over 500 houses of prayer in America.
2. Many cities across the nation now have multiple HOPs in one region.
3. There are over 15 in Dallas/Fort Worth alone (our region).
4. There is representation of houses of prayer in every state.

5. Texas/Mexico border network with over 20 houses of prayer.

B. Finding HOPs in the Tribes of the Earth:
We regularly hear about groups being discovered in far off places that have had no connection to any other house of prayer concept; they just felt led to start unceasing praise and prayer in some form or fashion. Our contacts from various missions organizations are reporting that Jesus believing tribes exist all over the Earth and they are finding houses of prayer in villages all over. We are talking about tribes unrelated to each other and those who have never heard about IHOP or that there is a prayer movement. Many of them have formed a specific prayer hut in their village and that's where the business of prayer occurs and tribal members take turns worshiping and praying in the designated prayer hut. The Lord who is doing something unprecedented; night and day prayer is arising all over the Earth. There are more and more houses of prayer found sprouting up weekly in every expression imaginable.

C. Known International Missions Bases:
Missions bases serve a unique role in the overall strategy. The objective of a missions base is to be literally 24/7 with live worship led prayer meetings with these bases serving as training, sending and equipping centers that aim to plant and raise up other houses of prayer. These ministries aim to be regional outposts for supply and encouragement, serving as hubs for networking and strategy. Below are countries in which we know of missions bases currently because we are in relationship with those building there or know those who are in close relationship. In many cases these nations have more than one missions base strategically placed in the country; the below list isn't comprehensive but rather represents some of the bases that we know of.
1. South America: Belize, Brazil
2. North America: US, Canada, Mexico
3. Middle East: Israel, Jordan, Turkey
4. Europe: England, Poland, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands
5. Africa: Egypt, South Africa
6. Asia: Hong Kong, China, Taiwan
7. Oceania: New Zealand, Hawaii

D. One of the Major DMMs (Disciple Making Movements):
I recently had a zoom call where introduced to a man who leads a network of over 8 million house churches, mostly in persecuted nations in the 10/40 window. He asked a mutual friend to introduce us because he wants to convert all of those house churches into houses of prayer and wasn't sure about how to go about that. We met in person shortly after and I gave him a proposal of how to operate HOPs in small living room settings. At the end of our meeting he held the sheet in his hand and said "This is your gift to the nations." and then stated his intention to go implement what we talked about across his networks.

E. Billy Humphrey met Brother Yun:
A few years ago, Billy Humphrey met Brother Yun (one of the apostolic leaders from the underground church in China). Billy was asked to

explain the house of prayer to him via an interpreter. After some explaining, Brother Yun said, "okay, China will do it." He is connected with all the other major leaders of the underground Church across China and they've been working together to plant 24/7 prayer ministries all across China.

F. HOPs in Every Nation:
If this were not enough proof that something is shifting in the Earth, reports come in near monthly of new literal 24/7 prayer initiatives being started all over the Earth, from nations on every continent. Even closed nations are seeing expressions of night and day worship rise within them as the Church across the globe turns her gaze to the worthy one. In recent years our contacts are estimating at least 50,000 new houses of prayer have popped up globally over the last number of years. That's actually a low-ball estimate with sources saying the number is significantly higher than that. Whether that stat is accurate or not the fact that we are even having discussions about such numbers represents a massive up trend in the house of prayer movement.

V. The Global Soil is Softening:

There has been a significant increase of intercession aimed at the hardest and darkest places in the world. As a result of night and day prayer filling the Earth, the soil of men's hearts is softening across these nations. The below are all recent stories that reflect a massive change in the spiritual climate of the nations tied to the persevering efforts of the prayer movement. It would make sense that if the people of God would cry out to Him fervently from across the Earth that God would respond. We are witnessing an unprecedented shift in the spread of the Gospel as a result of this massive increase of intercession.

A. Work of God in China:
The Holy Spirit has strategic purposes for the Asian nations (in scripture: the kings of the East). Right now the greatest increase and expression of the house of prayer and spread of the gospel can be found in China. They have been in full on revival, reporting explosive growth where for some time they were saying over a million people were getting saved per month and that the underground church in China has swelled to over 150 million Chinese believers now.

B. Islam Being Plundered from Within:
God is doing crazy things across the Middle Eastern; there are so many testimonies of God transforming the lives of the lost in Middle Eastern nations that are predominately Muslim. God has always cared very deeply about the descendants of Abraham's son Ishmael. We are living in an hour where the Muslim world is seeing its first revival and God is moving mightily amongst them including releasing a massive increase of dreams with the man in white appearing to Muslims while they sleep. IHOP-ATL, now Gate City Church, planted a missions base in a closed Islamic country and missionaries on the ground there are reporting that a number of Sheiks are coming to Christ and discipling their Imams. Imams are then leading entire mosques to Jesus.

C. The Greatest Revival in History:
The greatest revival in human history is happening right now, but it's all going on in persecuted nations where it's illegal to be a Christian. This means that there will be no news reports with a reporter holding a microphone up to a pastor's face asking him about how his church doubled in size. That would get him killed. No, instead this revival is happening in homes with the wildest explosion of small house churches multiplying by the 10s of thousands.

VI. Partnership with His Plan:

Prayer ministries are now beginning to fill the Earth serving as perpetual solemn assemblies. They don't gather corporately for a day or for a week but they gather night and day continuing to cry out for God's purposes to be met in their regions and in the Earth. We are actually witnessing a significant sign pertaining to His second coming.

A. Doing What He's Doing:
The heart of every believer is to get to be part of whatever the Lord is doing in their generation. The Lord is making it clear; He is doing night and day prayer unto the greatest harvest of souls that the world has ever known. He is birthing a global prayer movement and marking this generation with a renewed call to Himself.

B. Praying for His Kingdom to Come:
This global prayer movement is an exciting invitation to partner with God in seeing His desires accomplished in our generation. There is a very real time dimension partnership to the Lord right now in prayer as He is now responding to the global cry.

"This, then, is how you should pray: "'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven (Mt. 6:9-10)."

C. God is Setting Watchmen on the Walls:
We looked at this verse earlier as a declaration of what God is doing in this generation. We see that the Lord is sovereignly setting people into lifestyles of prayer, many in a fulltime capacity as their vocation. He is calling out to this generation for those who will partner with Him at this level. Now, as we finish up the conference on cultivating a life of prayer, I want you to ask the Holy Spirit how you are to respond to this verse and what He wants from you and for you.

"I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth (Is. 62:6-7)."