

Why not consider a regular planned pastoral prayer?

WHAT HELPED ME DO THIS

> The thoughts on the first page.

> P-R-A-Y Planning the prayer within the same progression each time:

Praise (Surely important to be strong.)

Repent (A quiet moment when people confess before the leader quotes God on forgiveness.)

Ask (For needs, and nations, and the church, and people, and the spread of the gospel.)

Yield (To the Lord, and the theme of the service or text. Why not?)

It not only spells pray and thus is memorable as a plan for families and Sunday and home ABF-type, but it helps us to include four major ingredients of a strong and biblical prayer.

It also cancels stream-of-consciousness praying, where the one leading just prays what comes to mind at the moment. Surely such praying is good for daily living, but here we are talking about a planned worship service.

(P-R-A-Y is great for families over dinner -- the pattern takes fear away for some. And when Sunday and home ABF-type groups and discipleship groups use this it does away with all the praying being about accidents and surgeries. Perhaps check the guide on my website.)

> Working closely with the worship leader for the best placement of the prayer.

> The comments of worshippers, who often said the prayer helped them worship, which happens to be a lead purpose of the service.

This was even more true when they were involved in the prayer. For instance, occasionally in the Ask part, people were invited to stand to represent themselves or someone they love as we pray for God's grace for healing....or to represent someone away in college or in the armed forces or similar...or to stand for themselves or someone they love, related to a spiritual decision.

> Praying as a married couple. Here Jeanine and I used P-R-A-Y as a guide also -- each praying two sentences, back and forth, of praise, then one of us calling for the quiet confession and the other saying God's promise of forgiveness, then each of us asking for God's answers for needs, and finally the Yield.

This modeled marriage and put both genders at the lectern, and was so positive.

Please consider.