

PRAYER

ON

FIRE

GATHERING

A "Taste and See" Event of the College of Prayer International

LEADER'S MANUAL



COLLEGE
OF
PRAYER
International



Purpose of the Gathering

The College of Prayer International is more of a movement than a program; more of an organism than an organization. We are fueled by a compelling vision: to mentor, train, and equip Christian pastors and leaders to reach a lost world through a revived church.

The College of Prayer International exists to serve Christ and His church. We exist to lead the local church to encounter the manifest presence of Christ and to help every congregation become a house of prayer for all nations. The entire College of Prayer ministry is modeled after the way Christ made disciples and built the Upper Room. Just as Jesus spent three years training His disciples to pray, so do we (Luke 11:1). Just as Jesus led His followers into the Upper Room to have a fresh encounter with His manifest presence (Acts 1:13), to fill them with His Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4), and then send them out to make disciples of all nations (Acts 1:8), so we are re-establishing this New Testament paradigm all over the world.

The College of Prayer is a highly transferable paradigm of discipleship and evangelism designed to revive the Church and advance the kingdom of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are convinced that prayer is not the latest church growth program; rather, it is a way of life. The College of Prayer intentionally enables students to grow in their own spiritual formation. Today, we are seeing God pour out His reviving Spirit on His Church and His followers in churches and communities all over the world. He is calling His Church back to the Upper Room to be a house of prayer for all nations (Mark 11:17).

Many people are interested in partnering with our movement and are considering launching a Campus in their area, but don't know where to start. The Prayer on Fire Gathering is an opportunity to gauge local interest. It is essentially a "Taste and See" or preview event for the College of Prayer, and a way to see if there is enough hunger and desperation in your area to establish a 3 year Campus.

A Prayer on Fire Gathering is normally a two-day God-encountering opportunity to rally local churches and ministries to contend for a move of God in a region and to cast the vision of how the College of Prayer can serve area churches in reaching a lost world through a revived church. There is no upfront long-term commitment to our ministry, and regardless of whether or not a local College of Prayer Campus is established, we can assure you that your church will be well served through this event.

Preparing for the Gathering

We recommend that you gather people of influence, particularly pastors, to an "Interested Persons Meeting." Here you will ask questions like *"Do your people have a hunger to grow in prayer? Do you desire to see a sustained move of God in our region? Are you ready to reach out across denominational lines to pray together? Are we as a region ready to contend for a move of God?"* If you would like for a member of our team to navigate this for you, we can schedule a conference call with church and ministry leaders in your region. Then, assuming there is consensus, immediately contact the College of Prayer International team at (770) 829-0122 or email contact@collegeofprayer.org and we will work with you to plan and prepare.

- » Secure a host pastor of influence who will gather a significant number of his people to the

gathering. The critical mass for this event is 50+ people.

- » Network with area churches with the goal of 10+ pastors participating (3-5 minimum) across denominational and racial lines.
- » Identify two key pastors who can work side-by-side. (“... one will chase a thousand; two will put ten thousand to flight ...” Duet. 32:30)
- » Seed the gathering by talking it up with pastors, intercessors, prayer team leaders, etc.
- » Draft a budget for the event to include three areas:
 - » Expenses for the event – refreshments, food, printing, facilities, etc.
 - » Expenses of the College of Prayer team member(s) facilitating – travel, housing, food.
 - » Seed money for the launch of the potential future College of Prayer Campus (take up an offering).
- » Print five pieces of material, all of which the College of Prayer International (CoPI) can help you with:
 - Promo posters and invitations.
 - Name tags.
 - Guidebook for the event:
 - Welcome from local pastors with all names and congregations represented.
 - CoPI facilitator’s biography.
 - Simple schedule of the gathering.
 - Summary of the College of Prayer International.
 - Purpose of the Prayer on Fire Gathering.
 - Vision of bringing the College of Prayer to the region.
 - Teaching notes/outline.
 - Evaluation form.
- » Build your team:
 - Recruit a Registration Team.
 - Form an Invitation Team.
 - Have a commitment to make this a multi-church, regional gathering.
 - Provide adequate promotion for the event including the use of email, church announcements, printed material, ministeriums, etc.
 - Share the story of the College of Prayer International and cast the vision for partnering together.
 - Form a Facilitation Team - This team will sit and meet together with the College of Prayer presenter during the gathering. The goal is for this team to form the first Servant Leadership Team if you choose to establish a Campus.



CoPI will provide these resources for you to print.

During the Gathering

The College of Prayer presenter(s)/facilitator(s) will serve you by facilitating the entire event in concert with the local leaders.

