



“Serve Christ” by “Serving the City”- *together*

Friday, January 22, 2010

A few lines of encouragement as we approach February 17th!

Greetings Pastors and Prayer Leaders!

Last year in Linn County we had 2,093 prayer guides out!

We believe that much of what we were able to do in our communities throughout the year was a direct result of united prayer!

The following ideas on how to use this guide even more effectively in 2010 came from 23 STC Prayer Leaders representing 18 different ministries!

If you find ONE nugget to use in the following list, it will have been more than worthwhile to send this note to you. Note: these ideas came from 25 STC prayer leaders representing 18 different ministries.

1. Wednesday night children’s ministry (There is a free downloadable children’s version!
<http://www.waymakers.org/index.php?p=sgftc&pp=children>)
2. Sunday School classes:
 - a. The guide could be discussed during the entire class period (success story from last year!
 - b. The guide could be used for the first 10 to 15 minutes of the as a warm up.
3. Groups of 3 or more:
 - a. Email groups – what did you ‘hear’ today?
 - b. Triad calling group – one of the individuals needs to have conference call feature.
 - c. Existing accountability/support/study/impact groups
 - d. New people who can make a short term commitment! Who knows, they may continue!
4. Ministry moments during weekend services:
 - a. Highlight the weeks theme
 - b. Share one personal story from one of the pages
5. Blogging inside each ministry
6. Community blog – we will advise on this.
7. **Facebook** – suggestion: STC might have a temporary **Facebook** page just for 40 days? We will advise.
8. Pastors: If you have not prepared a *Lenten Series* as such; the seven (7) weekly themes with daily topics would be a good resource. In addition, on their web site is a page with message ideas for your review.
9. For more information go to the STC web page on prayer at: <http://www.servethecity.org/prayer.htm>

Encouragement from Boise Idaho from 2009:

Last year Treasure The Valley (Serve The City counterpart) distributed 4,300 prayer guides in February. At the end of the year the following numbers graphically portray what can happen when we pray in unity.

Congregations providing prayer or care or share training opportunities:

Prayer:	17 congregations provided 116 prayer training opportunities	Extreme!
Care:	15 congregations provided 131 care training opportunities	Outstanding!
Share:	17 congregations provided 160 share training opportunities	Amazing!

Results: 2,200 church members **actively** involved in praying-caring-sharing in 2009.
 Approximately 380 outreach activities of all sizes.
 Just over 900 people received Christ!

At \$1.50 a prayer guide and a small investment of time with distribution, wouldn't you say it's worth it?

“Seek the Welfare of the City where I have sent you” Jeremiah 29:7

A Mission America Partner – Serving His One Church – Many congregations but One Church

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A few tips from WayMakers!

These can be found at <http://www.waymakers.org/index.php?p=sgftc&pp=mobilizing>

Use some of these ideas to encourage your people:

- ▣ Remind the people of your church that there are many thousands of others around the world who are praying with the same topics and scriptures. You may know of other churches in your city or region which are using the prayer guide.
- ▣ Ask participants to share with others what they may be hearing from God as they pray.
- ▣ Demonstrate how flexible and easy-to-use the prayer guides can be. With booklets in hand, direct any group to actually use some of the ideas. Day 8 is a good example. Point out that one person can read the scriptures; others can be turned loose to pray; then everyone can join together at the conclusion.
- ▣ Check with small-group leaders about how they are utilizing the prayer guides personally or in small groups.
- ▣ Continue to offer the booklets for sale. As people talk among themselves about *Seek God For The City*, more people will want to obtain a copy.
- ▣ Provide weekly reminders in your bulletin and from the pulpit, if possible. Use that time to mention the weekly theme, and for what part of the world we'll be praying. Use the ready-made bulletin inserts as reminders, not replacements, for the prayer calendar.
- ▣ It's possible that your pastor will want to consider preaching from one of the biblical passages that will be prayed during the week following Sunday's message.
- ▣ Let people know that their prayers have great value as they're praying beyond personal concerns, toward God's promises for spiritual awakening in their communities.
- ▣ Find ways to clarify that we are praying toward biblical hope, which doesn't compare to sentimental ideas, political agendas or merely wishful thinking!
- ▣ Find out which people have been trying some of the prayerwalking ideas. Get them to tell others about their efforts.
- ▣ Establish a forty-day prayer chain, in which one church or one family takes on the assignment to fast and pray during one of the forty days. Even if only a couple of dozen people participate (taking more than one day); their dedication speaks volumes of encouragement to others. It makes a statement that your church is the kind of church that fasts and prays with persistence.
- ▣ Have people put personal names and dates beside their prayers for the different subsets of your population mentioned every day (such as native peoples, pastors, law enforcement officials, educators, or health care workers). Consider approaching some of these people on the day their subset is mentioned to let them know that many people are focusing prayers for them. You may even want to single out some of the people in these groups for a special time of prayer on a Sunday morning during the 40-day prayer effort.

May God bless you and the people of your church and city.

The Staff at WayMakers!