

# Global Day Organizer Guide

(GDOG)

*Version 8.5, December, 2007*

## Introduction

The Global Day of Prayer is all about bringing glory to God. By design, there are very few requirements for organizing your community for the Global Day of Prayer but there are endless possibilities for involving the body of Christ. The GDOP is not really about having a big event, or upgrading the reputation of the churches in a city. It's really a solemn call of God to His people to come before Him in repentance and to welcome our Lord to transform our communities.

The Global Day of Prayer opens the door for churches to unite and to pray together across denominational and racial lines. Somehow the reality that millions and millions of people are gathering to pray the same prayers in every time zone helps us get past lesser differences and to pray for great things. We are gathering locally, but we are praying globally.

I'm not alone in sensing that God is moving in tremendous power in these days. He is calling us to be part of this journey. This journey is not really about what God is doing for His church, but about what He is doing for all the world, so desperate for His love and glory. He is calling us to humble ourselves, to pray, and to seek His face (2 Chronicles 7:14) so that He will fill our communities, and all the earth, with His glory (Habbakuk 2:14).

While we keep our focus on Jesus, I'm sure that as we learn to work together many new relationships will be forged and our city will be changed forever. New life will come from the new relationships. Pastors will pray together. Neighbors will meet each other. Churches will work together. And Christians will find ways to serve their communities in Christ's love.

Yours for His glory,

Stephanie Tucker  
Global Day of Prayer Facilitator, USA

# Global Day Organizer Guide

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# Part 1: Purpose of the Global Day of Prayer

## Vision

The glory of Christ and the blessing of the nations.

*“For the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”  
(Habakkuk 2:14)*

## Mission

To call Christians from all nations to unite in repentance and prayer, and to collaborate as God’s instruments for the blessing and healing of the nations.

*“If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”  
(2 Chronicles 7: 14)*

## Why are we gathering?

The primary purpose we gather is for the glory of Christ and the blessing of the nations. To seek God and exalt His Son for one reason only, because He is worthy. The day is approaching when everything will be subject to His glory. We are motivated by who He is not what we will get from our coming together.

We must keep the main thing the main thing—which is Jesus. We seek to honor Him at the prayer gathering and in the planning process as well. He has called us to come before him “in all things with prayer and thanksgiving.”

## What the GDOP is . . .

To meet as God's united church to worship Him, seek His face and intercede for the transformation of our city. We seek God for revival, intercede on behalf of our world, and collaborate for the blessing and transformation of our cultures.

The Global Day of Prayer is:

**10 Days:** Pentecost is preceded by ten days of prayer (Acts 1:14)

**1 Day:** Celebrated in public venues on Pentecost (Acts 2:1)

**90 Days:** Followed by "90 Days of Blessing" for our communities (Acts 2:42ff).

The three key ingredients in each Global Day of Prayer should consist of:

### **Prayer**

The first ingredient of The Global Day of Prayer is prayer. Prayer is the central focus of the entire event (2 Chron 7:14).

### **Repentance**

The second ingredient is repentance. By repenting for our sins publicly, we identify with the sins of our city and confess them as our own (Daniel 9).

### **Blessing**

The third ingredient is blessing. We look for tangible ways to serve our city by loving others as Christ first loved us. The simple act of service might be the beginning point for someone to experience the love of God in a practical way. Do something genuine and generous for others (Genesis 12:2).

## What the GDOP is not. . .

### **It is not about a one-day event.**

It is about an ongoing process of making God's name great in our cities. It is about the process of building ongoing relationships with others in the body of Christ. It is all about and for Jesus.

### **It is not oriented around particular issues.**

No matter how we feel about an issue, Jesus remains center stage—no selling, marketing, politics or distribution of any material. Keep away from issues-oriented prayers.

### **It is not focused on any personality.**

All recognition, honor and thanks go to Jesus so no one is exalted except Him.

### **It is not about drawing media attention.**

While we welcome the media to inform the community about how Christians are praying and hoping to serve the community, we do not focus on getting maximum media exposure.

# Global Day of Prayer Leadership

International Chairman

Graham Power, South Africa

International Coordinator

Dawie Spangenberg, South Africa

International Coordinating Team

Isebel Spangenberg, Etienne Piek, Nadine Arendse, South Africa

Board of Directors and National Advisory Board for the USA

The National Prayer Committee, Dave Butts, Chairman

In the USA

- 1. Oversight:** America's National Prayer Committee is privileged to oversee the mobilization for the Global Day of Prayer in the USA. The National Prayer Committee's Executive Committee of 15 prayer leaders monitors and serves the overall effort.
- 2. Publications and Local Organizers:** WayMakers under the leadership of NPC member Steve Hawthorne continues to produce and distribute the Ten-Day Prayer Guide. Stephanie Tucker helps equip the local mobilization effort.
- 3. Website:** Harvest Prayer Ministries, under the leadership of NPC Chairman Dave Butts is handling the website and registration of local events. Dean Gambill serves as webmaster and helps keep local efforts connected.
- 4. Broadcast:** Bob Bakke, Pastor of Bloomington Baptist Church in Minneapolis, oversees broadcasting efforts for the GDOP in the USA. He and his staff produce the main US broadcast site in Dallas, TX as well as help connect us with GDOP events which are broadcast globally.

