

FOURSQUARE
leader

February 2016
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AT FOURSQUARE
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SUMMER

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SHARES THE
KEY TO CHURCH
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"I SAW THE FIRE OF GOD."

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"I GAVE MY CHURCH TO MY
WIFE, AND NOW IT'S BETTER."

En español a partir
de la página 30.
Turn to page 30 for
stories in Spanish.



Rethinking the Plan

In the Information Age, there is an incessant hunger for something new. The church has not been left untouched by this perpetual discontent. Whether it's cultural expression, ministry innovation or community dynamics, people are often looking for the cutting-edge idea that will break through barriers and launch us to new heights of fruitfulness.

So often, these new ideas fall short, and we fall flat. It's time to stop and rethink the plan.

What if the new thing is the old thing? And what if the old thing doesn't require a monthly subscription, technological overhaul or a brand-new wardrobe? What if the thing so many of us have been searching for in these days of religious indifference, institutionalized injustice and antagonistic atheism could be received across 2,000 years and implemented right now?

"There is no condemnation, but there is a call."

The apostle Paul's first point of order for the church in one of his letters to Timothy was prayer (1 Tim. 2:1-4). Christ told His dejected disciples that battles are determined on our knees before we can engage with authority (Mark 9). Joshua defeated the Amalekites in the field because Moses was interceding on the hill (Ex. 17).

Prayer is a primary duty of the church.

Our hope is to use the technology of media creativity and distribution to be a signpost to the most basic, powerful, dynamic operation of each believer and each local church. This edition of *Foursquare Leader* is focused on prayer. Whether you have calloused knees or have been caught napping like the disciples in the garden of Gethsemane, let the words and stories contained in this issue be a catalyst for your prayer life. There is no condemnation, but there is a call.

Foursquare family, let us pray.



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- Rescue
- Recover
- Rebuild

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There are many good things the church can be doing, but foundational among these is the call to prayer. Read a stirring call from Pastor Jack Hayford, and check out the incredible ways God is at work in Foursquare churches that are engaging God and their communities in prayer.

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What's Trending Online

Top Pinned: *Single—For Now*

Don't plan to stay single forever, but content with it now? You'll love *Single—For Now* by Foursquare Pastor Tammy Sevco. With relatable stories and biblical advice to empower singles to be effective in ministry just as they are, this book is featured in our most popular Pin!



See it at pinterest.com/wearefoursquare.

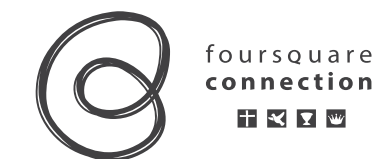
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Wish You Were Here!

When you need a break from bleak winter weather, just browse our photos of Hawaii's warm, sunny beaches. Breathe a sigh of relief, and repeat often: "Foursquare Connection 2016 in Hawaii is only three months away." Trust us—it's worth the wait. Search [#Connection16](https://instagram.com/WeAreFoursquare) and follow [@WeAreFoursquare](https://instagram.com/WeAreFoursquare) on Instagram for the latest.



Get E-quipped to Pray All Year



Have a prayer focus emailed to you every week, get notified of the latest Foursquare Missions International and Foursquare Chaplains International prayer guides, and pray with your Foursquare family worldwide.

Sign up for Foursquare emails at foursquare.org/newsletters.

Foursquare News + Updates



Foursquare Connection 2016 Will Meet in Hawaii

The Foursquare family is headed to Hawaii for fun in the sun on the island of O'ahu, May 30–June 2. President Glenn Burris Jr., Pastor John Tyson, Author Margaret Feinberg, District Supervisor Fernando Castillo and Foursquare Pastor Randy Remington are among this year's guest speakers for Foursquare Connection 2016. Local Hawaiian-infused worship will be brought to us by members of seven Hawaii-based Foursquare churches.

This year's convention will kick off with the Foursquare 'Ohana Dinner, which will be a great time to connect with the Foursquare pastors in your district over an island-themed dinner. Events this year include Affinity Connections, Multiethnic Connections, Conexión Hispana, Training Sessions and more. Convention will conclude Thursday evening with a special speaker who is not to be missed.

The event will be held at the Hawai'i Convention Center in Honolulu, which is near Waikiki Beach. For full details, including how to register and reserve your discounted hotel rate, visit foursquareconnection.org.

Scholarship Applications Now Being Accepted

Female students who plan to go into leadership ministry are encouraged to apply for the 2016 Alabaster House Legacy Scholarships. The scholarship money—\$8,000—will be given to five students who plan to attend Life Pacific College (LPC, also called Life Bible College), LPC-Ignite or a Foursquare Emerging Leader Network (ELN) program.

The inspiring winners from 2015 had interests in equipping churches for dealing with addictions, bringing spiritual and physical healing, teaching the Word and bringing people closer to God through music.

Among the five 2015 winners was Francesca Giraldo, 19, who will be in LPC's worship, arts and media major that is launching this year. "I'm glad God has called me to LPC because I feel that it is the perfect place for me to grow in my music abilities and confidence while also helping me grow in my walk with God," she affirms.

Another winner, Taylor Pike, wants to teach the Word. "I wholeheartedly believe through the education I receive at LPC, I will be trained and thoroughly equipped for every good work God has in store for the rest of my life," says Taylor.

Female students under 30 years old can apply for scholarships online by visiting foursquare.org/education now through May 1.



Taylor Pike

Francesca Giraldo

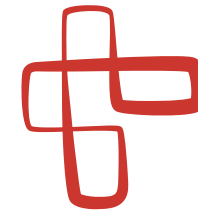
Foursquare Helping Refugees

"This one is really on us," says Ted Vail, Foursquare Disaster Relief (FDR) director of international operations and Foursquare Missions International (FMI) associate director, noting how Foursquare is uniquely positioned in Turkey to be on the front lines of helping those affected by the current Middle East refugee crisis.

The Foursquare Church is the largest Protestant movement in Turkey, the very location where 1.9 million refugees (at press time) from Syria and Iraq have fled. Many more are expected to come. Some will stay in Turkey; others are continuing their exodus to Europe and beyond.

Right now in Turkey, refugees are being met at the border and in cities by local Foursquare pastors, workers and church members. "Foursquare Turkey has been providing hundreds of thousands of meals, clean water, shelter and needed supplies," says President Glenn Burris Jr. "Pastors and workers in Turkey also have been able to pray with many and express God's love through Jesus. Some of our European Foursquare works also are looking to reach out as refugees come to their nations."

But with so many refugees, and their numbers increasing daily, the need is overwhelming.



Foursquare
Disaster Relief

Get Involved. FDR has started Project Sanctuary, an initiative to bring hope to refugees through our global Foursquare family. Project Sanctuary resources are currently available, with more in the works. Resources will include simple ways Foursquare churches can equip our workers in Turkey, learn from European leaders caring for refugees, and be equipped to reach refugees who arrive in U.S. neighborhoods. Find videos, articles and more as they become available at 4sq.ca/refugee2016.

Watch a Video. Visit 4sq.ca/turkeyvideo to watch a video produced before the refugee crisis hit Turkey's borders. **Use password:** 4sqchurch2013.

2016 Calendar

- March 3–7: District supervisor meeting
- March 7–9: Foursquare cabinet meeting
- March 9–11: Foursquare board of directors meeting
- May 5: National Day of Prayer
- May 30–June 2: Foursquare Connection 2016 in Honolulu
- June 21–23: Foursquare board of directors intensive meeting
- October: Pastor Appreciation Month
- Oct. 22–25: District supervisor meeting
- Oct. 26–28: Foursquare board of directors meeting

Your 4 Favorite Resources

The top-visited Leadership Tools on foursquare.org, and how to get them for yourself.

1. **Online Administrative Toolkit.** This is an on-demand compilation of current forms, tools and templates for local Foursquare churches. Get it at 4sq.ca/toolkit.
2. **Holy Spirit Discovery for Kids.** This is an eight-lesson resource for teaching key concepts about the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Get it at 4sq.ca/discoverykids.
3. **Child and Youth Protection Training Series.** Watch the series and download the companion resources. Get it at 4sq.ca/cyps.
4. **Foursquare Certificates.** Download and personalize certificates for baptism, dedication, membership and more. Get it at 4sq.ca/certificates.

Source: Sept. 2015 foursquare.org analytics report

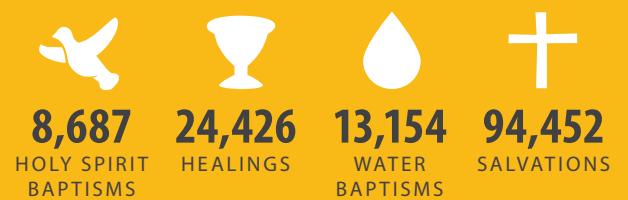


— LET US — PRAY

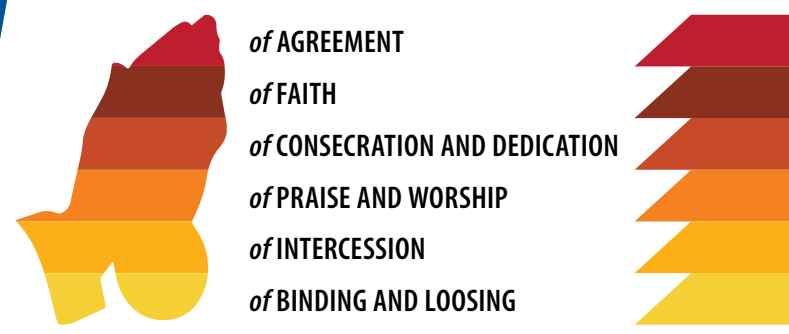
We can all agree **prayer is important**. But how is prayer within Foursquare making a difference? And how does your prayer life stack up against the national average? Discover how Americans engage in prayer, and take time to reflect on your own prayer life in this special prayer-focused By the Numbers. ↓

"I touch the sky when my knees hit the ground." —Hillsong United

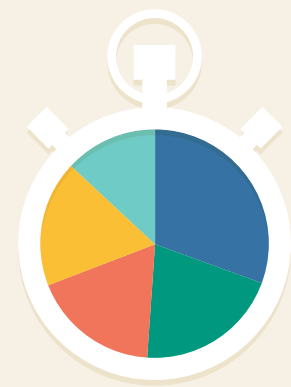
CP	589	1,572	1,300	12,541
HS	308	827	638	3,466
G	835	1,281	1,231	14,845
HI	295	1,104	413	2,222
HL	554	2,053	431	3,607
MS	755	1,828	850	5,267
NP	380	1,557	831	3,237
NA	713	559	1,039	4,826
NW	1,115	5,601	2,096	9,453
SE	709	2,823	764	5,453
SC	1,348	2,652	1,566	12,799
SW	1,086	2,569	1,995	16,736



6 TYPES OF PRAYER IN THE BIBLE



HOW PASTORS PRAY ↓



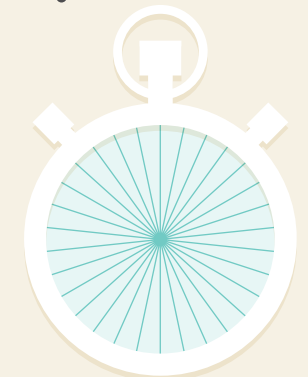
- 12 minutes: Prayer Requests
- 8 minutes: Quiet Time
- 7 minutes: Giving Thanks
- 7 minutes: Of Praise
- 5 minutes: Confessing Sin

Total: 30 Minutes
(Median prayer time per day)

Source: Ellis Research

HOW DO YOU PRAY? →

Fill in the chart below with how you spend your time in prayer, then share it with us by posting it to Instagram with #4Prayer. Bonus points if you tag a fellow Foursquare leader and encourage him or her to share how they pray, too.



