

Administrative Leadership of the HOP

Session 2: Leadership that Sustains the House

I. Understanding Your Role as Leader:

A. You Need to Lead:

Possibly the single most important factor for a house of prayer to be successful is that it had a leader(s) who actually leads. Leadership in its simplest definition is about taking steps that you want for others to follow in. Leadership requires continual sacrifice and the laying down of our lives for those we are leading and the cause that the Lord calls us to. In order to get people to follow us we must first have gone there ourselves, gotten our hands dirty and actually done the work. There is great news for us as leaders; there are only a few ways that we can fail as leaders and all of them are things that we can very much overcome.

1. Unwillingness to lead:

We must be willing to do the hard work that we are asking others to do, namely an ardent commitment to prayer. My suggestion is to start daily prayer meetings (at least M-F) with no end date in mind.

2. Quitting because of the hard work:

We must not lose heart and quit when things get difficult, and they will absolutely get difficult. As leaders we must press through trials and persevere so that we may plow the way for others to follow later.

3. Not knowing how to lead:

We must be in relationship with others who have gone before us learning from other leaders and following their example.

B. You Need to Cast Vision:

Call people to re-sign up for the cause. If you are negligent in this task you will lose many people unnecessarily. We all have a hole in our vision bucket and if it is not regularly filled back up we forget why we are doing what we are doing and the things we are committed to become only a burden that we can't connect to why we are laboring for. We will spend a whole section on what this can look like later in this session.

C. You Need to Recruit People:

Part of our job as leaders is to get the word out about what we are doing so that people who hear about it can come get involved. A general rule that the Lord permits to operate down here is that most people will not come get involved with your prayer ministry by a supernatural leading; they will come because they were invited by a friend or heard about it by some other means. If we want people to come pray then we need to devote a measure of energy in every season to promote what the Lord is

doing. This includes brainstorming various ways that you can get the message out there about your prayer ministry.

D. You Need to Provide Training:

Ongoing training is necessarily to growth, sustainability, excellence and simply so that the ministry can function smoothly. Training also serves as a great way to get people involved that otherwise would not have.

1. Prayer leader training
2. Training on your model
3. "How to" workshops:

Some examples may be how to prophesy, pray the scriptures, minister to children, or how to run a Kingdom minded business, etc.

II. Power Vision Casting Elements:

A. The End Time Message:

Casting a vision for those you are leading regarding our living in the last days touches the heart in a way unlike anything else. This message empowers the intercessors into urgency which is a crucial element in sustaining prayer. Continually teaching on the second coming and the trouble and revival that are to proceed it is the strong admonition of many leaders in order to keep prayer going.

1. Mike Bickle often talks about the necessity (24/7 for 13+ years)
2. Our experience at TPR (7 ½ years of daily prayer)
3. Testimony of John Paul Jackson (long time attested prophet)

B. The Intimacy Message:

The primary issue of our identity comes from understanding how Christ feels about us. The Greatest Commandment is to love the Lord our God with our all, but it's when we put these two concepts together; loving God and receiving His love for us that we unlock powerful dynamics in our heart. This enables people to continue to connect with God in the place of prayer. Without this invaluable aspect of the message people quickly lose vision for why they should keep coming to prayer meetings.

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment (Mt. 22:36-38)."

C. The Worth of Christ:

We must continually revisit the vision of Christ' incomparable worth found all throughout the scriptures if we hope to have intercessors sustain the rigors of prayer longterm. When our flesh is screaming at us we need to have an anchor much stronger than the blowing wind. His worth is that stabilizing reality; inalterable and unchallenged by our circumstances. A community of believers that is routed in His worth is able to withstand many pressures and inconveniences that otherwise there might not be sufficient inner strength to resist.

“And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (Re. 5:9).”

D. The Broader Picture:

Another massively important element that fuels intercession and sustainability is connecting the hearts of those we lead to the broader picture of what God is doing with the global prayer movement. As long as they are feeling insignificant and alone in this journey; only able to see their less than ten people prayer meetings, it can be very difficult to keep going. We want to help provide perspective of what the Lord is doing that encourages the understanding that we are all part of something that the Lord is doing.

