



PRAYER THAT ALWAYS WORKS

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I remember a day from last year when our board meeting turned into a prayer meeting. When we came together, our hearts were overburdened with some of the personal and ministerial challenges. No one had any desire to discuss anything so we decided to lay ourselves down at the altar. After an hour of pouring out our hearts, this is what happened to us:

- A renewed commitment to serve
- Grace to deal with personal challenges independent of ministry
- A softened heart towards each other
- A spirit of unity to work together

PRAYER WORKS.

The question that often comes to our minds is this: Why should we sit and pray when there is so much to be done? We need to realize prayer does certain things which cannot be accomplished with our physical and intellectual abilities.

- The first and foremost thing prayer does is that it changes our own lives and prepares us to get the job done.
- Certainly, prayer makes us depend on God
- Prayer causes disturbance in the spiritual realm such that the purpose of God will be accomplished, forcefully pushing away the darkness
- Prayer helps to achieve the results effectively and efficiently.
- Prayer always brings long-lasting results
- Prayer gives us a burden for souls and this burden for souls aligns our vision and helps us to work without considering our limitations, abilities, setbacks and oppositions.

Do you remember what Nehemiah did when he decided to build the wall even though there was opposition and discouragement? **With one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon, Neh. 4:17.** One of the weapons they held was prayer. That is the reason when Paul talks about the armor of God. He mentions the importance of prayer by saying **“pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.” Ephesians 6:18.**

WE NEED TO REALIZE THAT PRAYER DOES CERTAIN THINGS WHICH CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH OUR PHYSICAL AND INTELLECTUAL ABILITIES.

A NATIONWIDE PRAYER MOVEMENT

The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, a fellowship who believes in prayer, has initiated certain steps to promote prayer. Prayer bulletins are sent out periodically to all the districts across the nation. These prayer bulletins can be subscribed to by anyone to receive periodic updates on the prayer needs.

Following are the different types of prayer bulletins and the links where you can view them:

1. **PAOC International Missions Prayer** - <https://paoc.org/missions/global-view/prayer>
PAOC International Mission Prayer is a weekly communication of prayer requests from and for the global workers.
2. **PAOC Prayer** - <https://paoc.org/family/general-superintendent/news/>
PAOC Prayer is a weekly communication of prayer requests sent from The PAOC International Office
3. **My Global View** - <https://paoc.org/missions/global-view/murray>
My Global View is a periodic update on international mission that comes few times in a year from the desk of Murray Cornelius, Executive Director of International Missions.

PRAYER CONNECTION TEAM

The prayer connection team, comprised of district prayer representatives, is set up to discuss various prayer implementation strategies and initiatives that are taken by the districts. This team comes together through video and web conferencing every quarter under the leadership of Rev. Les Markham and Pat Markham to discuss and to encourage each other.

PRAYER INITIATIVES OF THE MARITIME DISTRICT

Our District has taken the initiative to promote prayer within the district churches by inviting them to participate in this prayer initiative. More than 25 churches volunteered to join in this initiative by signing up to receive weekly prayer updates. The latest district prayer needs can be accessed or one can sign up to receive periodic updates on prayer needs from our district website: <http://www.maritimepaoc.org/prayernetwork>.

This prayer initiative is designed such that participation should not cause any extra effort to the district churches. Incorporating this into any of the existing prayer practices such as fasting prayers, small group prayer, monthly prayers, etc. should not be that difficult. Churches can make this link available to the prayer leader/coordinator or the prayer team members and encourage them to pray for the district. Providing printed copies of this list to the seniors who are interested in prayer will certainly help them to make the best use of their available time.

In November 2017, my wife and I got an opportunity to participate in the prayer event hosted by the French churches of our district. I personally realized that there is a deep burden among our churches to stand in the gap and intercede. A few days after we returned, I got an update from the host pastor of the event saying, "Most of the people who were there have kept that teaching. And now we are working more actively in the direction of intercession." What an incredible opportunity we have in our district to implement intercessory prayer ministry.

As we take some more initiatives in this year towards prayer and intercession, I would ask you to keep your church doors open for the same. I believe God will do great and mighty things in our District because He has already promised in **Jeremiah 33:3: Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.**

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JEREMIAH 33:3