

Prayer Transformation Ministries Email Newsletter – Teaching for 5/16/07

There's More to Come!

Halfway through *The Divine Experiment*, the South Minneapolis pastors and congregations are seeing clear evidence of God's hand in their community. As they have been fasting and praying together every day since May 1, there is one word that most captures their hearts: *anticipation*.

"There is an overall sense that there's more to come," said Steve Harrison, Bethany Urban Development. "We know we're laying a foundation."

One church has suffered from crime and drug dealing in their neighborhood around its building. Vacant houses have been overtaken by dealers, and the frustration of the church members was not solved through police action. In fact, the police stated that they didn't have the resources to deal with the crime problem. But since the churches have banded together to fast and pray, the drug dealers suddenly "packed up and left."

This sudden and dramatic turnaround on the block in just the second week of *The Divine Experiment* has energized the 300 participants to keep praying with anticipation. "This gives us hope to press in to ask God for zones of safety in our neighborhoods—as a resting place for God's presence," exclaimed Steve.

Not Without a Battle

But Steve also acknowledges that there has been frustration in the prayer journey. They have experienced a great deal of spiritual warfare, and the pastors who were committed to a Daniel fast (fruit and vegetables) decided to increase their commitment by turning to a complete fast of just water and juices. "These pastors are determined to break down any resistance coming from spiritual warfare," explained Steve, "and in the meantime they are finding their hearts being knit together in true camaraderie."

These four churches have determined that they are going to take God at His Word—that if they repent and seek Him, God will respond by "healing their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). They are trying *The Divine Experiment* (a 21-day commitment to pray and fast together with repentant hearts) as a means of preparing their hearts and seeking God for revival and transformation of their communities.

People from various denominational backgrounds and ethnicity are meeting for corporate prayer times every day—early in the morning and each evening. They have declared their homes to be "sanctuaries unto the Lord," which means they are turning off the television and praying together as families. The seriousness in their commitment to pray comes from the reality of the hopelessness they experience in their neighborhoods. Apart from God's Divine intervention, they know their communities will continue to disintegrate into spiritual darkness.

Breaking Out of "Status Quo"

That is the essence of *The Divine Experiment* (www.thedivineexperiment.com). It is a recognition that unless the Church becomes desperate to break out of its "status quo," the

negative spiritual impact on personal lives and communities will be devastating. It is a time of consecration designed to help believers intentionally disconnect from the influences of the culture and redefine their identity in Christ. It is the preparation stage for God to pour out His Spirit in revival and transformation—knowing that His manifest presence is our only hope. It is true abandonment to the purposes of God, with full expectation and anticipation that *He will answer!*

If your prayer group (especially pastors and churches on a community level) would like to participate in *The Divine Experiment*, contact Prayer Transformation Ministries (PTM@prayertransformation.com) for more information. If you sense a growing desperation in your heart for the manifest presence of God, this may be the catalyst that can bring unity, vision, and single-minded determination in prayer.