Select a key local worship leader who can unify the group by leading songs representing each of the participating congregations. A College of Prayer representative will recommend certain songs and will meet with the worship leader and team prior to the gathering.

The event itself should include a few elements:

- » Rallying the regional church in God-encountering prayer and worship.
- » Instruction on the Upper Room, encountering the manifest presence of God, and casting the vision of how the College of Prayer can serve the move of God in the region.
- » Determine the readiness to establish a local College of Prayer Campus.

A meeting of key influencers should be held separate from but adjacent to the Prayer on Fire Gathering where leaders can meet the College of Prayer International representative and thoughtfully process the vision of the College of Prayer. This is usually held during a meal immediately prior to, during, or immediately after the gathering.

Sample Schedule of the Gathering

Friday

5:30 PM - Set up a Registration Table and, optionally, a Resource Table that might include books and curriculum for sale by the College of Prayer.

6:15 PM - Registration opens. Distribute *Prayer on Fire Guidebooks*.

7:00-9:30 PM - (Purpose: individuals encountering God)

- » Extended high worship and prayer.
- » Welcome everyone and celebrate the diversity of different congregations assembled.
- » Cast the vision of the gathering.
- » Teaching by College of Prayer representative.
- » More high worship and prayer which should lead to a time of personal repentance and receiving forgiveness.

Saturday

9:00 AM–12:00 PM - (Purpose: churches encountering God)

- » Extended high worship and prayer.
- » Morning teaching by College of Prayer representative.
- » Corporate repentance and response.
- » Break
- » Morning teaching by College of Prayer representative.

- » Lunch (if possible, have all key pastors and ministry leaders gather in a separate space to have lunch with the College of Prayer representative).

1:00 PM–4:00 PM - (Purpose: the surrounding region encountering God. We want to show everyone that attracting the presence of God to the city is realistic and do-able.)

- » High worship and prayer.
- » Vision of the College of Prayer by College of Prayer representative.
- » Teaching by College of Prayer representative.
- » Corporate response in prayer, particularly contending for a move of God in the region.
- » Prayers of blessing and impartation over the pastors represented, each congregation represented, and different groups of people as the Holy Spirit leads.
- » Distribute Evaluation Form.
- » Love offering with explanation.
- » High worship and prayer for the nations.

**The actual schedule is extremely flexible under the leading of the Holy Spirit and the needs of the area.*

Immediately Following the Gathering

- » Meet together as a Facilitation Team for prayer and to discuss the Prayer on Fire Gathering to determine readiness for a possible College of Prayer Campus.
- » Send an email to everyone who attended, thanking them for coming. Notify attendees of any next steps if you decide to start a Campus.
- » Meet with key leaders within one week to debrief and to determine if a College of Prayer Campus is ready to be launched.
- » Follow-up with College of Prayer Regional Director in your region.
- » If possible, bring key leaders to Atlanta to see the College of Prayer in action.

Helpful Guidelines

Worship

Approximately 50% of our time will be spent in God-encountering prayer and worship. Worship is a vital part of an encounter with God. He deserves our best in worship, and that is exactly what we want to give Him. Upper Room prayer environments help break up traditional and religious responses to worship. Ultimately we want to give people room to respond to God in worship from their hearts rather than from manipulation, tradition, or religious duty.

As you think through who will lead in worship during our gathering, you will want to select people who are humble, teachable, and adaptable. Facilitators and the worship team will work together to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as we allow for integration between both worship and prayer, rather than seeing them both as distinct segments of our schedule.

Repentance

When the fire of God's manifest presence is missing, sin will prevail in the lives of Christians. In order for the flame of God's manifest presence to return, God's people must cry out to Him in confession and repentance.

Often during corporate prayer gatherings like this one, you will begin to see the Holy Spirit soften hearts and lead people into repentance and a spirit of contrition. When this happens, everything else stops. You always give preference to these moments, because it is part of the way you identify that God is moving among us (*"Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand"* Matthew 3:2). It is always important to give God time to move in this way because repentance opens the door to healing and renewal.

Expectations

As you prepare to partner together with the College of Prayer International, it is important that we clearly define expectations. Please attest to the following:

- We held an "interested persons" meeting and there is consensus to move forward with a Prayer on Fire Gathering.
- We are inviting a College of Prayer trained facilitator to come and serve us.
- We understand the financial commitments and we are in agreement.
- We will provide all material for attendees.
- We will prayerfully consider the establishment of a local College of Prayer Campus to be birthed out of this gathering.

Lead Pastor or Ministry Leader Signature

Date

Host Church