## Core Values

Every local Global Day of Prayer organizer and team member should strive to live by the following core values.

**The Bible and the Apostle's Creed**—These define the doctrinal foundation of our unity.

**Worship and Prayer**—We strive to do everything we do out of a heart of worship and for our counsel and instruction to come from prayer.

**Respect**—We use a consultative style of leadership that expresses respect for every people and our desire to include every part of the body of Christ.

**Humility and Repentance**—We embrace a lifestyle of repentance, agree with adversaries quickly, and confront pride and arrogance in the opposite spirit.

**Servant Leadership**—We lead by serving. It is intimidating to lead leaders, even presumptuous to take on that role. It puts everything in proper perspective when we commit to serve leaders.

**Quality**—We are committed to serve the vision with excellence. Quality is not a financial decision.

**Relationship**—We are an expression of existing relationships and a growing network of people who recognize the value and significance of relationship. People are more important than the task.

**Integrity**—We are committed to honest communication without falsehood or exaggeration. We submit to a clear line of accountability and open financial records.

**Inclusiveness**—We celebrate diversity, seek inclusive leadership, and mourn the tragedy of any missing part.

**Sacrificial Giving**—The Global Day of Prayer is empowered by the sacrificial giving of God's people. Each locality relies on its own resources.

## Standards and Guidelines

While it is important to plan an event according to what is appropriate in each individual community, the Global Day of Prayer National Committee asks each city to agree to the following basic Standards and Guidelines and to apply them to your city.

1. We agree to register our event.  
Go to [www.gdopusa.com/registration](http://www.gdopusa.com/registration)
2. We understand and agree that GDOP must have a local Advisory Board that includes local pastors.
3. We agree to uphold the Vision, Mission and Purpose of GDOP.
4. We agree to uphold the Core Values.
5. We agree to carefully guard GDOP from being used to promote anything or anyone, and to keep Jesus center stage.
6. We agree to work toward inclusive unity by maintaining an interdenominational, interracial event.
7. We agree to make The Prayer for the World part of our gathering.
8. We agree to submit a follow-up report within a week after our event.

## Part 2: Begin with Visionary Leadership

There many different ways that each city or locale may envision the Global Day of Prayer. Keep in mind this is a season of united prayer. Each church is encouraged to find creative ways to involve each of their members in the ten days leading up to Pentecost. Always keep in mind that we are gathering locally but praying globally. This is not just another church service. It is a time for Christians to unite together for extraordinary prayer.

### **Envisioning different kinds of gatherings**

Gatherings can be small or very large. For example, one large city held ten separate “community” events throughout the area. Each community gathered believers from many churches to join under one roof to pray unitedly. Many other cities gathered in a public arena. Here are several other common formats communities use:

- A few local churches join together to invite the local community to gather at one of their churches.
- Many pastors of a city join together for the purpose of hosting a citywide event in a public arena.
- A few people gather in a home to pray together.
- One church dedicates part of their service to pray *The Prayer for the World* in unison.

### **Beginning with different kinds of leaders**

Sometimes it is an individual who catches the vision to host a Global Day of Prayer and other times it may be a pastor or a fellowship of pastors. In any case, it’s best that visionary leaders do not work alone, but find other like-minded leaders.

### **An Advisory Board: An sponsoring group of recognized leaders**

Quite often a local advisory group or team comes together informally. Other times an existing organization or recognized interdenominational group of pastoral leaders offers to provide spiritual covering for the event. The sponsoring group can be called different things, but in this document we will refer to it as the Advisory Board. It’s best if this Advisory Board is made up of pastors or other leading ministry or business figures.

### **A City Coordinator: An executive facilitating leader**

Usually it works best if one person is recognized (usually by the Advisory Board) as carrying the executive responsibility to organize the GDOP. A wise coordinator will always work in close connection with a covering of a group of senior pastors and respected leaders. Different titles can be used. Throughout this document we will refer to the key facilitating leader as the City Coordinator.

## Part 3: Steps to Organizing the GDOP

The following is an overview of some of the major steps in organizing a citywide, stadium, public venue or large-church event. They can take place in different order.

