

Church Planting, Prayer and Evangelism
State Convention of Baptists in Indiana
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Powerful Connections

A Corporate Prayer Time
for Church Plants in Indiana

“Prayer is the secret of power and life. Not only for ourselves, but for others, for the church, for the world; it is prayer that God has given the right to take hold of Him and His strength. It is on prayer that the promises wait for their fulfillment.” Andrew Murray



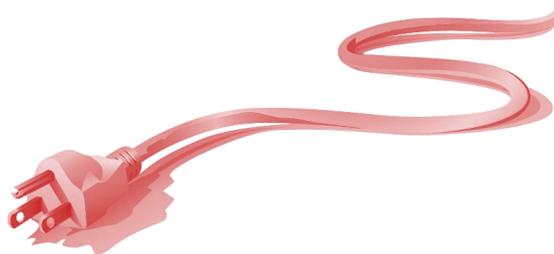
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SECTION SIX CONGREGATION: ENDING ON A HIGH NOTE

1. All groups should return to the initial gathering place. The ending time here should be about 10 minutes or so.
2. Have someone lead the congregation in another hymn or chorus that is prayer specific in its message.
3. Take a few minutes to debrief. Ask them: "What did you hear? What did God say? What did God show you? How are you changed?"
4. The pastor or leader can end with these lines: "When the Church is in prayer, God's cause always flourishes and His kingdom on earth always triumphs. When the church fails to pray, God's cause is slowed. Praying churches and praying church members are always the forerunners of a great movement of God."
5. The leader needs to resist the temptation to over-talk and preach a sermonette. Remember, the people have been talking and listening to the Lord for an hour!
6. Ending helpful hints: Be sure to contact the group leaders well in advance and make sure they are prepared. Make sure any extra copies of materials needed and pencils are readily available and that each group leader know in advance where his group will meet.

Thank you for leading your church to learn more about praying for new churches and actually leading them in praying for many more congregations throughout Indiana. Let this time of prayer be just a start of praying for God to plant churches across the state.



Hello Pastor and Friend!

Welcome! This booklet is part of an effort to involve more Christians and churches in praying more specifically and purposefully for God to start new churches throughout Indiana. Prayer is the most powerful activity we can participate in. We have no greater ministry more influential than prayer. Christian history is a testimony to this.

Perhaps church planting is a heartbeat of your church. Wonderful! We hope this booklet will be an encouragement to you to grow in your praying. If your church has never prayed for new church plants, don't worry! This booklet will help you get started.

Powerful Connections is designed for use during a Sunday evening service time, or perhaps a Wednesday evening. A Sunday evening would be best, but you know your church and its needs.

This guide is divided into six sections:

1. Large Group Time. A pre-appointed leader should be in place to guide this group and each of the four small groups.
2. Group One will leave to an appointed place and use this section.
3. Group Two will use this section and go to an appointed area to pray.
4. Group Three will use this section and pray in another area of the building.
5. Group Four will be for anyone who feels more comfortable writing out their prayers. These participants can find their own quiet part of the building. You may need to encourage people to try this different method of prayer.
6. The last section gives direction for a debriefing time with all the groups gathered back together.
7. Feel free to copy any of the pages you may need. You probably will want to copy several of the pages in "Writing it Out" section for Group Four.

May we see a mighty movement of God because of churches like yours that will pray!

SCBI Church Planting, Prayer and Evangelism Teams.

SECTION FIVE

GROUP FOUR: WRITING IT OUT BEFORE GOD

Instructions for Group Four Leader

Have paper and writing utensils to hand out to each member of the group. Give clear instructions. This group is for those who feel more comfortable or feel a special closeness to the Lord when they write out their prayers to Him. An appeal may need to be made in the large group session to encourage some to try this method of prayer.

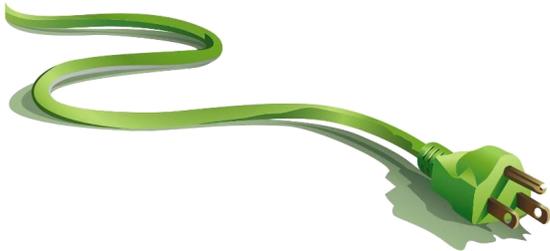
After distributing paper and pencils to the group, encourage them to go wherever they desire to write their prayers out before the Lord. Be sure and communicate clearly to these prayer writers that this is a time of asking God for more churches in Indiana.

The following page is a sheet that each person can use. **These sheets will have to be copied in advance. Be sure and make several copies.** You may be surprised how many want to try this method.

Give the people who are "writing it out" before God some basic ideas.

- It is an intensely personal time before the Lord.
- No one will read or even take up the written prayers.
- Be free and write.
- Pray Scripture.
- Pour cares and concerns for new churches out to the Lord.
- Use one or all of these scriptures: Acts 1:8, Luke 4:43, Romans 15:20; 1 Corinthians 9:16

Remind them to be back in the large group area in 30 minutes.



