

Session 5

**TRACKING:
How Can a Ministry
Sustain
Earnest Praying?**

Theme:

Interest grows when people see how God is working through their prayers.

Biblical Foundation:

(As this Scripture is read, count the actions which God performed in Peter's prison while the church was praying.)

“Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also.”

Acts 12:1-10 cont.

“Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. So when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover.

Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison.”

“Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, ‘Arise quickly!’ And his chains fell off his hands. Then the angel said to him, ‘Gird yourself and tie on your sandals’; and so he did. And he said to him, ‘Put on your garment and follow me.’”

Acts 12:1-10 cont.

“So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they were past the first and second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.”

Acts 12:1-10 NKJV

The Purpose of This Session

is to gain ideas for retrieving and publicizing information on answers to prayer.

Introduction:

A critical part of leadership is to report results to people who are praying. Interest declines when intercessors feel nothing is happening.

Two Actions to Keep Prayer Alive and Growing:

A. Teach people to [expect] answers.

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who keeps on seeking, keeps on finding. And to him who keeps on reverently knocking, it shall be opened.”

Matthew 7:8

The New Testament: An Expanded Translation

By Kenneth S. Wuest.

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1. Praying people need assurance, hope and encouragement. Share Scriptures with them that teach promises and conditions for prayer.

2. Provide opportunities for testimonies from praying people.

“Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people.”

Psalm 9:11 NKJV™

B. Track [results] from praying.

1. Frequently, people forget to report, so answer-information may need to be requested by an intercessor or prayer coordinator. The effort is worth the time because answers [inspire] fervency and persistence in prayer.
2. People who ask for your prayers should agree to report on answers.
3. Display progress and results. See the sample **Prayer Tracking Chart**, as one example, on page 19 in Participant's Guide.

C. A Sample Prayer Tracking Chart

Prayer Tracking Chart

(Sample)

1. THE OBJECTIVE

Conduct a Leadership Training Conference
In a country.

TARGET DATE OF
COMPLETION: Nov. 1, 2007

2. PROGRESS COLOR BAR (Color each space that corresponds with the completion of the goals below.)



3. GOALS For Prayer

Date: Jan. 28	Date: Feb. 1	Date: Mar. 10	Date: Apr 15	Date: Oct. 10
Mobilize 70 Intercessors	Arrange logistics	Arrange speakers/leaders and funding	Invite potential participants	Final preparations

4. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED

Date: Jan 5	Date: Jan 8	Date: Mar 1	Date: May 4	Date: Sept. 1
Shortage of intercessors	Local transport strike	Lack of time for leaders to meet	Financial challenge for some potential participants	Rural communication difficulties

5. BREAKTHROUGHS FOR PRAISE TO GOD!

Date: Jan 28	Date: Jan 22	Date: Mar 8	Date: Jun 15	Date: Oct. 1
Successful prayer meeting with 82 intercessors	Strike settled	Successful teleconference	Matching gift drive for participants' scholarships launched	Distributed cell phones to regional representatives

Conclusion:

[Tracking] Christ's answers motivates more and stronger prayer.

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