

The
Foundation
of
Prayer

The Rev. A. M. H. Bailey

Vision Statement

There shall be within the Pastoral Region a multiplicity of bodies known as Prayer Towers. These Prayer Towers shall be supportive of persons living within the Pastoral Region who are seeking the fulfillment of their vows of Confirmation through faithfully joining with like-minded persons in deepening the experience of meaningful prayer.

Mission Statement

To encourage the development of such Prayer Towers as are to be established within the Pastoral Region ensuring that at least the equivalent of the number of persons who are required for the proper functioning of these Prayer Towers are present at their times for prayer.

PRAYER TOWER LEADERSHIP

The Prayer Tower is comprized of persons meeting for encounter with God through reference to a Bible Reading which is then used as a foundation for prayer. Membership in a Prayer Tower is dependent upon residence in the particular locality in which that Prayer Tower meets and upon the willingness to be present of those who comprize the church's membership there. The Prayer Tower is expected to have present at its meetings a number that is at least equivalent to its Structural Base Number. The Structural Base Number is the number of persons required to be present for proper stability in the functioning of that meeting of the Prayer Tower. It is through communication with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ that the Structural Base Number is determined.

Each Prayer Tower is expected to have an Elder assigned as the Prayer Tower Leader who shall have the following responsibilities:

1. To co-ordinate the participation of as many members of the particular locality in meetings of the Prayer Tower;
2. To suggest areas for prayer;
3. To encourage individuals in the meeting to pray for specific requests;
4. To encourage others to be responsible for leading in a subsequent meeting; and
5. To chose the Bible Reading for the meeting and facilitate the discovery of relevant areas for prayer.

The usual format for a Prayer Tower meeting shall be as follows:

Prayer Tower Meeting

Opening Prayer

Welcome & Roll

Scripture Reading

Discussion

Prayer Assignments

Theme Hymn

Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayers of Supplication - Other Remaining Prayers

The purpose of the Discussion referred to above is to provide an opportunity to understand the particular Scripture Reading as it relates to the life of the Prayer Tower, the life of the larger congregation, the life of the Pastoral Region and the life of the community in which the Church lives.

The Prayer Assignments refer to the various areas identified in the Discussion. An attempt should be made to ensure that every person present is responsible for praying about one of the areas. The order in which those praying should offer their prayers is determined at this time.

The Theme Hymn, the signature of the Prayer Tower, provides a moment of transition from the activity

of discussion to the offering of prayer. It is selected through communication with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The general format of the prayer time itself is expected to follow the order indicated by the acrostic A.C.T.S., that is, Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication.

The Prayer of Adoration is expected to include ideas that express recognition of such qualities of the Godhead as are suggested by the Scripture Reading. These qualities are identified in response to the question: “What does this Scripture Reading teach us about God?”

The Prayer of Confession is expected to include requests for forgiveness in areas indicated by the Scripture Reading. These areas are identified in response to the question: “What should we confess as sin and for what should seek forgiveness according to this Scripture Reading?”

The Prayer of Thanksgiving is expected to include appreciation for the positive aspects of the message embedded in the Scripture Reading. These aspects are identified in response to the question: “For what can we give God thanks according to this Scripture Reading?”

The Prayers of Supplication refers to the offering of prayer that reflects the needs identified by the Prayer Tower. In this context, the Other Remaining Prayers may be understood as embracing the needs suggested by the Scripture Reading as well as by the discussion that it generated. These needs are identified in response to the question: “What are some of the concerns that we should

bring before God in prayer according to this Scripture Reading?"

General Overview

Prayer Tower	Leader	Structural Base Number	Theme Hymn