

## **A Few Basics**

### **1. Purpose – Praying in one accord**

As we pray for transformation in Philadelphia and throughout the region, we are organizing our prayers around the seven mountains of culture. That will enable us to strategically focus on both the issues that need to be addressed – and – their spiritual roots, through effectual, fervent prayers. Compare a floodlight that dimly illuminates a wide terrain to a laser beam that sustains a focused light and can penetrate through debris and darkness to find its goal. As the churches participating in The Covering target the same, very specific prayer points over a three-month period, the effect is like a laser beam that penetrates and destroys whatever it is aimed at. In this case, the strongholds that stand against the Lord and His purposes.

Regardless of the length of time for your session, please pray for as many of the pray points as you can – unless you feel directed by Holy Spirit to focus on one or just a few of the pray points on a particular day.

### **2. Preparation – Sanctification and protection**

Begin by praying

- Self-examination and cleaning
- Protection for yourself, your family and things pertaining to you
- For The Covering, participating churches and intercessors, your own church
- That God's heart be revealed for Philadelphia and the region

### **3. Prophetic Insights – Listening for the Voice of the Lord**

We value your input. As you pray, we expect some will receive prophetic insights. Please share them with your coordinator so they can pass them along to The Covering leadership. It is our goal to bring all of this input together into a useful whole for all to benefit from. As much as possible, please pass on your insights in writing.

## **Why Focus Prayer on the Seven Mountains of Culture**

When Jesus walked the earth, He came with a simple yet profound message - the Kingdom of God is at hand. In His day, many took this to mean that Jesus intended to overthrow the Roman authorities and establish an earthly kingdom in their place. This was a reasonable assumption, as this was all people knew, but it was wrong nonetheless. What Jesus came to establish was not an earthly, time-space empire, but an eternal and transcendent kingdom that is meant to dominate all other kingdoms, not only because of superior power and authority, but also superior substance. It is what the prophet Isaiah talked about in Isaiah 2: 2-4.

“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.”

It’s also what Daniel saw when interpreting Nebuchadnezzar’s dream:

“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold —the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”” (

The Kingdom of God is not merely something that effects individuals, it shapes the course of nations. The King’s principles not only change people’s hearts, but they also alter the conscience and dynamics of entire communities. Jesus is the One who leaves the 99 behind to go after the one, but He is also the One who came to seek and save all that was lost. This includes the overturning of corrupt institutions and the eradication of demonically entrenched systems that subjugate entire territories. God is after the culture to restore all things!

Revival is often marked by an awakened Church and the lost coming to the light. But revival is not enough. We must move to transformation. Regional transformation is what happens to culture when the roots of an awakened Church sink deep into the soil of the community and the Light begins to invade

every dark structure – turning things right side up again. Transformation must be our goal.

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### **History of the Seven Mountain Message**

In 1972, two generals in the faith; Loren Cunningham, of Youth with a Mission and Bill Bright, of Campus Crusade for Christ each had a dream they knew they were to share with the other. As they did, they discovered they had dreamed the same thing. They'd both seen seven strategic mountains or "mind molders" that shape the culture of every nation. God told them to inform the other that if they could capture these strategic places, they would reap the harvest of nations as the nations are transformed by the Kingdom of God. In the years following this meeting, the "Seven Mountain Message" has grown, with Loren Cunningham eventually passing the mantel for carrying it to Lance Wallnau. He, along with Johnny Enlow and Os Hillman have written and taught on it extensively.

These mountains of mind molding influence are:

- ❖ *RELIGION* – influences us to worship God in spirit and in truth or through a spirit of religion. The spirit of religion that dominates this mountain distorts worship and truth with the doctrines of man, and a denial that the Holy Spirit and power of God are part of His plan for man today.
- ❖ *FAMILY* – empowers us with the blessing or enslaves us with the curse. As the alignment of God and man became distorted, so did the alignment within the family to the point that most parents have turned over their responsibility for molding the minds of their children to the schools and the media. This means the dominant influence in the lives of children and youth are the messages of the powers and principalities that currently control the culture.

- ❖ *GOVERNMENT* – restrains evil or enables it to prosper. Prideful ambition and a spirit of control are primary influencers on the government mountain.
- ❖ *EDUCATION* – communicates the truth and principles of God or the deception of the enemy. In most countries the focus of education has shifted from Godly principles, values and service to the rights and abilities of each man to reason truth for himself.
- ❖ *MEDIA* – interprets information and events through the lens of good or evil. The doom and gloom that dominates the media is the result of the spirit of fear, one of the controlling spirits on this mountain.
- ❖ *ARTS/ ENTERTAINMENT* –celebrates or distorts values and virtue. Man was made to be a worshiper and to use his creative gifts to glorify the creator. Instead his gifts have been perverted to glorify man and bring pleasure to himself, resulting in what some are calling “Grand Theft Culture”.
- ❖ *BUSINESS* – distributes resources used to honor God or celebrate man. The spirit of Mammon that is at the top of this mountain convinces us that money is the source of our prosperity and we have to get it ourselves or poverty will be our lot in life. The faith that holds to God as our source breaks the power of this spirit. This mountain finances all the others.

