



A PUBLICATION FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

Praying for Global Impact

The United Pentecostal Church International has launched a bold initiative called "Global Impact." I mentioned this in the last *Global Connection*. Our vision is to double in less than ten years. I encourage you to set goals in every area that can be measured: those receiving the Holy Ghost, being baptized in Jesus' name; number of churches and preaching points. Of course, we all realize that this type of program requires lots of work and prayer. We embarked on thirty days of prayer and fasting at the beginning of this year. I encourage you to have regular times of prayer and fasting now and throughout the year. Let's pray for global impact!

"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42). In this description of the Early Church four pillars are identified: doctrine, prayer, fellowship, and giving. Prayer is a necessity in reaching out. The church is able to invade the devil's territory through intercessory prayer.

Samuel Chadwick said, "The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray."

Preacher, pray the Lord will give you open doors; open hearts; and will anoint you as you open your mouth to minister. Jesus said, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." (See Mark 11:17, NKJV.)

William Carey is considered to be the father of modern missions. As a young man, he worked in a shoe cobbler's shop. He saved discarded bits and pieces of shoe leather and made a makeshift globe. He sketched in ink the outlines of the continents and various countries on his crude leather globe. It is said that Carey's tears of intercession for the world literally blurred the outlines of the nations on his handmade globe. He became a missionary to India and changed the course of mission's history throughout the world.

The Church began with leaders gathered together in the Upper Room in an extended prayer meeting. The Holy Spirit was poured out. Souls were won through the anointed preaching of the Word of God. The Church was established. Prayer remained a priority in the Early Church

among leaders and members alike. Leadership always led the way in prayer.

Leaders reemphasized their priorities in Acts 6. Prayer was placed first among ministerial priorities. Men of God stated their main concerns in the ministry as:

Give ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word.

Vesta Mangun, in her lesson, "Leadership in Prayer--Indispensable Example" tells us that you can: Measure your love for your people by your prayer life. Measure your concern for your people by your prayer life. Measure your vision for your people by your prayer life. Measure your leadership of your people by your prayer life.

The Prophet Samuel considered it to be a sin not to pray for the people that he was leading. "Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way" (1 Samuel 12:23).

When you get together for National, Regional, or Local Board Meetings make sure prayer is a major part of the Board Agenda. Prayer shows who you are depending on. When you pray you are showing that you are depending on God. To discuss and decide things (concerning the kingdom) without prayer shows you are depending on your own abilities. Make prayer a priority! Rev. H. E. Scism has said, "The powerhouse for the Church is not the board room but the prayer room."

Leaders should also be committed to fasting. Fasting is a regular, normal activity of leaders. Prayer and Fasting fit together like the pieces of a puzzle. They are marriage partners in the spirit. They walk together, hand in hand. Fasting is a vital spiritual discipline for all of us. It is as relevant today as it has ever been. Jesus did not say, "If you fast" He said "When you fast..." (Matthew 6:16). The Apostle Paul fasted often because he said concerning his life, "in fastings often" (2 Corinthians 11:27). He also stated, "But I keep my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (1 Corinthians 9:27).

"Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning" (Joel 2:12).

Remember, "The devil is in constant conspiracy against a preacher who really prays, for it has been said that what a minister is in his prayer closet is what he is, no more, no less." (Vance Havner)

Pray for unity, global revival, and evangelism.

"Finally, dear brothers, as I come to the end of this letter, I ask you to pray for us. Pray first that the Lord's message will spread rapidly and triumph wherever it goes, winning converts everywhere as it did when it came to you" (2 Thessalonians 3:1, TLB).