- minutes Prayer requests
- minutes Quiet time
- minutes Giving thanks
- minutes Of praise
- minutes Confessing sin
- minutes Other
- Total Minutes**

HOW MANY TIMES DOES THE BIBLE REFERENCE...



District numbers reported in The Foursquare Hub Jan. 2015 through Sept. 2015.

Source: Charisma Magazine

- CP Central Pacific District
- HS Distrito Hispano del Suroeste
- G Gateway District
- HI Hawaii District
- HL Heartland District
- MS MidSouth District
- NP North Pacific District
- NA Northeast Atlantic District
- NW Northwest District
- SE Southeast District
- SC Southern California District
- SW Southwest District

» 55 «
PERCENTAGE OF AMERICANS WHO SAY THEY PRAY EVERY DAY

Source: Pew Research, 2015

2016 DAYS TO PRAY



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foursquareconnection.org | #Connection16

The Prayer Issue

Scripture is packed with verses about prayer, and there are thousands of books written on the subject. But the most important thing to do about prayer is quite simple: pray. Turn the page for a special call by Pastor Jack Hayford, and read compelling stories of those who've already found the power and possibility that come with prayer.

12 A WORD FROM
PASTOR JACK HAYFORD

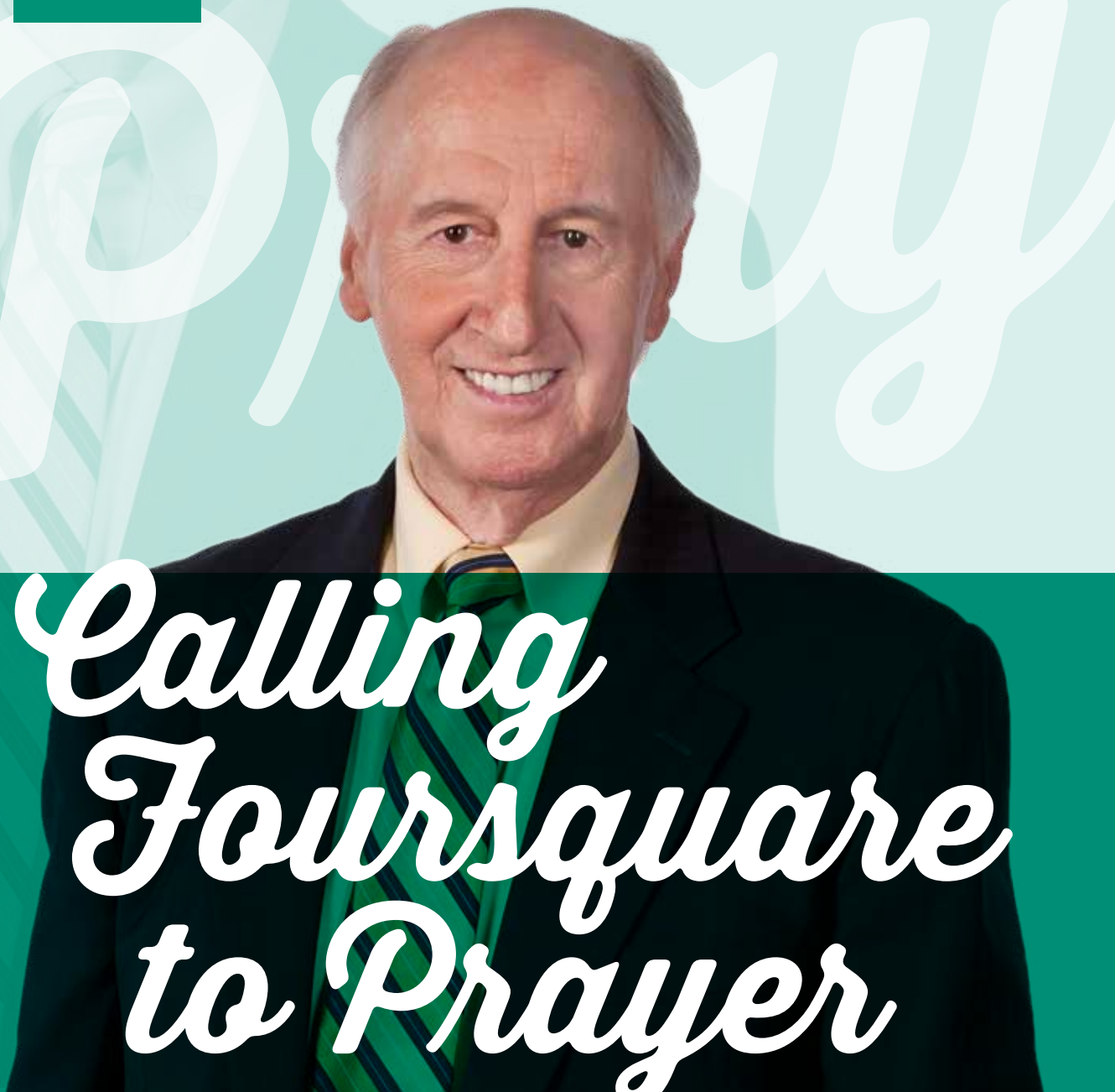
16 HEALED AT A
FOURSQUARE CAMP

17 CALLED TO NATIVE
AMERICANS

20 GAVE UP HIS CHURCH
TO HIS WIFE

21 PRAYING TO THE
ONE TRUE GOD

22 SINGING A NEW SONG
IN A NEW LANGUAGE



Calling Foursquare to Prayer

Pastor Jack Hayford earnestly calls Foursquare pastors, leaders and church members to a lifestyle of prayer in the face of our nation's social and moral decay.

America is suffering from an extended spiritual drought. While the social and moral decay of this hour may grieve us, discernment of the larger reason for this blight lies at the door of an all-but-prayerless church.

We share a part of that responsibility because—had we been more conscientious earlier—we would not have allowed the progressive dismantling of weekly, united, extended corporate prayer gatherings.

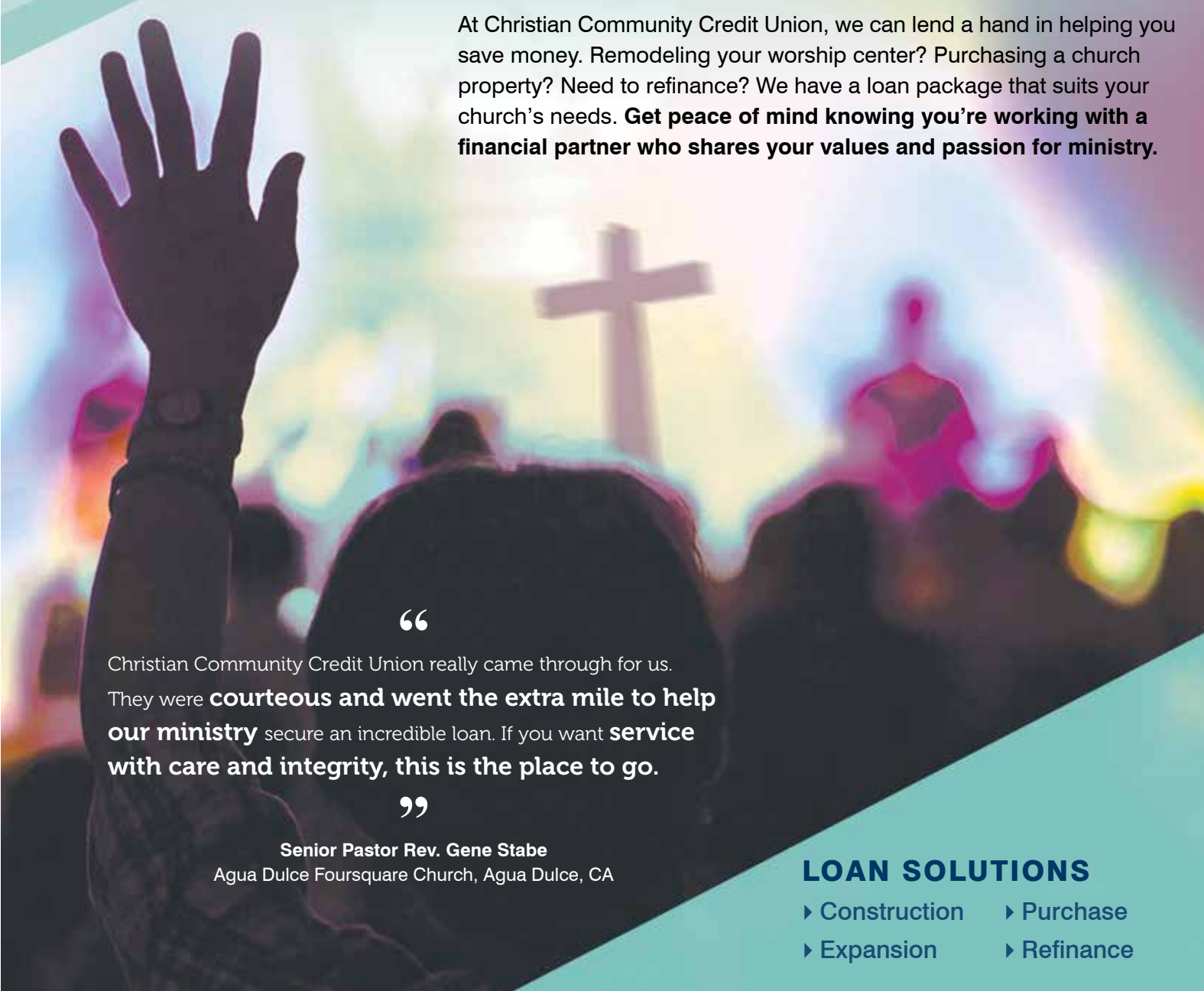
I am not writing to assign guilt, for I have been too slow a learner myself. But I am writing with an invitation, one spoken from heaven and beginning to resonate in many hearts.

