

Prayer Transformation Ministries Email Newsletter – Teaching for 5/9/07

Taking God at His Word

I'm betting the farm on repentance!

That was the response of Steve Harrison (Bethany Urban Development) after attending a Transformation Summit in Kansas City last November. As Steve processed all that he heard and learned at the conference, he reflected on all the “good ministry things” that have happened in the South Minneapolis area. But he also began to understand that there’s so much more that God wants to do in redeeming this dark urban area. Steve decided to devote himself to this truth: *That transformation is only going to come through repentance of God’s people and desperation for His manifest presence.*

So Steve came back to some pastors in South Minneapolis and shared his heart about the importance of repentance. Many of these pastors have prayed together for years, but they agreed that their desperation was growing. On May 1, they committed to join in fasting and prayer together over the next 21 days, determined to take God at His Word that He *will respond* to brokenness, humility, and repentance! They are participating in a movement called *The Divine Experiment* (www.thedivineexperiment.com).

Desperate Hearts for Communities

The Divine Experiment was originally launched among pastors in North Omaha, a community of deep spiritual darkness. As the North Omaha pastors fasted and prayed together, they discovered God was doing a deep work in their own hearts. As “the experiment” continued, the pastors found their love for God and for each other increasing. Soon God began to pour out a common vision for their community, and these pastors and churches became bonded together in seeking God. They even began to see breakthroughs that included healings and reconciliation.

The North Omaha pastors are now convinced that repentance is the key to revival and transformation. In fact, the pastors have agreed to join the Minneapolis pastors for another 21-day fast so that they can encourage their brothers and sisters in the Twin Cities. Perhaps you would also be willing to join, even in simply praying for the pastors and churches of South Minneapolis during the May *Divine Experiment*.

These churches are filled with people who know the place of desperation. Many of them have been marvelously delivered from addictions and other bondages, but they know their communities are also struggling with the same strongholds of darkness. They are ready and willing to abandon themselves to prayer and fasting, with the belief and expectation that God will show Himself powerful on their behalf.

Many are participating in the “Daniel” fast, taken from the example in Daniel 1. Some have never fasted before or really understand the Scriptural principles behind it. One woman who attended the training stated that she had never really read the Bible before, knew nothing about fasting and praying—but was wondering if she could participate as well! She’s pretty new to the

faith but she is convinced that Jesus has the power to transform lives. So she's willing to "stand in the gap" on behalf of her community (Ezekiel 22:30).

Standing for Your Own Community

What is God inviting you to do on behalf of your own community? Would He have you fast, pray, and repent with a heart that believes Him for His covenant in 2 Chronicles 7:14? If so, you can believe God's promise to Solomon: "Now my eyes will be open and my ears attention to the prayers offered in this place" (2 Chronicles 7:15). We desperately need God's heart tuned to our desperate cries as we stand in the gap for our communities.

Prayer Points

Pray for encouragement and perseverance for the South Minneapolis pastors and their churches as they are immersed in 21 days of fasting and praying for their community.

Pray that God will pour out His reviving Spirit in the spiritually desolate urban neighborhoods of South Minneapolis.

The Global Day of Prayer is May 27. Please pray for preparations for the prayer gathering at the Northrup Auditorium. Pray that the steering committee will have wisdom and unity from the Lord.

Defilement Through Violence

"You curse and lie and kill and steal and commit adultery. There is violence everywhere, with one murder after another. That is why your land is not producing. It is filled with sadness, and all living things are becoming sick and dying...."

Hosea 4:2-3 (NLT)



Prayer Focus: Just as the shedding of innocent blood through abortion brings defilement to the land, so does the act of murder and violence toward one another. The first-ever murder, committed by Cain against his brother Abel, is confronted by God with this graphic declaration: "Listen—your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground! You are hereby banished from the ground you have defiled with your brother's blood" (Genesis 4:10-11). As the Creator and Sustainer of life, God looks with great disdain when His precious creation is violated through the willful sin of man. Hosea declares that because of the violence and murder everywhere, the land is no longer producing. The land is actually filled with sadness, as this was not God's intention for His creation. We must be honest about the desperate condition of our communities and nation where murder and violence against each other are widespread. Rather than assume this doesn't affect us or ignore what happens behind many closed doors, we should begin crying out to God for His mercy and cleansing of our land.

Day 1: Worship God as the Creator and Sustainer of life.

Day 2: Confess any attitudes you might have of not wanting to deal with the reality of violence in your community.

Day 3: Pray that God will open your eyes to see things as they truly are, and then ask for insight as to how to pray.

Day 4: Pray for healing for those living in violent situations.

Day 5: Ask the Lord to begin cleansing our land from the longstanding sins of murder and

violence.

Day 6: Pray that churches will become safe havens for those who have had atrocities committed against them.

Day 7: Pray that your community will become known as a “city of refuge” for those who need healing and restoring.

Transformation Prayer Guide: Heal My Land

Week 14

Transformation Resources

Global Day of Prayer: Ten Days of Prayer and Fasting. You can participate in the 10 days of prayer prior to Pentecost Sunday, May 17-27, by going to www.globaldayofprayermn.com and downloading the prayer guide. You can also sign up if your church will be gathering for prayer during the ten days.

Global Day of Prayer Gathering: Northrup Auditorium, Sunday, May 27, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Join in this citywide gathering of prayer and worship, inviting the glory of the Lord to fill the earth as the waters cover the sea!