

October 28

Dear Pastor,

It seems to me that most Pentecostal Christians crave to be a part of the great things God is doing. No member of your church wants to find out God did something momentous and they missed it.

And if you are like all the other Pentecostal Pastors I know, you long to see the people in your church walking in the fullness of God's purposes for them. There are many obstacles to this fullness, but they can be overcome.

And the obstacles ARE being overcome. Today we are seeing a world-wide prayer movement that is releasing the fullness of the Kingdom of God into peoples' lives, their churches, and their communities.

- In Ukraine, the "Orange Revolution" – essentially a giant prayer meeting in the central square of Kiev – led to the reversal of a corrupt national election. Today, instead of being hostile, the government has given unprecedented freedom to the churches... and the mayor of Kiev is a Spirit-filled believer!
- In New York City, The Brooklyn Tabernacle – a church committed to corporate prayer – grew from a handful of people to a congregation of 10,000 people and has planted 17 other churches in New York and across the nation.
- In Kansas City, the local FOX News Affiliate reported a drop in crime around the International House of Prayer (IHOP), which is a 24/7 prayer center. The Kansas City police department credited IHOP for the drop in crime.
- In Ann Arbor, Michigan, Christians from 30 different churches drop in each Tuesday on an interdenominational prayer meeting that routinely results in God's purposes becoming refined and urgent in the lives of God's people.

This is exciting! Our historic time is marked by a fundamental shift in the church's understanding and practice of corporate, unified prayer. As a result, **Christians around the world are becoming fully equipped and freshly inspired to transform their churches, and to take the lead in transforming their communities by ushering in the Kingdom of God.**

I've seen it up close. This is something big, something eternal. This is what God is doing now, and it is indeed momentous.

But sadly...most American Christians are missing it.

I believe the main reason they're missing it is because they don't fully understand prayer. The greatest men and women of prayer studied prayer, but since it is not an inherently exciting topic, the average Christian doesn't dig in very deep. Maybe this is why our District Superintendent, William Leach, spoke about prayer at last May's District Council. So did David Mohan, the special guest speaker and pastor of one of the largest churches in the world. And when the Assemblies of God ReachAmerica Coalition asked pastors how we will reach America, the overwhelming response was "through prayer." Clearly our local and national leadership see unachieved potential.

Pastor, I don't know the situation in your church. Maybe your prayer meetings are packed out with energetic prayer warriors who routinely disrupt the plans of our tireless enemy. Hey, if that's the case, I'd actually like to know so I can come and see what you're doing!

But then again, maybe your people are like most American Christians who don't quite have a thorough understanding of the Biblical principles of prayer. They lead quiet, generally ineffective prayer lives. If that's the case ... well, it's pretty normal, but I know that's not how you want it to be. I know you'd rather have them be like the Christians I mentioned earlier -- fully equipped and freshly inspired to transform your church and take the lead in transforming your community. I want this for your church, too, and I can help get you there.

I've traveled to every major prayer center in this country and have met with the major prayer leaders. These trips give me a unique perspective and understanding of what God is saying about prayer NOW. I know that **God will release the tremendous potential of American churches when we follow biblical principles of prayer.**

I am convinced this will prove to be a remarkable time in the history of the church. So convinced, in fact, that I resigned as Senior Pastor of Ann Arbor Assembly of God last year to become a full time Prayer Missionary. In short, I believe in this so much that *I have bet my entire life on it.*

And God is blessing it! A group of 30 pastors from diverse denominations commissioned me to establish the Intercessory Mission prayer center in Ann Arbor. Our goal is to be a 24/7 prayer center like those in Kansas City, Columbus, Washington D.C., and other U.S. cities. We are currently open each Tuesday between 6am and midnight, and we are uniting local churches under prayer. Here's how one local pastor described the prayer center:

It represents a concerted effort by various Christian traditions who are able to come together for the work and ministry of prayer. Prayer provides a common denominator through which we are able to work and worship together...in advancing the work of the kingdom.

Pastor Tom Humphreys, Ann Arbor Hope Church

I pastored in the Assemblies of God for 21 years and I've been in your shoes. I know the many challenges and concerns you have as a pastor, and I know first hand of your love and compassion for your flock. It is precisely this experience and understanding that compels me to speak to Assembly of God congregations, gently leading lay people to a deep and lasting understanding of prayer...an understanding that is a seed of revival.

- ✓ I teach the **theology** and **techniques** of prayer to equip your people with knowledge and experience that will propel them into powerful, principled prayer, both individually and as a unified body.
- ✓ I share powerful, inspiring **testimonies** from around the world. These true accounts motivate Christians toward purposeful participation in prayer.
- ✓ I teach on the power inherent in **tongues**, seeking to restore tongues to the church's arsenal. I usually provide opportunity to those seeking tongues. After all, we wrestle against "the spiritual forces of evil," so we'd better have the right weapons.