Although the enemy of humankind is rising viciously, knowing he has only a short time, the Holy Spirit of God is present. He is not here to condemn, but to convene the hearts of believers with His promise, wisdom and expectancy.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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”

Senior Pastor Rev. Gene Stabe
Agua Dulce Foursquare Church, Agua Dulce, CA

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Above all, I feel a hope, born of prayer rising from my heart and one of love and brotherly commitment to Foursquare pastors, leaders and members. With that hope, I am writing in earnest and crying out for the igniting of an awakening to prayer.

Pray with me that we would unite to lead our congregations from our knees. Let us lead people into a lifestyle of intercession as God's Word directs (1Tim. 2:1-2).

Unless we are biblically renewed to this *first of all* calling of the body of Christ, our *first* calling as believers will be sacrificed on the altar of sloth, and the spirit of the age will run even more rampant.

Let us affirm that there is nothing old school about the New Testament's order of the church's prayer-life. It is an ever-contemporary pattern of biblical spirituality, and nothing—not even the finest programming, productions or tactical strategies—can substitute for it.

OUR SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION

Prayer is the foundation and fountainhead of spiritual power, breakthrough and revival; prevailing prayer, both at the local and national level, is what we and America need.

Given this situation, my hope is that The Foursquare Church may "rise to this hour" and make it a "restoring the ancient landmarks" of former victories. That, as a united-and-agreed fellowship, a vast majority of pastors and congregations would unapologetically welcome the Holy Spirit into their midst.

Such well-ordered prayer gatherings will overthrow strongholds of darkness and release rivers of "living water" and revival blessings. Sound-minded, bold and believing prayer is prayer with a "cutting edge," namely, a lifestyle that penetrates the darkness of spiritual blindness and brings God's mercy and deliverance.

It is this kind of prayer that shatters the darkness and drives back the kind of spiritual challenge we face with the plague of evil and rebellion in our nation.

JESUS' CONCERN FOR THE LAST-DAYS CHURCH

Someone recently asked me: "Some people think of the 1950s and 1960s as a golden age for the church in America, but were there drawbacks to the church being socially respectable?"

I answered: "I don't think of the church being 'respected' as a drawback. However, a socially comfortable church has not historically produced a spiritually passionate church."

Jesus' letters to the church in Revelation contain a similar opening, where Christ spells out His awareness and notice to each congregation and its leaders. His love for them all is never in question, but His concerns wave red-flag warnings to all of us who lead today:

You who have ears to hear, listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying!

Jesus points out that many of these churches are distracted or have neglected their central call, values and mission. The distractions are the same today; congregations are either:

- resting on their laurels
- impressed with their own perceived status
- blinded to their loss of focus on the Word and the Spirit,
- OR by indulging their own carnality, losing clarity and integrity of heart.

The issue is clear: The Holy Spirit is seeking to find—and speak—to those with ears to hear!

Whether you are a Foursquare pastor, leader or church member, I am a bond-servant with you. I invite you to join a multitude of those who are unabashedly attuned to hear, obey and respond as Holy Spirit-filled servants of Christ. This is vital for two crucial reasons:

There is nothing more disabling than to become tone deaf to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

There is nothing more numbing to the soul than to be unresponsive to His call.



Pray with me that we would unite to lead our congregations from our knees.

In this critical hour, we dare not hedge on the implications of "hearing" the Holy Spirit. We dare not compromise His intentions for our fellowship as Spirit-filled and Spirit-led people.

THE KEY QUESTION

The question of this hour in history resounds from the lips of the Lord: "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8, NIV). Namely, the faith that answers the call to rise up in prayer!

As with any nation, the battle for America's soul will only be won with the weapons of spiritual warfare. These weapons—wielded by people systematically meeting in prayer gatherings to marshal sound-minded, biblically ordered intercession—have yet to be restored in The Foursquare Church in America.

Yet if God's people don't assemble in agreement, on their knees, who else will "destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5, ESV)?

The church is the one agency on Earth with access to this promise. Heaven is waiting. God has indicated His sovereign choice: *He is ready to answer with His open hand of unlimited blessing if, under His authoritative directive, we will take our stand and advance in prayer.*

Today, we must remember the promise God made to Solomon long ago: "If my people ... humble themselves, and pray ... then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14, ESV).

However, we must ask ourselves, "Where can God find a people who will align themselves with God's conditions?" This cannot be a halfway proposition. His Word of promise is only spoken into action where people welcome His Holy Spirit, and on His terms.

ALIGNING WITH THE SPIRIT

I want to honor the wisdom, sought and applied, by which our leaders have brought administrative adjustments that we as a movement have pragmatically applied in recent years.

However, whatever else we have wisely and worthily realigned structurally, our definition of *local intercessory alignment* has yet to "hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

We are in need of reviewing Jesus' confrontation of leaders who busied themselves with religious duties but neglected God's command: "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations" (Isa. 56:7, NIV). Let us abandon all self-excusing passivity indulged when we negate our Lord's focus on the priority of prayer.

No society should ever be seen as beyond hope of revival, the recovery of sanity or the rebirth of multitudes—if it is laced with congregations everywhere where the Light of the world still shines.

The divine call of God addressing The Foursquare Church in America is no different than the one trumpeted to the larger *believing* body of Christ. Too many have traded the timeless for the transient, the clever for the costly, the contemporary for the eternal and the seeker-sensitivity for man-pleasing management.

Our beginning point of reference must be on our knees, in our closets and at altars of repentance. New furniture isn't required, but a ready and renewed passion is!

Additional reporting was provided by Ken Walker.

PRAY ACCORDING TO GOD'S WORD.

Find scripture for praying in line with the Word of God. Turn to **page 28.**



Healed at a Foursquare Camp

ELICIA HUTCHINSON

High school summer camp was fast approaching at Foursquare camp in Washington, but I really didn't want to go. What was the point? I knew God wasn't going to show up anyway.

I had meningitis as a baby, so I've had cerebral palsy and epilepsy my whole life. My mom prayed for me for years,

but it always ended the same—with me still dealing with this disability.

My mom encouraged me to go to camp, though, so I caved and went. On Thursday, Aug. 6, 2015, my mom dragged me into a pre-service prayer time and asked the camp speaker, John Hammer, to pray for healing for me. John and my pastor, Shawn Roberts, laid hands on me and began to pray. I looked up and saw that

about 50 people had gathered around me—all praying for my healing.

It was incredibly powerful and overwhelming. After praying for a little while, John asked if I could do anything I couldn't before. I started walking around and realized that I could walk flat-footed—something I had not been able to do my entire life! The pain I had dealt with for years in my foot and leg was also gone.

Everyone was going crazy. They were so excited to see God moving, so they kept asking Him to bring more healing to me. After a little while, my mom said that God had told her He wanted my heart before He would heal me further.

I had always struggled with fully giving my life to Jesus. Somehow, I had held back—not willing to make that commitment. But in that moment, I knew I had to do it. I wanted to do it! So I accepted Jesus as my Savior.

When the service started, some of the leaders took me to another room to continue praying. My mom walked in, and Pastor Shawn asked me to cover my good eye—I've been blind in one eye since I was a baby. He asked me how many fingers he was holding up. I could see he had two fingers up, so I told him two. He held up five fingers, and I said five. My mom went crazy! I could see!

Then they prayed for my arm, that God would restore the muscles in it. And He did! I can now grip things and lift my arm over my head—both things I couldn't do before.

If anyone has any doubt about if God heals, I am living proof of the power of prayer.

By Elicia Hutchinson, 16, who attends The Father's House (Granite Falls Foursquare Church) in Granite Falls, Wash., as told to Shannon Linton, a content strategist in the Los Angeles area.

YASEER HANDALL

Accepting the Call to Serve Native Americans

My wife, Monique, and I were over 2,000 miles apart when we got the call to make a change in our lives. It wasn't the first time God had spoken to me.

I was saved at a birthday party for Pastor Larry A. Lee of The Gathering Place (San Bernardino 2 Foursquare Church) in San Bernardino, Calif. Pastor Larry asked me if I knew Jesus, and, by day's end, I had committed my life to God. God cured me of my addiction, and I promised to serve Him for the rest of my life.

I am originally from Mexico, and Monique is Native American. We began serving alongside Pastor Larry and sent missions teams to orphanages in impoverished parts of Mexico before settling in San Bernardino and starting Armonia (San Bernardino North Hispanic Foursquare Church). Just when everything was going well, we received a new calling. At Foursquare Connection 2010 in Atlanta, God told me that it was time to begin ministering to Native American nations. When I came home, Monique told me

TAMBIÉN EN ESPAÑOL. Vaya a la **página 37** para leer la historia de Yaseer Handall en español.

We wanted to be sure that it was His will, not ours, for us to go.

that God had spoken to her, as well, through a prayer vision.

We were confused about the road He was asking us to take. With a blooming Hispanic ministry, we were trying to understand both how and why God was speaking to us about change. But the Word says that if we listen diligently to His voice and are careful to do all that He asks, blessings will come upon us and overtake us.

Taking a year to build trust in the Native American community, we fasted and prayed to make sure we had heard God clearly. We wanted to be sure that it was His will, not ours, for us to go. Eight years into our Hispanic ministry, the Lord showed us it was time to leave.

Leaving our church—a congregation of 80, where our kids, Aidan and Aharon, were born, and where we served for 18 years—was difficult. But I believe the Lord facilitates the process in our hearts and helps us meld together when He places us in ministry positions.

God has used us in remarkable ways with the Native American people. We began by serving on the Navajo reservation and now are helping build a training center on the Soboba Indian Reservation in the foothills of California's San Jacinto Mountains in Riverside County. Our mission is to equip Native Americans to become pastors and teachers on their own reservations.

We have ministered to tribes in Arizona, Montana, New Mexico and North Dakota, and have been encouraged by the response, always relying on God to show us what to do and what not to do. We continue to rejoice always, pray without ceasing and give thanks in everything. It has been amazing to see the doors that are opened for us everywhere we go.