"God is beginning to do a great work among His people! More and more churches are taking prayer seriously." Greg Frizzell

SECTION TWO

GROUP ONE: CONNECTING WITH GOD IN PRAYER FOR A MOVEMENT

Instructions for the Group One Leader

1. You set the tone for a praying environment. Quickly lead into the purpose of the group: praying for a church planting *movement* of God in Indiana. Your group will have the next 30 minutes to pray. If your people are not familiar with a church planting movement quickly explain that it is when many churches are started and that it happens only through the power of God. Christian history has had church planting movements and many of our international fields are experiencing such movements today. We need to pray to God Almighty that He would see His way to start such a movement in Indiana. Remember this is not a time for discussion, dialogue, debate, or questions. Simply state the purpose and start the group to praying.
2. Lead the group in praying for this movement. This can be done by pre-appointed pray-ers or divide the group into twos or threes, or sentence praying would also be good during this time.
3. Here are some verses to claim as you pray. These can be read periodically during the prayer time. Isaiah 40:26, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:2, Acts 6:8, Ephesians 1:9, 1 Corinthians 1:25-27, 2 Corinthians 12:9.
4. Pray that the Lord will raise leaders from His churches to go into the ripe harvest fields of the lost to start new congregations.
5. Pray that pastors and congregations throughout Indiana will have a great burden for the millions of lost in our state; that we will train workers and send them into the fields of the lost to start new congregations.
6. Remember to use this time as responsibly as possible. Keep an eye on the time and quietly let people know when it is nearing time to return to the large group. Make sure this time is a time of prayer and not a time of talking about prayer or taking prayer requests.

"Praying churches and praying church members are always the forerunners of a great movement of God." E.M. Bounds

SECTION THREE GROUP TWO: PRAYING FOR INDIANA

Instructions for the Group Two Leader

1. Quickly get the people settled and in place for praying for Indiana. Communicate that this is a time for praying for cities, counties, and various parts of the state so that God's power will begin to make a difference in planting churches in these areas.
2. Remember that this is a time for praying, not a time for dialogue, discussion, taking prayer requests, or debate.
3. Praying can begin in the whole group. Lead the group in pleading with God to give us broken hearts for Indiana, that many more churches would be started. Ps. 51:17
4. Specifically pray for the metropolitan areas such as Gary, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Evansville. Name them one at a time. Call on God to give the believers in these areas the courage and wisdom to start churches. 2 Samuel 10:12, 2 Chronicles 15:7; Psalm 31:24
5. Lift up several smaller towns and counties throughout Indiana. The group members can name them in "popcorn" fashion as you lead them in prayer. Luke 13:34
6. Pray to the Father that He would fill the pastors in your area with wisdom and power to start new churches. 1 Corinthians 1:23-30, 2:4-5; Ephesians 3:16
7. Ask God's Holy Spirit to work in a powerful way from the corners of Indiana...all the way from Angola to Mt. Vernon, and from Gary to New Albany. Zechariah 4:6; Acts 1:8
8. Keep an eye on the time and quietly inform the group when the time is approaching to go back to the large group. Be sure and use the time for praying as wisely as possible.



SECTION FOUR GROUP THREE: PRAYING FOR LABORERS TO BE SENT

Instructions for the Group Three Leader

1. Remember your responsibility is to point out the highlights below and then directly lead the group into serious praying. This is not a time for discussion, dialogue, or prayer requests. It is a time for this group to pray to the Lord of the Harvest that He would send laborers into the harvest to plant churches in Indiana.
2. Use this quote to set the groups' minds and hearts to praying: *"It is the business of the Church to do the praying. It is the Lord's business to call and send forth the laborers. The Lord does not do the praying. The church does not do the calling. God must send them. God sends out laborers to His harvest fields in answer to the prayers of His Church. They are born of praying people. A praying church begets laborers in the harvest fields...Oh, that a great wave of prayer would sweep over the Church asking God to send out a great army of laborers into the needy harvest fields"...*E.M. Bounds
3. Divide the group into twos or threes and let them pray for God to call out people, even people out of our church, to plant churches in Indiana.
4. Bring the group back together for a time of sentence prayers. Start by naming an area or two in Indiana where churches need to be planted.
5. Pray for church planting training centers, seminaries and Bible colleges that train church planters to be well funded and effective in training church pastors.
6. Pray for praying families who will raise praying men who will become praying pastors and church planters.
7. Spend some more time calling out to the Lord of the Harvest to send church planters from inside and outside the state into the harvest fields of Indiana.
8. Keep your eye on the time. Let the group know when it is close to the time to return to the large group (after 30 minutes).

"The work of praying is prerequisite to all other work
in the Kingdom of God" O. Hallesby