### 1. Bring Leaders of Your City Together to Envision the GDOP

You will want to convene an informal advisory group to explore and consider working together on The Global Day of Prayer. Ideally, this meeting should be held before the new year. Watch the promotional video together. Pray. Discuss the possibilities. As you sense God's leading, discuss who it might be who could carry out the various responsibilities. If possible try to identify who might be recognized as the City Coordinator.

Follow up meetings can involve leaders and pastors in the planning stages so that there is a sense of ownership by all involved. The stronger the network, the stronger the GDOP will be. At the very least, send all the pastors in town an invitation to attend an informational breakfast or luncheon meeting.

### 2. Form a Local Advisory Board

The Local Advisory Board serves as the spiritual covering, offering pastoral support, giving input and direction to the Organizing Team. It is made up of pastors and ministry leaders. It may also include godly business people and government officials. It is highly suggested that at least three pastors serve on this board.

The Board should have the following characteristics:

- Represents various denominations and racial groups.
- At least one respected senior pastor from the city.
- Contains pastors who have caught the vision and purpose.
- A willingness to cooperate with the international effort.
- Agree with Standards and Guidelines and Core Values

### 3. Recognize a City Coordinator

Of course, different titles can be used. The City Coordinator carries the task of coordinating the efforts of different leaders working together as an Organizing Team. It's always best if this role is carried by someone approved or appointed by a Local Advisory Board. The City Coordinator has two main responsibilities: to facilitate the Organizing Team and to encourage and affirm the team as they work together. The most important part is to encourage the team, keeping the larger vision fresh and keeping their spirits lifted as they work on day-to-day details.

### 4. Register Your Event

Go online to [www.gdopusa.com](http://www.gdopusa.com) and register your intentions of planning a GDOP event. This can be done at any point, but it is best if the Local Advisory Board has been formed and a City Coordinator has been appointed.

## **5. Form an Organizing Team**

The City Coordinator with the help of the Local Advisory Board should choose an Organizing Team. This team, lead by the City Coordinator, will divide up the many tasks and responsibilities that are to be shared and carried out by the body of Christ in the area. At a minimum, there should be a key team member responsible for the 10 Days of Continuous Prayer, another for the Global Day event and a third for any 90 Days of Blessing activities. It's wise for the Organizing Team will probably want to meet weekly from February onward. Depending on how many task groups are formed, each person on this Organizing Team will oversee one to three task groups.

Rick Warren has summed up how to organize projects. He calls it "Seven Principles for Every Project." You'll find them valuable. Go to <http://lc2c.blogspot.com/2007/07/principles-for-mobilizing-people.html>.

## **6. Establish a "Headquarters" With a Phone Line**

This is a must. It can be as simple as a home phone being answered with "You have reached the GDOP office and the Smith family." Or use the last line of a church that has multiple lines so it can be answered Global Day of Prayer. A simple local website can be established, too.

## **7. Set a Budget and Raise Support**

Renting a stadium, promotion, radio time, and utilities all cost money. Calculate your financial need. Money can come from individual donations, each church paying a registration fee, or a special offering taken at each church or at the gathering.

## **8. Recruit A Task Force**

Task Force Leaders are needed to lead small task forces that will focus on specific areas of your event. Areas such as pastoral involvement, facilities, media, prayer, children's involvement and many more which will be discussed later.

## **9. Set Important Meetings and Timetables**

With the help of your Steering Committee and Organizing Team, set important dates, times and places for these meetings and establish how often they should meet.

Local Advisory Board

Organizing Team

Task Force Leader

Prayer meeting and Prayerwalking

Volunteer meetings

Community Choir rehearsals

Dance Team practices etc.

## **10. Communicate With Churches and the Media**

Make the GDOP promo video, posters and Prayer Guides available to every pastor or congregation. The Ten-Day Prayer Guides help explain and portray what the GDOP is all about. Establish a regular email correspondence and ask leaders to sign up for GDOP Updates on the [www.gdopusa.com](http://www.gdopusa.com) website.

Urge groups of two or three churches to order the Ten-Day Prayer Guide together. Go to [www.waymakers.org](http://www.waymakers.org) to learn how. By ordering together, churches will save on shipping and get the prayer guides at a lower cost by ordering lower quantities. And by letting them organize the ordering, the financial arrangements can be handled between the different churches. Urge them to do this in a timely way.

Make sure you inform your local radio stations using a PSA (Public Service Announcement) and newspapers about the plans for your event. Your Christian bookstore can also be a wonderful resource and outlet for your event information.

## **11. Prayerwalk Your Community**

GDOP is a very public event, and one that will be the focus of opposition from the enemy. Prayerwalk the area beforehand to welcome Christ's kingdom. For more information see Prayer section under Task Groups.