By Yaseer Handall, a Foursquare credentialed minister serving the Native American community in Southern California as a Foursquare Missions International missionary to the U.S., as told to Shant Istamboulian, a freelance writer involved in Sunland Foursquare Church in Sunland, Calif.



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JON SPELLMAN

Released Leadership to His Wife

About eight years ago, my wife, Tina, and I began talking about what her calling was—not her calling as an extension of me, but just her calling. It was weird to talk about; we do everything together.

Then I received a clear, prophetic word during a prayer service we were having: “Listen. You’re Moses; she’s Joshua. You need to hand this thing off.”

We sat down with Scott Reece, who was the Southeast District supervisor at the time, which made him my spiritual authority. He told me: “I didn’t have this in mind for you, but when you say it, something in me says ‘that’s right,’ and I believe that’s the Holy Spirit.” So he authorized the transition.

Those were definitely tumultuous times. Some in the leadership team were not immediately OK with a

woman senior pastor—and not just men, some women, too.

The Foursquare Church has always clearly articulated embracing women at every level of leadership. But somehow these folks weren’t OK with a woman senior pastor. That was shocking to me, disappointing and discouraging. In the Deep South, other church traditions are adamantly no women, and that influence is pervasive.

The idea of Pastor Tina, however, is a concept we’ve begun to work through in the community. The pastors in our local Adairsville alliance accept Tina because they respect her, and even a couple of the more traditional leaders are starting to call her “pastor.”

Though I would have wanted to envision the kind of global, missional community the Living Way Network is

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

JOSHUA 1:9 (NKJV)

becoming, I would never have gotten us here. The things we’re doing now are not my story—they’re Tina’s story.

In my new role, I’ve started to do work as a church-planting leader and the entrepreneurial mind behind Living Way’s Community Coffee Shop. I’m a highly relational person; I can get people excited about new things.

I also make sure to tell people what Tina’s doing at every opportunity. Church leadership is a man’s world for sure; so, as men, we have to vocally and publicly endorse and affirm women at every level of leadership when we recognize the call in their lives.

Being the leader of a missional community requires a high capacity for courage. With that in mind, my daily prayer is for Tina to be brave and courageous.

By Jon Spellman, a church-planting consultant and co-pastor of Living Way Network (Adairsville Foursquare Church) in Adairsville, Ga., as told to Rachel Chimits, a freelance writer in Reno, Nev.

READ MORE ABOUT TINA. Read how Senior Pastor Tina Spellman has shaken tradition to transform her community: 4sq.ca/tinaspellman.



PASTOR EKRAM DAWOD

The Power of Prayer

My journey began in Egypt, where I was born and grew up. As a teenager, I lived a normal life. Like many others, I went to the Coptic Orthodox Church, but inside I was dead to God.

One day, a man of God asked me to go to a meeting in one of the Orthodox churches. I decided to go because I felt in my soul that something great would happen this day. And I invited one of my best friends to come with me.

But I didn’t listen to the sermon, not at all. However, the Word of God touched the heart of my friend. After the sermon, I decided to leave, but my friend wanted to go to the front and pray. I said, “OK. Two minutes—go. I’ll wait.”

He went, and I waited. After 15 minutes, he was still praying. I walked up to the front to grab him, but then I saw tears in his eyes. So I began to pray traditionally, as I used to.

This time as I prayed, though, I saw a vision. A fire came from heaven toward me. I saw the hand of Jesus—just His hand—and I saw the fire of God through the hole in Jesus’ hand. Then I looked to myself and found my clothes were very dirty.

“Jesus, forgive me!” I cried out. “Give mercy to my soul.” After that everything in my life changed completely—completely!

I began to read through the Gospels, and God opened my eyes and my mind to the Bible. Two days later, I went to school and began to talk to my friends. Many of them were astonished. “Do you have a serious disease?” some asked. “Are you going to die?” However, many of them ended up also giving their lives to Christ.

Now I am an assistant pastor with Foursquare and help minister to the Arabic community in Los Angeles. In addition, I host a live two-hour program called *The Power of Prayer*, which is on the TBN Arabic channel every Thursday. Many Muslims call asking for prayer, and people call with amazing testimonies about how God is saving people.

Continually, we are praying for the Arabic people in Southern California. People need to be touched by the Holy Spirit, so please pray for us! Pray for the Arabic church here. We trust we will see the hand of God.

By Ekram Dawod, assistant pastor at Family Fellowship (Santa Fe Springs South Foursquare Church) in Los Angeles, as told to Rachel Chimits, a freelance writer in Reno, Nev.

After that everything in my life changed completely—completely!

Risking It All to Sing a New Song

BRYAN FINLEY

When I stepped into my role as lead pastor in 2011, I told people, “I don’t understand or know how to do everything, but I want to experience it all.” We had cultivated a safe space for risk-taking, so the ground was prepared for us to leap and learn one Sunday.

I had been teaching a series on the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Through the weeks, people had confided feelings of condemnation because they had not received this baptism, or had not released a spiritual language. That was the last thing I wanted—this was about a gift, not guilt.

I know the power of a personal prayer language. Praying in tongues has been a key strategy of the Spirit for the overcoming of intense anxiety attacks in my life. I had learned to rebuke the anxiety and build myself up by praying in the Spirit. I wanted others to experience this great gift.

On this Sunday, after teaching on the purposes of speaking in tongues, I was suddenly aware that the Holy Spirit wanted us to sing in tongues. My regular prayer life left me confident

that this was His voice, but still my mind raced with thoughts of fear and concern for those who could have one more chance to feel left out. Not only that, we had never done anything like this. What would the congregation think? How would they respond?

It was time to take a risk—better a faith-filled fail than fear-borne regret. I leaned over to Trevor, our worship leader, and told him, “We are supposed to sing in the Spirit.” His look was sufficient to tell me he had the same questions I had, but I watched as he took the leap with me and began singing in the Spirit. I joined him, and the band swiftly followed.

And then it happened. Sweet sounds of worship began bubbling up throughout the congregation. God’s people began singing by God’s Spirit, and Hope Chapel received the blessing of present obedience. The fruit was seen in the testimony of four people who released a spiritual language for the first time as we worshiped.

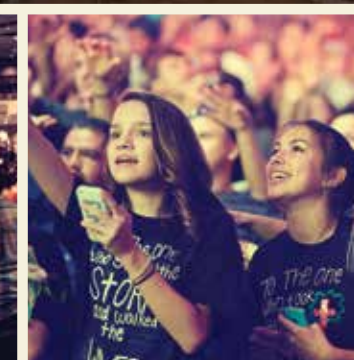
For some, the fear of “not doing it right” had prevented them for so long

I wanted others to experience this great gift.

from speaking it out. Because that moment was so sweet and sincere, they felt safe to “step out of the boat,” as Peter did, experiencing the miraculous while keeping their eyes on Jesus. What looked to me like an opportunity to encounter lack was the perfect moment for the Holy Spirit to shine.

More of God’s people were equipped to pray and intercede with dynamic power. I’m convinced that, when we take the time to attune our hearts to the Lord in prayer, we will pick up on these strategic moments of empowerment and transformation that stretch us and release His grace to the people we shepherd.

By Bryan Finley, lead pastor of Hope Chapel (Apex Foursquare Church) in Apex, N.C., as told to Jonathan Griffiths, a Foursquare credentialed minister.



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Step Out in Faith and Let God Heal



by Chip Crosby

We preach the healing power of God from our pulpits. But do we practice it? It's time that we, as pastors, take a step of faith and let God use us to administer His healing touch—and show our church members how they can do it, too.

I have seen many marvelous healings in over 25 years of pastoral ministry. And, as an adjunct professor at Life Pacific College (also called LIFE Bible College) for over 15 years, I had the privilege of teaching the subject in numerous classes.

I joyfully watched as my students stepped out in faith and got to see Jesus heal through them. But, stretched out through all those years, the number seemed few and far between. I longed for more.

As I was preaching through the book of Acts last year, I noted that Jesus gave the church His power and authority. Healing opened the doors for witness. Like Jesus, the early church prayed with authority, commanding disease, demons and even death to submit to the power of the kingdom of God. We need that kind of witness today in our jaded and skeptical world.

The Lord began to show me how to establish a healing ministry in church. First, I was not to wait for a special word, feeling or anointing, but simply to act on my authority as Christ's ambassador on Earth: "Just do it."

Second, I needed to take the lead and demonstrate this authority in front of people: "You lead; the people will follow."

The next Sunday, confronting the scary "what if nothing happens" feeling, I asked everyone who had any ailment to come forward, and I said that God was going to heal them. All

were healed when I commanded their maladies to be gone in Jesus' name! Bone spurs instantly dissolved; arthritis pain disappeared; a veteran was healed of a debilitating war injury.

My wife, Sandy, and I now can hardly wait to use our rediscovered authority with anyone we meet. We have seen over 60 healings in the past year. Others in our church are actively "experimenting" with their authority too.

Here is just one example: A month before Christmas, Sandy prayed for a checker at Home Depot, asking that her husband's heart condition would be healed by the time she got off work. The day before Christmas, we felt led to go see her and give her a Christmas card.

When she saw us, she excitedly told Sandy that her husband was healed the moment she prayed. Sandy told her that what Jesus did for them in healing her husband's body, He wanted to do in her heart. The checker then accepted the Lord. What a Christmas present!

God is leading us out into our community with His word and His power. It is amazing to watch all preconceptions about Jesus and His church disappear when God touches and heals. Yes, it was scary at first—but it is so easy now!

Chip and Sandy Crosby pastor Harbor Light Christian Fellowship (Costa Mesa Foursquare Church) in Costa Mesa, Calif. Chip was an adjunct professor at Life Pacific College from 1991 to 2007.

GET RESOURCED. Turn to **page 26** to find helpful prayer resources and insight from the your district supervisor.

Gain New Perspective.

You're a seasoned leader and you've achieved success in life. As an influencer, you desire catalytic change to advance your ideas to the next level. The Masters in Strategic Leadership (MASL) at Life Pacific College is designed to provide an integrated experience of practical theology and organizational studies. Our expert faculty will expose you to best practices in strategic leadership, management and innovation, and current trends that impact ministry. The program will challenge your assumptions, facilitate personal exploration, and transform leadership effectiveness. We're not preparing leaders for 1950. We're preparing them for 2020 and beyond.

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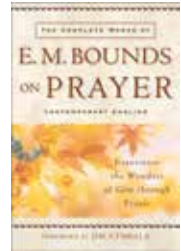


Alive.