III. Those Who Lead Alongside You:

As quick review; in our last session we talked about the great value in recruiting a small army of volunteers who would help do the day in and day out tasks that run the ministry. We talked about how much strength this adds to your ministry by maximizing on the willing hearts to contribute, but only having a little amount of time or energy to give. Now we are going to transition the conversation to talk about two other categories of leadership, those who will be the backbone of your houses of prayer; missionary staff and your leadership team.

A. Appointed Leadership:

It's both a wise and Biblical model to choose some within your midst to become ministry leaders. These are ones who you will appoint to help carry the torch of leadership and who will share the authority the Lord has given you. They will help you in making decisions for the ministry and will be co-responsible with you to see the vision fulfilled.

1. Ministry expectations for your leaders:

Write up a list of points of what you expect from your leaders, commitment that you want them to maintain as a leader in your prayer ministry. This will include things like their weekly time commitment, number of prayer meetings they'll help lead and whatever other things you need for your core leadership team to be committed to (weekly service, staff meeting etc.).

2. Righteous standards for leadership:

Include in that document a description for what it means to be a leader in your ministry, use biblical language (1Ti. 3:1-13; Ti. 1:6-9) and list out your standards for leadership.

3. Qualities to look for in a leader:

It is a mistake to promote people based mostly off of their talents or gifting. You will be far better off to have godly leaders at the top who are not particularly skilled as opposed gifted people whose character issues will later cause you trouble. Below are some qualities to look for in those you are thinking of giving key leadership positions to.

- a. Humility
- b. Teachable and easy to correct
- c. Faithfulness in small things

- d. Servant-heartedness
- e. Sincerity

B. **Missionary Staff:**

Full time and part time staff members make the world of difference in the operations of a prayer ministry. The help that they will add in their added hours of administrative work each week will greatly strengthen you. Paid staff will also allow you to keep your prayer room open more hours each day and add more live sets, along with our volunteers we were able to keep our prayer room open at least 8 hours a day with 19 live sets having only two full time staff. You want to try and facilitate a way for people to be able to join you as their occupation, to do so means having several prerequisites in place in order for a missionary to join staff with you.

1. A rigorous internship process (season for them to try the lifestyle out)
2. A support raising process
3. Established staff requirements
4. A certain level of weekly ministry activity (to justify it as a job)

IV. Leading Your Workers:

As a ministry leader you by default inherit the title of people manager; which adds the unexpected responsibility of keeping your workers working. If we don't learn some managerial skills we will have to do all the work ourselves or be forever frustrated with those we are leading. There are some simple concepts that will serve as helpful tools to aid you in leading your workers however.

A. **Measureable Goals:**

If you want to keep people productive it is very helpful to give them weekly goals, long-term goals, constantly keep new ideas for projects in front of them and then give them the freedom to use their creativity and initiative to take their department further. It's important to give clear instructions, measureable goals and make your expectations known to each person for what they are responsible for. This helps each person to have clear vision for what they can be working on so there are no lulls in their work output.

B. **Follow Up:**

I don't know whether this problem is rampant for everyone but admittedly there is an intrinsic flaw with my generation; our yes means very little and unless you follow up you can't be sure whether anything will actually get done or not. My suggestion to you as a leader is that until someone has established themselves with you as a person who gets their stuff done you need to follow up with them every time you give an assignment. If you don't inspect what you expect then you'll regret what you do get.

C. **Validate Those You Lead:**

We've all had times in our lives when we were doing things that we didn't particularly enjoy. It's been my experience that good leadership has the

ability to influence people positively no matter what the work is. When people believe that they matter and that what they are doing is important they are far more willing to keep doing it; even if they don't like it.

1. Give them encouragement when they do something well
2. Speak well of them in front of others
3. Give them a title that dignifies what they are doing
4. Assign them a role that is unique to them so that their part counts