



The Prayer Saturated Church; A Comprehensive Handbook for Prayer Leaders by Cheryl Sacks.

Several years ago, one of our Presbyters gave me a gift of the book entitled *The Prayer Saturated Church*. I'm usually not a fan of step-by-step, here's-how-you-need-to-do-it books, but this one is a winner.

From her personal experience as a prayer leader, author Cheryl Sacks has developed a practical guide to help pastors organize, mobilize, and motivate believers into making their church a house of prayer. What I especially like about this book is that "the plan" works in churches of all sizes, from the smallest to the largest. I found her distinctions between a church that prays and a church that is a house of prayer to be most challenging.

PRAYER MINISTRY

1. Limited number of people involved.
2. Prayer is done by a select few, and the responsibility is always put on them to pray.
3. Little or no regular emphasis from the pulpit.
4. Very little training offered in prayer.
5. Vision for church growth in prayer is limited. Contented with only a few praying.
6. Only a few leaders attend prayer meetings with no regular commitment. A few carry the burden to pray.
7. Church groups open meetings with prayer as a main agenda item.
8. Something lacking in church atmosphere because prayer is feeble.
9. Prayer opportunities limited for members to have the freedom to pray.
10. Prayer ministry staff is not recognized as viable part of church staff.

HOUSE OF PRAYER

1. Entire congregation involved.
2. Entire congregation takes ownership for doing their "prayer share."
3. Teaching from the pulpit and priority is placed on prayer by the pastor.
4. Classes and special opportunities on a regular basis offered on prayer.
5. Concept of "prayer band" has grown to larger vision of "prayer army."
6. All leaders, staff, and lay persons have a burden for prayer.
7. Groups spend time praying together and set times of prayer in addition to regular meetings.
8. There is a fresh-flowing atmosphere of the Holy Spirit due to whole church praying.
9. There is a natural flow of prayer going on throughout the church.
10. Paid/or volunteer prayer minister and staff in place.

This book is a comprehensive resource that will bless your church. It is accompanied by a CD that contains printable forms and templates that will help promote, encourage, and energize your congregation to become a house of prayer.