SUPERVISOR SUGGESTIONS

Prayer Intervention

The average time a pastor prays each day is just 30 minutes, according to Ellis Research. Our 12 district supervisors offer helpful resources, thoughtful advice and motivating scripture to help kickstart your prayer life, starting today. Grab a book, pull up a “prayer chair” and see what happens when God shows up.



RON PINKSTON CENTRAL PACIFIC DISTRICT

Resource: E.M. Bounds’ books are deeply convicting. My prayer life was shallow at best before reading Bounds’ books. They convinced me that deep, heartfelt conversation with God takes us from the natural to the supernatural.
Prayer Time: Make time to pray. If you do not set aside adequate time, time will set you aside from the things of God.

Scripture: Matt. 6:5-14: “This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name’” (Matt. 6:9, NIV).

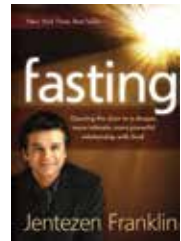


SAM ROCKWELL GATEWAY DISTRICT

Resource: *A Year With Dietrich Bonhoeffer* (HarperOne)—I use it as a devotional, but much of it addresses prayer.
Pray Daily: Build prayer into your daily life, and find a place that you can use exclusively for prayer and journaling.
Scripture: Psalms 4, 5 and 9. “In the morning, Lord, You hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before You and wait expectantly” (Ps. 5:3, NIV).

FERNANDO CASTILLO HAWAII DISTRICT

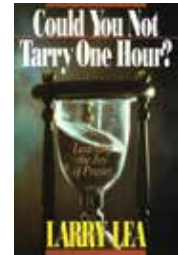
Resource: *Fasting: Opening the Door to a Deeper, More Intimate, More Powerful Relationship With God* by Jentezen Franklin (Charisma House). I have used this resource in our church, and it is very effective to create momentum in prayer and fasting.



Prayer Plan: Plan your day, week, month and year around prayer. If you don’t plan to pray, you will not pray. This is the only way to keep depending on God to do the work of the ministry.
Scripture: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight” (Prov. 3:5-6, NIV).

DAN MUNDT HEARTLAND DISTRICT

Resource: *Could You Not Tarry One Hour?* by Larry Lea (Charisma House). I have used this resource on the Lord’s Prayer for many years now.

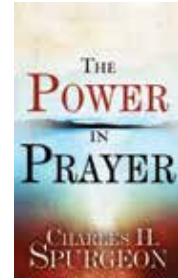


Fresh Prayers: What has worked for me is to choose a resource that is practical. Keep it fresh by changing up your prayer routines.

Scripture: The Lord’s Prayer (Matt. 6:9-13).

DAVID COFFEY MIDSOUTH DISTRICT

Resource: *The Power in Prayer* by Charles Spurgeon (Whitaker House) helped me understand why I needed to pray and gave me insight into the benefits of making it a priority in all aspects of my life.



Prayer Is Grace: Remind yourself often of the benefits of prayer; be motivated by grace, not legalism; find a good place and set prayer times; establish an order to your prayers; begin with realistic goals for your times of prayer.

Scripture: Jesus’ instructions to us on how to pray, including the Lord’s Prayer, in Matthew 6:5-15: “But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen” (Matt. 6:6, NIV).

GABE BARREIRO NORTH PACIFIC DISTRICT

Resource: *Devotional Classics: A Renovaré Resource for Spiritual Renewal*, edited by Richard J. Foster and James Bryan Smith (Zondervan), sifts through works from the great spiritual writers of the past as well as readings from contemporary spiritual leaders to create a guide that is indispensable for anyone looking for a deeper and more balanced spiritual life.



Prayer Is Invigorating: Never stop looking for new ways to reinvigorate your prayer life.

Scripture: “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17, NKJV).

PETER BONANNO NORTHEAST ATLANTIC DISTRICT

Resource: *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence (Whitaker House) helped me to learn to meditate on God throughout the day.

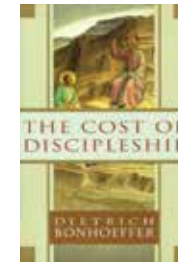


Prayer Is Listening: I believe that prayer is not just speaking to God, but more often it is listening to God and allowing Him to be present and form Himself within us. If we as pastors would take the time daily to be in the Word and then walk throughout the day listening, this is a much more consistent prayer life.

Scripture: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thess. 5:16-18, NKJV).

DAVE VEACH NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Resource: *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Touchstone) shares a great example of what a true disciple is and how we can affect change, even when all odds are against us.



Prayer Alignment: Prayer is an act of giving up control—something that most pastors don’t really like to do. As He must increase, I must decrease. Prayer is the act of being aligned to His will instead of just wanting Him to do our will. As you go to prayer, don’t

just give God your laundry list of “to-dos”—take time to listen and allow Him to align you into His will.

Scripture: “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (Jas. 5:16, NKJV).

BILL GROSS SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Resource: *Morning and Evening* by Charles Spurgeon (Crossway). Spurgeon’s writing offers deep and penetrating insights into the heart—the motives, passions and fears—of Christians.



Prayer Reminders: I wear four black wristbands to remind me to pray for my wife and each of my children, and use special ringtones on my phone.

Scripture: “One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple” (Psalm 27:4, NKJV).

DENNIS EASTER SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

Resource: *A Guidebook to Prayer* by MaryKate Morse (IVP Books). Morse, a professor at George Fox Evangelical Seminary, covers 24 different ways of praying using the Trinity as a framework. Her chapter on tongues and prayer languages is one of the most helpful presentations I’ve read.

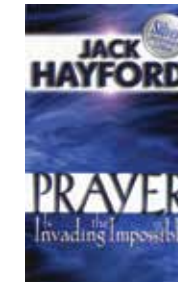


Prayer Chair: Identify a “prayer chair,” or a sacred space where you make room for God in your life. It’s where I show up to be fully attentive to God and spend more time listening than talking.

Scripture: I pray the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 multiple times each day to show solidarity with the body of Christ, and because it is the most comprehensive and concise teaching on prayer in the Scriptures.

KIMBERLY DIRMANN SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Resource: *Prayer Is Invading the Impossible* by Jack Hayford (Bridge-Logos). Pastor Jack—with clarity, depth and practical understanding—brings understanding about the God-intended power of prayer that truly changes things.
Prayer Is Powerful: Prayer is a precious and powerful gift from God that enables human beings to live supernaturally and to see the impossible become possible.



Scripture: “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him” (1 John 5:14-15, NKJV).

JUAN M. VALLEJO SOUTHWESTERN HISPANIC DISTRICT

Resource: *Could You Not Tarry One Hour?* by Larry Lea (Charisma House). When I found this book several years ago, it gave me a new perspective on the Lord’s Prayer and how to be able to increase multifaceted prayer time.

Pray Without Ceasing: Although we live a life of prayer without ceasing, it’s important to set a time of daily prayer. If we don’t put it on our agenda, it will be too easy for us to forget and not spend time alone in prayer with God.

Scripture: “If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land” (2 Chron. 7:14, NIV).

Encuentre recursos de oración disponibles en español en la página 40.

Praying According to God's Word

Whether you're interceding for a church member's physical healing, or asking for provision or direction for your ministry, praying in line with the Word of God is crucial.

1 John 5:14-15 says: "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." Isaiah prophesied: "Put Me in remembrance; let us contend together; state your case, that you may be acquitted" (Isa. 43:26).

As you engage in prayer and conversation with the Lord, the following verses can be a guide and encouragement concerning God's heart and will for various areas. After all, Jesus Himself stated, "And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive" (Matt. 21:22).

EMOTIONAL STRENGTH

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

Psalms 23:1-4 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Matthew 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Psalms 32:11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

PHYSICAL HEALING

Exodus 23:25 So you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you.

Exodus 15:26 I am the Lord who heals you.

Luke 6:19 And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all.

Psalms 103:2-3 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases.

Isaiah 53:5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

CALLING/DIRECTION

Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.

1 Samuel 23:2 (also 1 Samuel 30:8) David inquired of the Lord.

John 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

Jeremiah 29:12-13 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

PROVISION

Malachi 3:10 "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."

Philippians 4:19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Psalms 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

INTERCEDING FOR SALVATION

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

Hosea 2:6 Therefore, behold, I will hedge up your way with thorns, and wall her in, so that she cannot find her paths [toward destruction].

Matthew 9:37-38 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Acts 17:26-27 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.

All scripture is from the New King James Version of the Bible.

DOWNLOAD IT. Know someone who would find these scriptures helpful? Download a copy at 4sq.ca/prayerscripture.



¿Qué es la Oración?



por Daniel Prieto

La oración es hablar con Dios en el terreno de Dios. Orar es hablar con Dios en la dimensión espiritual en la que Dios se manifiesta hablando y haciendo. La oración es el alma volviéndose a Dios.

Como dijo el salmista: “A ti oh Jehová, levantaré mi alma” (Salmo 25:1).

Cuando elevamos nuestras almas a Dios en oración esto le da la oportunidad a Dios de hacer su voluntad en nosotros y a través de nosotros.

Orar es ponernos a la disposición de Dios. Dios siempre está a nuestro lado, pero nosotros no siempre estamos del suyo. Alguien dijo que cuando la persona ora, le da una oportunidad a Dios.

La oración es **comunión** con el Padre Celestial, es **confrontación** en el Padre contra el enemigo y es **intercesión** al Padre a favor de otros.

La oración es vital para nuestras vidas y ministerios como hijos y siervos de Dios y como Iglesia del Señor. Como Iglesia Cuadrangular entendemos que la oración no puede ser remplazada; es indispensable para la vida del creyente y para la misión de la Iglesia.

Nuestra esperanza es que el Espíritu Santo avive su vida de oración en todas sus dimensiones mientras conversamos en esta edición de *Foursquare Leader* acerca de la oración. Les invito y animo tanto a leer el desafío que el Pastor Jack Hayford hace a La Iglesia Cuadrangular a arrodillarnos y orar, como ser inspirados por las historias de gente cuyas vidas y ministerios fueron cambiados a través de la oración.

Daniel Prieto es el moderador de la Comisión Nacional Hispana y el coach misional y coordinador de multiplicación hispana para la Oficina Nacional de la Iglesia Cuadrangular en Los Ángeles, California.

La Cuestión de la Oración

Páginas 31-42

Hay muchas cosas buenas que la iglesia puede estar haciendo, pero fundamental entre ellas está el llamado a la oración. Lea un emotivo llamado del Pastor Jack Hayford, y de un vistazo a las maneras increíbles en las que Dios está trabajando en las iglesias Cuadrangulares que están involucrando a Dios y a sus comunidades en la oración.

