

leaders to nurture the church by showing them how to follow the Lord in prayer.

Prerequisites to empowered prayer: Before shepherds can lead their flocks they must be devoted to learning from our Master Shepherd about prayer. This Biblical model is intentional. The disciples modeled Jesus in prayer.

Teaching and modeling Biblical prayer brings about change in individuals, families, churches, and throughout local communities. As prayer is lifted up according to Jesus' model, He intervenes. Effective prayer models Jesus' example and is honored by our heavenly Father.

Getting Real

EC Church leaders must pray according to Biblical teachings, historic practices, traditional and contemporary models.

With this in mind, each issue of *HeartCry* includes recommended readings for you to build your own prayer life. As you grow you can practice and model prayer in your churches. That's as real as it gets.

Getting Started

Keep your Bible handy as you read and meditate on the following passages of Scriptures before you pray.

SHEEP WITHOUT SHEPHERDS

Read: Matthew 9:35-38

PRAYER GUIDE

Pray for those who are going through very difficult times.

Pray for those who do not know the Lord as their Shepherd.

Praise the Lord for His preparation, protection, provision, and presence in your life and the life of the church.



THE SHEPHERDS

Read: Mark 6:34;
Psalm 78:1-8, 70-72; and 1 Peter 5:1-4

PRAYER GUIDE

Pray the Lord continues to bless the pastor(s), teachers, and leadership of your church. Pray for their continued spiritual growth, and the ability to follow our Chief Shepherd's teachings. Pray that your church experiences the transforming power of prayer in the lives of individuals, families, and the ministry of the church body.

Pray that your pastor and teachers will help you to learn how to pray like Jesus taught His disciples.

Pray for the governing body of your church that they would see the importance of prayer revealed in the Word of God for the needs of the church.

Pray for a hunger to search the Scriptures for the prayers of Jesus, Paul, King David, and others and learn how to pray like they did.



THE GENTLE SHEPHERD

Read: Psalm 23; and Isaiah 40:10-11

*Gentle Shepherd come and lead us,
For we need You to help us find our way.
Gentle Shepherd come and lead us.
For we need Your strength from day to day.*

*There's no other we can turn to
Who can help us face another day;
Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us,
For we need You to help us find our way.
"Gentle Shepherd" by Gloria and William Gaither*



This year's **objective** in the Prayer Mobilization Team is to concentrate on six topics of prayer which are vital to church ministry. These topics include: Shepherding, Worship, Revival, Intercessory Prayer, Methods of Prayer, and Prayer as a Conversation with God.

The **goal** of the Prayer Mobilization Team is to stand alongside EC Churches with Biblical tools to maximize the prayer life of the local church.

The **purpose** for *HeartCry* is to serve as a resource for small groups and worship services; helping congregations to develop a more spiritual and meaningful prayer life.

HeartCry is a versatile tool for sermon topics, Bible studies, prayer meetings, board meetings, and special church gatherings.

Our **hope** is that every EC church makes *HeartCry* available to everyone in their church by putting it in their bulletin, and sharing portions with their congregation. You can also make copies available for people to take home and use as a prayer guide.

This issue:

This edition of the *HeartCry* focuses on Shepherding and the need for pastors and lay

PRAYER GUIDE

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
O Sovereign Lord, almighty and all powerful
God
Come to help us find our way.

We need You to gather Your lambs in Your
strong arms anew. We need You Lord to
carry us close to Your heart once again.

Like sheep we have gone astray; we have
lost our way. O Lord, We need you to help us
understand how we have lost our way and
to teach us once again how to follow Your
Way.

There is no other we can turn to;
Gentle Shepherd come and lead us, we pray.
AMEN.



UPCOMING P. M. T. EVENT

March 5, 2012: 9:00 am till 5:00 pm—Prayer
Retreat at the Blue Mountain Christian Retreat
in New Ringgold, PA.

Dr. Ken Schira is collecting prayer requests
from the churches. Contact Ken with your re-
quests by February 29, 2012; [drken-
schira@yahoo.com](mailto:drken-schira@yahoo.com)

RECOMMENDED READING

The Prayer Saturated Church: A Comprehensive Handbook for Prayer Leaders

By Cheryl Sacks

This book lives up to its title. It is designed to move a church from "limping in prayer" to become a dynamic life-changing "house of prayer." It is very intentional in its approach to prayer, and calls anyone who reads it to become very intentional about making prayer the core, and all-pervasive, practice of a local church.

How to Listen to God

By Charles Stanley

Prayer is more than just talking to God and this book helps us to discover the joys of obedient listening for God's voice and enjoying His Presence during our collective and individual times of prayer. In our prayer time He wants to reveal Himself to us and give us definite direction, comfort, and assurance in our lives through His Word and Spirit. This book is an essential guide for the church that needs to bring transformational prayer into the lives of its people.

Developing Leaders for the Small Church

By Glenn C. Daman

An Excellent leadership resource for small churches. Daman explores the spiritual nature of leadership in small churches. His focus is on spiritual caretaking over organizational duties. Structures of leadership are also examined socially.

