

Prayer Altars

What is a Prayer Altar?

Prayer Altars are weekly prayer gatherings in public or private institutions. They are a simple replicable transformation strategy.



How they work?

1. Someone -- a born again, Bible believing Christian -- commits to leading weekly prayer in their place of work.
2. They then find at least one other person who will also commit to meet weekly with them and pray for the institution, the community and the nation.
3. This core group begins to meet and the Lord will add to their number as they continue with ongoing prayer.
4. The prayer strategy is based on the model prayer in Mt 6. "Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

2 Fold Vision: Pervasive Prayer & Transformed Communities

1. To see God raise up champions who will lead a prayer altar strategy in their community and keep with it until prayer altars are pervasive throughout the entire community (most public and private institutions).
2. So that fervent effectual prayer for evangelism and transformation is offered up continually.

Getting Started

Part of the beauty of this strategy is its simplicity. It is very straightforward. Nevertheless, here are a few principles to help you get started and stay on track.

- A. You need a leader to make the commitment to lead a particular prayer altar. This is a communication and coordination role.
- B. This person needs to then find one or two others who will also commit to this weekly meeting.
- C. Pick a time and place to meet and stay with it (if possible). Some possibilities are before work or during a lunch hour.
- D. Make good use of your time: You will typically only have 30-45 minutes. So start on time and get right into prayer, as people arrive late just make room for them and keep on praying. Here are some other principles:
 1. The prayer focus of a prayer altar is "Your kingdom Come – Your will be done" cf. Rom 14:17 for the kingdom of God is...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. You are praying for the move of God, for

evangelism, for transformation, for righteousness, for reconciliation, etc. cf. 2Cron 7:14, James 5:16-18

2. The focus is **not** on personal prayer needs – If you begin to take regular personal prayer requests these will quickly dominate the time. This is not the Focus! However, we do want to have authentic Christian relationships and bear one another burdens. The way you do this is form a prayer chain, or prayer email for the group and commit to bearing one another's burdens in prayer outside of the weekly prayer altar meeting. It is important that you have one another's backs in this way.
3. Be led of the Spirit and pray the scriptures – The prayer altar time is not a Bible study but the scriptures should guide your prayer strategy. 1Jn 5:14. Develop a prayer focus. Ask the Lord to lead the time of prayer, and as the Holy Spirit reveals a prayer focus and strategy go with it. Have someone in the group record the major points of prayer, so that you can celebrate the answers as they come.