EN ESTA EDICIÓN

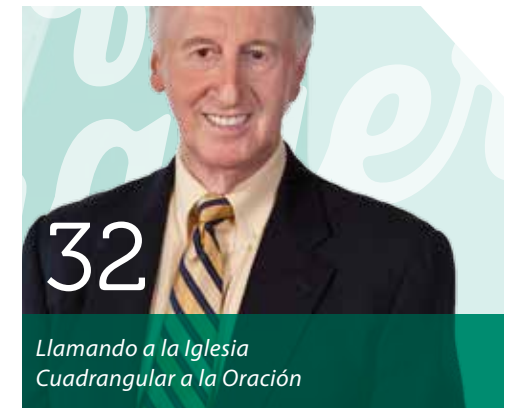
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Llamando a la Iglesia Cuadrangular a la Oración



Sanada en Respuesta a la Oración



Aceptando el Llamado a Servir a los Nativos Americanos



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La Iglesia Cuadrangular es miembro de la Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

Llamando a la Cuadrangular a la Oración

POR JACK HAYFORD

Estados Unidos está sufriendo una prolongada sequía espiritual. Mientras que la decadencia social y moral de esta hora pudiera entristecernos, el discernimiento de la razón principal de esta desgracia yace a la puerta de una iglesia que es todo menos una iglesia de oración.

Compartimos una parte de esa responsabilidad porque—de haber estado más conscientes de esto antes—no hubiéramos permitido el desmantelamiento progresivo de reuniones de oración extendidas, semanales, unidas y colectivas.

No estoy escribiendo para asignar culpabilidad, porque yo mismo he sido un aprendiz demasiado lento. Pero escribo con una invitación, como alguien que habla de parte del cielo y que comienza a resonar en muchos corazones.

Aunque el enemigo de la humanidad se está levantando brutalmente, sabiendo que le queda poco tiempo, el Espíritu Santo de Dios está presente. No está aquí para condenar, sino para convocar a los corazones de los creyentes con Su promesa, sabiduría y esperanza.

Por encima de todo, siento una esperanza, nacida de la oración que se levanta de mi corazón y una de amor y compromiso fraterno hacia pastores, líderes y miembros Cuadrangulares. Con esa esperanza, escribo con fervor, clamando por que se encienda un despertar a la oración.

No hay nada más inhabilitador que ensordecernos a la voz del Espíritu Santo.

Oren conmigo para que nos unamos a liderar a nuestras congregaciones de rodillas. Guiemos a la gente a un estilo de vida de intercesión dirigido por la Palabra de Dios (1 Timoteo 2:1-2).

A menos que seamos bíblicamente renovados en este llamado primario, el *primero de todos* los llamados del cuerpo de Cristo, nuestro *primer* llamado como creyentes será sacrificado en el altar de la pereza, y el espíritu de la época correrá aún más desenfrenado.

Afirmemos que no existe tal cosa como la escuela antigua cuando se trata del llamado del Nuevo Testamento a la iglesia a una vida de oración. Siempre es un patrón contemporáneo de espiritualidad bíblica que nada—ni aún la mejor programación, producciones o estrategias tácticas—pueden substituir.

NUESTRO FUNDAMENTO ESPIRITUAL

La oración es el fundamento y la fuente de poder espiritual, avance y avivamiento; la oración que prevalece, tanto a nivel local como nacional, es lo que nosotros y los Estados Unidos necesitamos.

Dada esta situación, mi esperanza es que la Iglesia Cuadrangular pueda “levantarse en esta hora” y convertirla en una “restauración de los antiguos puntos emblemáticos” de victorias de antaño. Que, como una comunidad unida y decidido compañerismo, una gran mayoría de pastores y congregaciones den la bienvenida, sin disculparse, al Espíritu Santo en medio de ellos.

Tales reuniones de oración bien ordenadas derribarán fortalezas de las tinieblas y liberarán ríos de “agua viva” y bendiciones de avivamiento. La oración sólida, audaz y de fe es oración de “vanguardia”, específicamente, un estilo de vida que penetra la oscuridad de la ceguera espiritual y trae la misericordia y la liberación de parte de Dios.

Este es el tipo de oración que quebranta la oscuridad y hace retroceder la clase de desafío espiritual que enfrentamos con la plaga de maldad y rebelión en nuestra nación.

CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA 34

LA PREOCUPACIÓN DE JESÚS POR LA IGLESIA DE LOS ÚLTIMOS DÍAS

Alguien me preguntó recientemente: "Algunas personas piensan de los años 1950s y 1960s como la época dorada de la iglesia en Estados Unidos, pero ¿existieron inconvenientes en el hecho de que la iglesia fuera socialmente respetable?"

Respondí: "No pienso de la iglesia siendo "respetable" como un inconveniente. Sin embargo, una iglesia socialmente cómoda no ha producido históricamente una iglesia espiritualmente apasionada".

Las cartas de Jesús a la iglesia en Apocalipsis contienen una introducción similar, donde Cristo plantea su conocimiento y advertencia a cada congregación y sus líderes. Su amor por todos ellos nunca está en duda, pero sus preocupaciones ondean banderas rojas de advertencia para todos los que lideramos hoy:

¡Ustedes que tienen oídos para oír, oigan lo que el Espíritu Santo está diciendo!

Jesús señala que muchas de estas iglesias están distraídas o han descuidado su llamado valores y misión central. Las distracciones son las mismas hoy; las congregaciones están:

- descansando en sus laureles, o
- impresionadas con la percepción de su propio estatus, o
- cegadas a su pérdida de enfoque en la Palabra y el Espíritu, o
- satisfaciendo su propia carnalidad y perdiendo claridad e integridad de corazón

El asunto es claro: ¡El Espíritu Santo está buscando hallar—y hablar—a los que tienen oídos para oír!

Si usted es un pastor, líder o miembro de una iglesia Cuadrangular, soy un consiervo con usted. Los invito a unirse a una multitud de los que están sintonizados sin vergüenza para escuchar, obedecer y responder como siervos de Cristo llenos del Espíritu Santo. Esto es vital por dos razones cruciales:

No hay nada más inhabilitador que ensordecernos a la voz del Espíritu Santo.

No hay nada que entumece más al alma que no responder a Su llamado.

En esta hora crítica, no podemos atrevernos a eludir las implicaciones de "escuchar" al Espíritu Santo. No nos podemos atrever a comprometer sus intenciones para nuestra comunidad de fe como gente llena y guiada por el Espíritu Santo.

LA PREGUNTA CLAVE

La pregunta en este momento de la historia resuena de los labios del Señor: "Cuando venga el Hijo del Hombre, ¿encontrará fe en la tierra?" (Lucas 18: 8, NVI). Específicamente, ¿la fe que responde al llamado a levantarse en oración!

Al igual que con cualquier nación, la batalla por el alma de Estados Unidos sólo se ganará con las armas de la guerra espiritual. Estas armas—empuñadas por gente reunida de forma sistemática en reuniones de oración para conducir intercesión sólida y bíblicamente ordenada—aún necesitan ser restauradas en La Iglesia Cuadrangular en Estados Unidos.

Así es, si el pueblo de Dios no se reúne de común acuerdo, de rodillas, ¿quién más va a "derribar argumentos y toda altivez que se levanta contra el conocimiento de Dios, llevando cautivo todo pensamiento a la obediencia a Cristo"? (2 Corintios 10:5, Reina Valera 1960)



Él está dispuesto a responder con su mano abierta de bendición ilimitada si, bajo su dirección de autoridad, tomamos nuestro lugar y avanzamos en oración.

La iglesia es la única agencia en la tierra con acceso a esta promesa. El cielo está esperando. Dios ha indicado su elección soberana: *Él está dispuesto a responder con su mano abierta de bendición ilimitada si, bajo su dirección de autoridad, tomamos nuestro lugar y avanzamos en oración.*

Hoy debemos recordar la promesa que Dios hizo a Salomón hace mucho tiempo: "Si se humillare mi pueblo... y oraren... entonces yo oiré desde los cielos, y perdonaré sus pecados, y sanaré su tierra" (2 Crónicas 7:14, Reina Valera 1960).

Sin embargo, debemos preguntarnos: "¿Dónde puede encontrar Dios gente que se alinee con sus condiciones?" Esta no puede ser una propuesta a medio camino. Su Palabra prometida solamente se torna en una realidad donde las personas le dan la bienvenida a su Espíritu Santo y en Sus términos.

ALINEÁMONOS CON EL ESPÍRITU

Quiero honrar la sabiduría, buscada y aplicada, a través de la cual nuestros líderes han traído ajustes administrativos que, como movimiento, hemos implementado de manera pragmática en los últimos años.

Sin embargo, independientemente lo que hayamos sabido y dignamente realineado estructuralmente, nuestra definición

de *alineación de intercesión local* aún tiene que "escuchar lo que el Espíritu dice a las iglesias."

Necesitamos revisar la confrontación de Jesús a líderes que se ocuparon con obligaciones religiosas, pero descuidaron el mandamiento de Dios: "Porque mi casa será llamada casa de oración para todos los pueblos" (Isaías 56: 7, NVI). Abandonemos toda pasividad indulgente de auto justificarnos al negar el enfoque de nuestro Señor sobre la prioridad de la oración.

Ninguna sociedad debiera ser vista como más allá de la esperanza de avivamiento, la recuperación de la cordura o el renacimiento de multitudes—si está encajada de congregaciones en todas partes donde la Luz del mundo brilla aún.

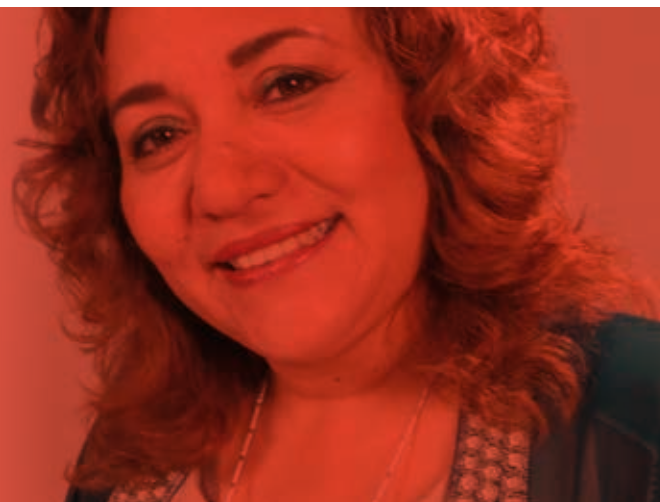
El llamado divino de Dios dirigido a La Iglesia Cuadrangular en Estados Unidos no es diferente al proclamado al cuerpo de Cristo más amplio. Demasiados han intercambiado lo interpersonal por lo transitorio, lo ingenioso por lo costoso, lo contemporáneo por lo eterno y la sensibilidad hacia el buscador por la gerencia complaciente al hombre.