When leaders of these mountains are moved by Godly principles there is prosperity. Compare the way the slavery issue was resolved in England through the efforts of William Wilberforce - one Godly man on the Government Mountain, to the death and destruction wrought by our Civil War where self-interest, greed and rebellion had to be defeated. Or consider the deep poverty and lack of nations steeped in idol worship and witchcraft.

Over time, a vision for reclaiming the mountains for Christ has grown and Christians have been committing themselves to recapturing the positions of influence over the culture.

Many of us who hear this message are, in fact, called to the marketplace. But that doesn't mean we will all become mind molders who determine the culture, or even directly influence the people who do. Instead, we may be working within one of the seven spheres or we may be part of a team that intercedes for, financially supports or otherwise serves those who are climbing the mountain – depending on the specific call that God has placed on our lives.

What does it look like when Christians reclaim the mountains? In 1992, AIDS was declared an epidemic in Uganda with up to 30% of the population infected

in some regions and no effective battle plan to stop its spread. It was then that the president of the country called together leaders of the Christian community for their advice. The result was what they called a “multi-sector” approach. As the official Uganda AIDS Commission reported: “Responses were generated from various stakeholders at all levels and from all sectors”.

Representatives from the church, family and education mountains became partners with the government and AIDS was reduced from 30% to 50% in 36 months. Individuals and organizations within each of these spheres of influence applied Biblical principles to stop the plague. Some strategized solutions or enlisted the help of experts in creating marketing campaigns. Some set up networks for distributing information or became instructors themselves. Others prayed or provided support for those on the front lines of this battle. Everyone committed to solving this problem and bringing kingdom principles to bear had a role to play. Kingdom minded transformation catalysts with vision and determination can make all the difference.

### **The Battle over the Mountain Tops**

Even as we devote ourselves to bringing heaven to earth through prayer and action, we see the war in the heavens escalating. Just as Michael had to do battle with the Prince of Persia before he could get to Daniel (Daniel 10:13), there are spiritual battles in all the high places over who is going to have the power to influence the culture. Reclaiming these high places for the Lord will require doing battle in the spirit and in the flesh.

That means becoming strategic. One definition of strategic planning is “the process of determining long term goals and then identifying the best approach for achieving those goals.” For the 7 Mountain message, it means:

- *Knowing the heart of the Lord* for reclaiming the mountaintops.
- *Discerning the strategies* Satan has used to establish and maintain his hold on the mountaintops.
- *Coming into agreement with the strategy of the Lord for taking the mountain.* What role does He have for us in recapturing the mountain or mountains to which we are called? For some of us the role is one of support, like the logistics and support units in the military. Others of us are to pursue a path up the mountain.

- *Asking the Lord to show us the tactics He would have us use.* Then we need to look and listen for His response.

This requires preparation and some of that preparation is not what we normally consider part of our “Christian education”. It also requires more cooperation among churches and ministries than we commonly see. There will be standard bearers who carry the 7 Mountain message, but building ministries is not what the message is all about – it is for building the Kingdom of God, and that is a cooperative process. It means coming together in one accord.

Picture the invasion of Normandy that turned the tide of World War II. Plans for this offensive action had been in motion for over two years before it occurred. For instance, anticipating the problems of the rough waters of the English Channel and the vast expanses of sand leading to bluffs held by German artillery, sections of a harbor were literally built in parts and towed into position by U.S. merchant seamen in a flotilla of tugs, where they were then sunk in place. Until the last minute, German intelligence assumed the British seafront activity was defensive protection.

That was strategic planning – and it required cooperation of the British, Canadian and American forces to be successful. Had any one of them acted on their own, they would have been annihilated, the invasion would have failed – and who knows how that would have influenced the outcome of the war.

The planning and cooperation represented in D-Day invasion – that occurred on the 6<sup>th</sup> hour of the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the 6<sup>th</sup> month – is what God is calling His people to today. The return of the sons and daughters of God is also the unification of the Body so the corporate authority that we have together is focused on overcoming all the power of the enemy.

### **Are We Ready?**

Are we as the Body of Christ mature enough to be trusted with this mandate?

- ❖ Are we passionately seeking a relationship with God through His son, Jesus?
- ❖ Have we learned to love one another?
- ❖ Do we seek to identify and remove the lies we’ve believed, vows we’ve made, and the unforgiveness we’ve held that interfere with our relationship with the Lord?

- ❖ Are we renewing our minds to be aligned with the mind of Christ?
- ❖ Are we living the faith that manifests those things envisioned, dreamed and hoped for in accordance to the will and word of God?
- ❖ Have we caught the vision for co-laboring with Christ in His passionate desire for the fulfillment of Revelation 11: 15?

If we can answer yes to these questions, we are on our way to becoming stewards of this move of God and seeing His Word and presence go forth as never before, tearing down strongholds, releasing blessings and bringing heaven to earth in each of the seven mountains of culture. Then surely the house of the Lord shall be established on top of the mountains and the kingdoms of this world will have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ.