

Through different ways and mediums I have been reminding us recently that consistent and powerful dialogues with the Lord (prayer), is the key to experiencing the presence, peace, provision, protection and power of the Lord for our lives.

Again, let me remind you of some exhortations regarding prayer from some mighty men of God who have lived and ministered on our earth in times past.

- Jesus – *“Men should always be praying.”* (Luke 18:1)
- Paul - *“Pray without ceasing.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- James - *“The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.”* (James 5:16)
- Ralph Neighbour - *“To grow a successful Cell Church, the Senior Pastor and Staff must be praying, the Upper Cell Leadership team must be praying, the Cell Leaders must be praying, the Cell members must be praying, there must be powerful times of prayer in the Cell meetings, and there must be periodic and powerful times of corporate prayer within the Church.”*
- Walter Wink - *“History belongs to the intercessors – those who believe and pray the future into being.”*
- Watchman Nee - *“If you fail at prayer, you fail at everything.”*
- S. D. Gordon - *“The greatest thing anyone can do for God and man is pray. It is not the only thing; but it is the chief thing. The great people of the earth today are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer; nor those who say they believe in prayer; nor yet those who can explain about prayer; but I mean these people who take time to pray.”*
- Charles Spurgeon - *“The power of prayer can never be overrated. They who cannot serve God by preaching need not regret. If a man can but pray, he can do anything. He who knows how to overcome with God in prayer has Heaven and earth at his disposal.”*

This week we are having special *Prayer & Praise Services* at our campuses to pray for our nation, city and region, church and for one another. The schedule will be as follows:

- Wednesday, July 1 – *Prayer & Praise Services* at our Metairie and River Parishes Campuses (7:00 pm) – The Metairie Campus *Prayer & Praise Service* for adults will be held in CCCS Auditorium. Nursery/Preschool, Children’s & Youth ministry will also be taking place at both campuses.
- Thursday, July 2 – *Prayer & Praise Service* at our St. Bernard Campus (7:00 pm) – Nursery/Preschool and Children’s ministry will be available at this campus.

Take advantage of this great opportunity to come and intercede for our nation, city and region, church and for one another. There will also be opportunities to bring your needs to the Lord during these prayer times. Go back and reflect on the “sayings” above, and know that God can and will change people’s hearts, lives and circumstances in response to the faithful and faith-filled prayers of His people.

We're looking forward to an exciting and encouraging weekend of ministry this coming *Independence Day Weekend*. You may want to participate in:

- Our *Freedom Celebration* at our *Celebrate Recovery Service* on Friday evening (CCCS Auditorium, 7 pm) – Great food, fun and fellowship.
- Our Saturday Night service at our Metairie Campus (6 pm) – Special patriotic emphases in the worship service and *Independence Day dessert* for all attendees
- Our Sunday services at all 3 Campuses (Special emphases in the worship services and *Independence Day dessert* for all attendees)

At our Metairie Campus we are beginning a new series of messages titled, HELP WANTED. This series will be of great encouragement and “help” to people who are seeking to overcome struggles like fear, hurt, faithlessness and other issues.

At our River Parishes and St. Bernard Campuses we are beginning a new series of messages titled, CELEBRATE RECOVERY. This series will be especially helpful for those who are seeking to overcome strongholds such as addictions, co-dependency, hurt, sexual issues, etc. in their lives.

You can attend the campus closest to you, or the one that most addresses the needs in your life, or the needs of the people that you are praying for. Plan to attend, and also bring others with you to these and upcoming weekend services. Addresses and service times can be obtained by visiting www.celebrationchurch.org.

Over the next several weeks, we are partnering with Rock Harbor Church from Costa Mesa, California to rebuild several homes in St. Bernard Parish. This is an opportunity to help a family that has lost everything, and to partner with a group of people that have been so instrumental in helping the people of Celebration Church and the people of our city and region. Last summer, Rock Harbor Church sent over 400 people to help the people of our church and city. If you are available to work on a Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday with one of the Rock Harbor teams from July 1 – August 15, please contact Chris Meilleur (chrism@celebrationchurch.org, 504.782.3919). Several of our pastors and myself intend to lead rebuilding teams on one of the upcoming days, and we would love to have you join us as well.

Also, for a number of years we have partnered with Victory Fellowship and other New Orleans churches to help with the *Feed The Multitudes* event that takes place every July 4th. This year *Feed The Multitudes* will also be supported by the Convoy of Hope. If you are interested in participating in this great ministry event to the poor and needy of our city, please visit the Victory Fellowship website (www.victoryfellowship.net) for details.

Eddy and Rose Leo from Indonesia were our special guests this past weekend, speaking first to our *Life Group* Leaders and Members, and then in our Metairie Campus worship services. Many people were moved, encouraged and strengthened by the teaching and stories shared by Pastor Eddy, and also many people received

supernatural direction for their lives and ministry calling as a result of his ministry. If you were not able to attend the *Life Group* Leader/Member time on Saturday morning, or hear Pastor Eddy's weekend message, you can listen to them by visiting our website, www.celebrationchurch.org. You will be blessed as well by listening to those messages.

You, the people of Celebration Church, are greatly loved and prayed for. If you have a need, or are aware of someone else with a great need, please don't hesitate to let us know by contacting your Community Pastor or emailing us at info@celebrationchurch.org.

We look forward to seeing you this coming weekend.

Pastor Dennis