Nuestro *punto de referencia inicial* debe partir sobre nuestras rodillas, en nuestro guardarropas y en los altares del arrepentimiento. ¡No se requiere de muebles nuevos, pero sí de una pasión lista y renovada!

Reporte adicional fue proporcionado por Ken Walker.

ISABEL PLEITES

Sanada en Respuesta a la Oración



La oración abrió la puerta a una vida con propósito.

POR MELISA PRIETO

A los tres años de edad me apareció una fuerte enfermedad en la piel. A medida que fui creciendo, mis padres me llevaron con los mejores médicos de Guatemala y estos decían: "No hay cura para ella". A los siete años empecé a notar que yo no era igual a los demás. Además del dolor y la picazón en mi piel, sufría el rechazo de la gente y mi corazón empezó a endurecerse. Mis padres siempre le pedían a Dios por mí. Un día alguien les predicó el evangelio y se entregaron al Señor. Al poco tiempo, a mis catorce años, nos invitaron a una reunión del evangelista Yiye Ávila.

Por aquel entonces era más difícil vivir con esa enfermedad. Cuando llegamos a la reunión, el predicador empezó a hablar: "Cristo te sana hoy; recibe a Jesús no solo para la

salud de tu cuerpo sino la de tu alma". Yo escuchaba pero no quería bajar. Continuó diciendo: "Acepta a Jesús en tu corazón y tu vida cambiará y me serás testigo en todo el mundo y predicarás el evangelio". Mientras pensaba que aquel llamado era solo para los demás, el predicador insistió por tercera vez: "El Señor me envió y él te quiere sanar. Solamente levanta tu mano y baja".

En ese momento oré y dije: "Señor, si eres real, quita esta picazón, esta amargura y este dolor que están en mí porque no soy feliz". Empecé a llorar y le entregué mi vida al Señor. Esa noche Dios sanó mi corazón aunque el dolor desesperante continuó. Pero al levantarme a la mañana siguiente y verme en el espejo, vi a la mujer más linda que jamás había visto en la vida. Era yo... ¡estaba sana! No tenía lesión alguna desde mi coronilla hasta la punta de mis pies. ¡Brinqué, lloré... no tenía más dolor!

Después de aquel día, todo el pueblo me miraba y me decía: "Usted es la muchacha que estaba enferma, ¿verdad?" Yo les contestaba: "¡Cristo me sanó!" Y desde ese entonces, le he servido al Señor y he creído en su poder. Soy conferencista, visito orfanatos y cárceles, tengo un Doctorado en Teología y este año estoy plantando la iglesia Todo Para Cristo en Santa Clarita, California, junto a mi esposo. Les animo a todos a avivar el fuego del altar de Dios porque en Él hay sanidad. El Señor es el mismo ayer, hoy y siempre.

Isabel Pleites es una ministra Cuadrangular ordenada que está plantando All for Christ (Todo para Cristo), una iglesia Cuadrangular en Santa Clarita, California. Su historia le fue narrada a Melisa Prieto, asistente administrativa del Distrito Hispano del Suroeste en La Crescenta, California.



YASEER HANDALL

Aceptando el Llamado a Servir a los Nativos Americanos

MI esposa Monique y yo, nos encontrábamos separados por más de 2.000 millas de distancia, cuando recibimos el llamado de hacer un cambio en nuestras vidas. No era la primera vez que Dios me hablaba.

Fui salvo en una fiesta de cumpleaños en honor del Pastor Larry A. Lee de la iglesia The Gathering Place (Iglesia Cuadrangular de San Bernardino 2) en San Bernardino, California. El Pastor Larry me preguntó si conocía a Jesús, y para el final del día, había entregado mi vida a Dios. Dios me sanó de mi adicción y prometí servirle por el resto de mi vida.

Yo soy originalmente de México y Monique es una nativa americana. Comenzamos a servir junto al Pastor Larry y enviamos equipos de misiones a orfanatos en sectores empobrecidos de México antes de establecernos en San Bernardino y comenzar Armonía (Iglesia Cuadrangular North Hispanic de San Bernardino). Justo cuando todo iba bien, recibimos un llamado. En la Conexión Cuadrangular del 2010 en Atlanta, Dios me dijo que era el momento de comenzar a ministrar a las naciones nativas americanas. Cuando llegué a casa, Monique me dijo que Dios le había hablado a ella también a través de una visión en oración.

Queríamos estar seguros de que era su voluntad y no la nuestra que fuéramos.

Nos hallábamos confundidos sobre el camino que Él nos pedía tomar. Con un floreciente ministerio hispano, tratábamos de entender cómo y por qué Dios nos hablaba de cambio. Pero la Palabra dice que si escuchamos diligentemente su voz y somos cuidadosos en hacer todo lo que Él pide, las bendiciones vendrán sobre nosotros y nos alcanzarán.

Tomando un año para construir la confianza con la comunidad de nativos americanos, ayunamos y oramos para asegurarnos de haber oído a Dios con claridad. Queríamos estar seguros de que era su voluntad y no la nuestra que fuéramos. Ocho años tras iniciar nuestro ministerio hispano, el Señor nos mostró que era tiempo de irnos.

Dejar nuestra iglesia, una congregación de 80, donde nuestros niños, Aidan y Aharon habían nacido y donde servimos durante 18 años, fue difícil. Pero creo que el Señor facilita el proceso en nuestros corazones y nos ayuda a juntarnos cuando Él nos coloca en posiciones ministeriales.

Dios nos ha usado de maneras extraordinarias en medio del pueblo nativo americano. Comenzamos sirviendo en la Reservación Navajo y ahora estamos ayudando a construir un centro de capacitación en la Reserva Indígena Soboba en las faldas de las montañas de San Jacinto en el condado de Riverside, California. A través de Arise (Levántate), nuestra misión ha de equipar a los nativos americanos para convertirse en pastores y maestros en sus propias reservaciones.

Hemos ministrado a tribus en Arizona, Montana, Nuevo México y Dakota del Norte, y hemos sido animados por la respuesta, siempre dependiendo en Dios para que nos muestre qué hacer y qué no hacer. Seguimos siempre gozosos, orando sin cesar y dando gracias en todo. Ha sido sorprendente ver las puertas que se abren para nosotros doquiera que .

Por Yaseer Handall, ministro con credenciales Cuadrangulares y representante de misiones del Distrito Hispano del Suroeste, según lo relatado a Shant Istamboulian, escritor independiente involucrado con Sunland Foursquare Church en Sunland, California.

JON
SPELLMAN

Habilitó el Liderazgo en su Esposa

Hace como ocho años mi esposa Tina y yo comenzamos a conversar sobre cuál era su llamado personal—y no su llamado como una extensión mía. Era extraño hablar del tema ya que todo lo hacemos juntos.

En una reunión de oración recibí una clara palabra y profética de parte de Dios que decía: “Escucha, tú eres Moisés y ella es Josué. Necesitas pasarle esto”.

Nos sentamos con el entonces supervisor del Southeast District, Scott Reece, lo que lo convertía en mi autoridad espiritual. Me dijo, “No tenía esto en mente para ti, pero al escucharte, algo dentro de mí dice “así es” y creo que proviene del Espíritu Santo”. Así que autorizó la transición.

Aquellos fueron definitivamente tiempos tumultuosos. Algunos miembros del equipo de liderazgo estaban en desacuerdo con tener una mujer como pastor principal—y no sólo hombres, sino algunas mujeres también.

La Iglesia Cuadrangular siempre ha expresado claramente que abraza el liderazgo de la mujer en todo nivel. Pero de alguna manera estas personas no estaban de acuerdo con tener a una mujer como pastor principal. Me quedé asombrado, decepcionado y desanimado. En el sureste del país otras tradiciones eclesíásticas están rotundamente opuestas a mujeres en el liderazgo y parece que tal influencia es penetrante.

Sin embargo la idea de la Pastora Tina es un concepto que hemos comenzado a trabajar en la comunidad. Los pastores de nuestra alianza local en Adairsville han aceptado a Tina porque la respetan y hasta un par de líderes de los más tradicionales están empezando a llamarla pastor.

Aunque me hubiese encantado ver la clase de comunidad global y misional en que se está convirtiendo la iglesia The Living Way Network, sé que nunca

“¿No te lo he ordenado yo? ¡Sé fuerte y valiente! No temas ni te acobardes, porque el Señor tu Dios estará contigo dondequiera que vayas.”

JOSUÉ 1:9 (LBLA)

les habría llevado a este punto. Las cosas que estamos haciendo ahora no son mi historia—son la historia de Tina.

En mi nuevo rol he empezado a trabajar como líder de plantación de iglesias y como la mente empresarial detrás de la cafetería comunitaria The Living Way. Soy una persona altamente relacional y puedo hacer que la gente se entusiasme con ideas nuevas.

También me aseguro de comunicarle a la gente lo que Tina está haciendo en cada oportunidad. El liderazgo de la iglesia es por cierto un mundo de hombres; así que, como hombres, tenemos que vocal y públicamente respaldar y afirmar a las mujeres en cada nivel de liderazgo cuando reconocemos el llamado en sus vidas.