You see, I don't just *teach* about what God is doing today in the area of prayer. I *study* it, I *do* it, I *train others* to do it, and I provide extensive opportunities for others to *practice* it. Christians are being challenged, motivated, transformed, and united at the prayer center in Ann Arbor, and these are the benefits I want to bring to your church.

Because I no longer pastor a church, I have great flexibility in when I can join you in ministry at your church. Here are some options:

- A Sunday morning service
- A midweek service
- A series of day-time teaching sessions with your leaders
- A series of night-time prayer meetings

I can provide any or all aspects of my ministry to your church, but I suggest a one-week or weekend-long prayer focus I call APEX (Advanced Prayer EXplosion) where I blend theological teaching, testimonies, training in the Harp & Bowl model of prayer and worship, and actual prayer meetings. Harp & Bowl prayer is extremely effective at sustaining focused, energetic prayer at our prayer center. We activate a distinct spiritual awakening when we apply the principles of combined prayer, prophecy, and worship.

Scripture itself is the prayer leader, music is woven into the prayer experience, and its antiphonal quality is by nature, relational (just like God!). I believe it is getting the Lord's attention.

Cynthia Hovater, Prayer Center Volunteer

I will come to your congregation as an itinerant preacher with a focus on prayer. You're probably aware of the national A/G call to unite with evangelists to address the topic of prayer and the Holy Spirit. There's a good reason our national leadership made this call. They understand the value of an itinerant preacher who supports and reinforces the vital ministry you do every day.

Wherever I am invited, I invest deeply and comprehensively, because I've seen the fruit that comes from prayer that is based on true Biblical principles. And when desired by the pastor, I establish a long-term relationship with a church, returning once or twice a year with additional teaching, training, and opportunities for fresh experiences with our active and generous Father. I know that when one congregation is equipped and is practicing principled prayer, the entire body of Christ benefits. It's that type of system.

Pastor, I do want to be clear about one thing. This is not about me. It's about your people and what God can and wants to do through them. "*Elijah was a man just like us,*" and look how God used him in prayer. When Christians understand the purpose and power of prayer, they rise to a higher level of excellence and effectiveness and God begins to trust them more and use them in greater ways. "*Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.*"

I haven't mentioned money yet. Well, there's good news here. Despite the expensive nature of itinerant ministry, I do not require a minimum fee to minister at your church – thanks to some benefactors who believe in this ministry and provided financial support. I don't know how much longer I will be able to operate like this, but for now, any church can afford to participate in this ministry because your cost is determined by your ability to give in a love offering or honorarium.

I know it's difficult to read one letter like this (I'm sure you get many!) and become comfortable enough with the writer to invite him to speak at your church – especially when there have been so many traveling preachers whose ministries have been all about *them*. And I know that you have to be very selective with who you invite to speak at your church. There aren't many services available, and you can't afford to take a chance on a speaker and be wrong about it.

Well, if this all sounds interesting but you're still not sure, the Internet offers a wonderful way for you to learn more about my ministry at very little cost to you. You can:

- browse my Web site at www.nextga.us
- learn about the county-wide Intercessory Mission prayer center at www.nextga.us/impact
- check out my Blog (the Tabernacle Times) at www.nextga.us/impact
- read my leadership study, “The Power of Focus,” at www.nextga.us/lship0601

Check me out with complete anonymity, and *then* decide if your church could benefit from my ministry. My teaching on how prayer can be a joyful highlight for Christians is an exceptional blessing I haven't mentioned. It's fun to see the relief and excitement on people's faces as this liberating truth takes root.

You might be asking, “But can he preach?” Pastor, I'm fully committed to providing you with superior ministry, and I stand behind the quality of my ministry. I've been proclaiming God's word for over 20 years and have often been told that my greatest strength is my prophetic-edged teaching style. For years, I have been speaking in all kinds of contexts, from Presbyterian churches to vibrant African-American churches, and the Holy Spirit has allowed me to connect with whatever the particular audience is. I will connect with your people and your culture.

Pastor, it's my desire – no, it's my *passion* – to serve you. I mean it. Like you, I long to see the Church arise and I want to bring blessings to your people through my focus on prayer. **If you would like me to equip and inspire your congregation through any aspects of my prayer-centered ministry, you may either call me or send e-mail.** My contact information is below. My calendar is filling up, so please contact me soon to ensure that we can schedule a time that is most convenient for your church.

Remember what Cynthia said about one aspect of my ministry, Harp & Bowl prayer: “*I believe it is getting the Lord's attention.*” I don't know any Pentecostal Christian who wants to miss anything that is getting the Lord's attention.

Thank you, and may God bring you great rewards as you earnestly seek Him in these last days!

Sincerely,

Reverend Joseph S. Sazyc
Next Great Awakening Ministries
js@nextga.us
(734) 945-1052