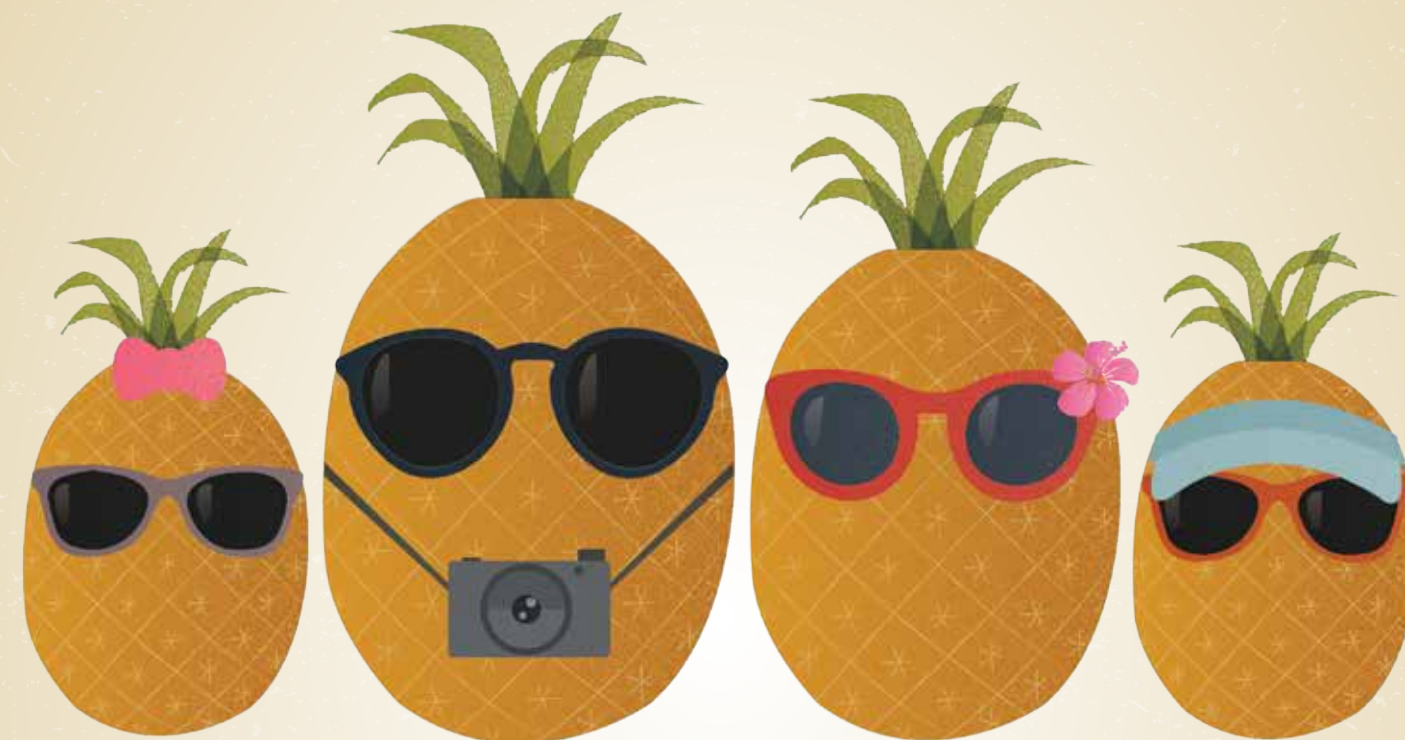
Ser líder de una comunidad misional requiere una gran capacidad de valentía. Con ello en mente, mi oración diaria es que Tina sea fuerte y valiente.

Por Jon Spellman, un consultor de plantación de iglesias y co-pastor de Living Way Network (Iglesia Cuadrangular de Adairsville) en Adairsville, Georgia, como le fuese narrado a Rachel Chimits, una escritora independiente en Reno, Nevada.

LEA MÁS SOBRE TINA. Lea cómo la Pastora Principal Tina Spellman ha sacudido la tradición para transformar a su comunidad por Internet en 4sq.ca/tinaspellman.

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Recursos y Escrituras para la Oración

El tiempo promedio que un pastor invierte en oración es tan solo 30 minutos, de acuerdo con Ellis Research. Seis líderes Cuadrangulares ofrecen útiles recursos, valiosos consejos y motivadores pasajes de la Escritura para ayudarlo a iniciar su vida de oración.



KIMBERLY DIRMANN
SUPERVISORA DE DISTRITO, SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Recurso: *Invada Lo Imposible* por Jack W. Hayford (Editorial Desafío). ¡Con claridad, profundidad y aplicación práctica el Pastor Jack trae comprensión sobre el poder de la oración previsto por Dios que cambia verdaderamente las cosas!

Consejos para la Oración:

La oración es un don precioso y poderoso de Dios que nos permite vivir sobrenaturalmente y ver lo imposible hacerse posible.

Escritura: “Ésta es la confianza que tenemos al acercarnos a Dios: que si pedimos conforme a su voluntad, él nos oye. Y si sabemos que Dios oye todas nuestras oraciones, podemos estar seguros de que ya tenemos lo que le hemos pedido” (1 Juan 5:14-15, NVI).



JUAN M. VALLEJO
DISTRITO HISPANO DEL SUROESTE

Recurso: *¿Ni Tan Sólo Una Hora?* por Larry Lea (Grupo Nelson). Cuando encontré este libro hace varios años, me dio una nueva perspectiva sobre la oración del Padre Nuestro y cómo poder aumentar el tiempo de oración de forma multifacética.

Consejos para la Oración: Aunque vivamos una vida de oración sin cesar, es importante apartar un tiempo diario para orar. Si no lo ponemos en nuestra agenda, será muy fácil olvidarnos y no pasar tiempo en oración a solas con Dios.

Escritura: “Si se humillare mi pueblo, sobre el cual mi nombre es invocado, y oren, y busquen mi rostro, y se convirtieren de sus malos caminos; entonces yo oiré desde los cielos, y perdonaré sus pecados, y sanaré su tierra” (2 Crónicas 7:14, RVA).



TED VAIL
DIRECTOR DE MINISTERIOS URBANOS Y MULTICULTURALES DE LA IGLESIA CUADRANGULAR

Recurso: YWAM Prayer Journal (English only) (YWAM Publishing). Este calendario /diario ofrece una guía de oración sobre grupos humanos y naciones con información sobre necesidades clave con énfasis tanto diario como mensual, con espacio para escribir y un plan diaria de lectura bíblica.

Consejos para la Oración: Como pastores y líderes, necesitamos espacio sagrado y seguro para Dios. Si bien necesitamos tiempos designados para la oración, también necesitamos lugares específicamente dedicados en los que no distraernos.

Escritura: La Oración del Señor (Mateo 6:9-13) no sólo es una oración para mí, pero una plantilla para una vida de oración más completa.



GUILLERMO PUPPO
PASTOR PRINCIPAL DE CIUDAD DE DIOS (IGLESIA CUADRANGULAR DEL SUR DE LAKEWOOD) EN DENVER, COLORADO

Recurso: *Viviendo Los Salmos* por Charles R. Swindoll (Casa de Bautista de Publicaciones). Muchas veces leemos los salmos como textos de estudio, cuando en realidad son cantos de amor que expresan los sentimientos más intensos del corazón. Este libro nos ayuda a ver el lado humano de los salmos con palabras maravillosas de guía e inspiración para nuestros tiempos de oración.

Consejos para la Oración: Saber que Dios está en control y no yo. A veces es necesario hablar, clamar, interceder—pero si la oración es conversación, entonces es necesario también saber callar, escuchar y esperar a que Dios hable. En el silencio le entregamos el control a Dios. El acto de entregar el control de nuestra oración a Dios es un acto de humildad y fe.

Escritura: Los Salmos



GABE BARREIRO
SUPERVISOR DE DISTRITO, NORTH PACIFIC DISTRICT

Recurso: *Clásicos Devocionales: A Renovaré Resource for Spiritual Renewal* (English only), editado por Richard J. Foster y James Bryan Smith (Zondervan), examina los escritos de los grandes escritores espirituales del pasado, así como lecturas de los líderes espirituales contemporáneos, para crear una guía indispensable para cualquier persona en busca de una vida espiritual más íntima y equilibrada.

Consejos para la Oración: Nunca deje de buscar nuevas formas de revitalizar su vida de oración.

Escritura: “Oren sin cesar” (1 Tesalonicenses 5:17, NVI).



JONATHAN HALL
REPRESENTANTE GLOBAL Y COORDINADOR DE MINISTERIOS GLOBALES DE MISIONES CUADRANGULARES INTERNACIONALES

Recurso: *Pray for the World* por Operation World (InterVarsity Press). Esta herramienta increíble para orar por las naciones está disponible en Kindle.

Consejos para la Oración:

La oración es un estilo de vida, no sólo un programa o agenda. Debemos tomar una postura de oración y dependencia de Dios.

Escritura: “Por eso, confiésense unos a otros sus pecados, y oren unos por otros, para que sean sanados. La oración del justo es poderosa y eficaz” (Santiago 5:16, NVI).



Dime Con Quién Oras



por Eduardo Boga

¿Puedes imaginar a los pastores de un sector junto a sus iglesias reunidos mensualmente para orar e interceder por su sector?

A principios del 2003, algunos pastores del suroeste de Los Ángeles que se reunían regularmente para convivir y compartir experiencias, sintieron una intensificación de la guerra espiritual en contra de sus congregaciones y de la presión espiritual negativa en sus comunidades que limitaba la libertad espiritual y afectaba su crecimiento.

Estos pastores fueron movidos a unir fuerzas en oración colectiva y comenzar a hacer vigiliyas mensuales para orar por sus iglesias y comunidades. Cada mes, las Vigiliyas Del Reino se realizan en una iglesia diferente del sector hasta cubrir las a todas con oración. Cada vigilia tiene el propósito de bendecir a la iglesia local a través de la unidad de las varias congregaciones reunidas para orar por la familia pastoral, su liderazgo, su congregación y también hacer guerra espiritual contra las fortalezas espirituales que operan en su ciudad para estorbar el avance del Reino.

Hoy, las Vigiliyas Del Reino se han extendido a tres sectores del Distrito Hispano del Suroeste. Los pastores que participan con sus congregaciones en las vigiliyas, testifican del impacto que ha tenido la oración colectiva para unir al

El Pastor Eduardo Boga es el pastor principal de la iglesia El Calvario (Iglesia Cuadrangular Ontario Hispanic) en Rancho Cucamonga, California.

pueblo de Dios, derrumbar fortalezas espirituales y atraer a las almas perdidas.

Creo en el poder de la oración unida para ganar nuestras ciudades para Cristo. En la Iglesia Primitiva vemos a los discípulos de Jesús orando juntos con fervor y devoción (Hechos 1:14; 2:1, 44; 4:23-24, 31-33) y el evangelio se expandió en forma explosiva por todo el mundo. Cuando decidamos orar juntos con fervor y devoción y luchar juntos en el ámbito espiritual, también experimentaremos una expansión acelerada del evangelio.

Imagina el impacto en tu ciudad, en tu sector y en toda la nación. Quiero motivarte hoy a buscar la unidad de tu región a través de la oración con otros pastores y sus congregaciones. Compartan sus cargas y reúnanse para orar y adorar en diferentes iglesias de su localidad. Invoquemos el poder de Dios para ver al fuego del Espíritu Santo arrasar con toda oposición y liberar su gracia salvadora en toda nuestra tierra.

La oración es la fuerza que impulsa a la iglesia a avanzar, conquistar y regir la tierra con el poderoso Evangelio del Reino.

¡Somos más fuertes cuando oramos juntos!



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—Matthew 25:40 NIV*

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