## **12. Organize The Ten-Day of Constant Prayer**

Find creative ways to gather during these ten days. Find other creative suggestions are on the DVD or at <http://globaldayofprayer.com/>. Once again, urge churches to order copies of the Ten Day Prayer Guide with plenty of lead time and distribute them on the last two Sundays of April, as well as May 4.

## **13. Plan The Global Day of Prayer**

Much of the work will be focused on planning this event. Be sure to have different task force working assigned to different parts early on. Some will excel in working out details about any permits from the city that may be needed, or insurance requirements, or necessary police for traffic control. Others will work well in organizing the program. And others will love to work with sound systems and promotion efforts. Keep the primary focus on the vision of the event: the glory of Christ and the blessing of all the nations.

## **14. Serve your city during the 90 Days of Blessing.**

Let your community see the body of Christ in action. See many suggestions under the 90 Days of Blessing Task Force one pages 22-23 of this guide.

## **15. Email Your Post-GDOP Report**

Please fill a GDOP on line the report at [www.gdopusa.com](http://www.gdopusa.com). Many times national and international leaders must answer questions posed by the media. This will help give them accurate details and facts necessary for a good response to media's questions.

## Part 4: Mobilizing Pastors and Churches

Pastors may be reluctant to get involved if it puts another heavy demand on their time. They are more likely to commit to GDOP if they know they can delegate someone to represent them and their congregation. This is why the Church Mobilizer is such a crucial role. The Church Mobilizer does all the legwork of mobilizing his or her own church, while the pastor only has to be involved as much as he desires. They are the liaison for their pastor and church.

GDOP can only be successful if pastors and their churches are supportive. Some pastors will quickly get behind the vision, while others will need convincing and some will not participate at all. It is highly recommended that the City Coordinator and the Local Advisory Board host a pastors informational meeting over breakfast or lunch.

This is one of the most vital meetings. A poor job of communicating with the pastor will usually mean a poor response from his or her congregation.

Send a letter inviting every pastor and ministry leader in the area to a breakfast or lunch meeting. The cost of this initial gather can be addressed by asking a key church to sponsor the meeting, or you can keep costs low by making it a continental breakfast or brown-bag lunch. Be diligent to reach every church and ministry in the area. If there is no event in a neighboring city, consider broadening your area of invitation.

Ask volunteers to make a follow-up call to each pastor to ensure the invitation was received, to encourage each pastor to attend and to secure a RSVP.

At the breakfast or luncheon, explain the vision, show the video, prepare information packets about GDOP including a poster, prayer guide, and the video and distribute to every pastor and leader. You may purchase the DVD at [www.waymakers.org](http://www.waymakers.org) or a downloadable video is on the website along with how to order the prayer guide and posters. Log on to [www.waymakers.org](http://www.waymakers.org)

It is suggested that each pastor or representative fill out a Registration Card and to appoint a Church Mobilizer. This is a good tool to use to build a contacts database. From now on, all communication can be with the Church Mobilizer.

# Part 5: Some Organizational Details

## Non-Profit Status

We have found that it is best when a citywide ministry, for example Global Day of Prayer, functions under its own name. Therefore, it is suggested that you use a name such as *Any town* Global Day of Prayer or Global Day of Prayer *Any town*. This allows it to be free of a specific church name when a mailing goes out or when an offering is collected. Functioning as GDOP will help the ministry be above reproach in all areas of accountability.

There are several ways to go about getting the non-profit status for Global Day of Prayer.

1. You can begin the filing process with the Internal Revenue Service for a 501(c)(3) which is a quite lengthy and difficult process.
2. What we feel is a much easier course of action is to file a DBA (Doing Business As) or Fictitious Name under an existing 501(c)(3). Ask a local church or ministry in your city if you can come under their non-profit status. Then contact your county clerk to apply for a DBA.

Just remember, any ministry that wants to accept donations and give a tax-deductible receipt must to be registered as a 501(c)(3). This is not intended to serve as legal or financial advice. To make sure you are within the legal boundaries in your city and state, please consult a local attorney, CPA or appropriate government official.

## Logo Guidelines

Registered local organizers are welcome to produce materials using the GDOP name and logo. If this is done well, it can benefit the local efforts. [Click here](#) to see some ideas using GDOP themes on T-shirts, armbands, caps and other items.

We encourage your organizing committee to retain authority and oversight over the use of the GDOP name and logo. Printing the name or images of GDOP should not be used for personal gain. Please control the commercial use of logos so that any profits go back in to the Global Day of Prayer, rather than other organizations. We discourage private enterprise generating personal profit from the GDOP logo being used to create and sell products. This is not a hard and fast rule against T-shirt production. It may be appropriate to make and sell T-shirts or other items if a percentage of proceeds goes towards GDOP. We encourage wise leadership and authority at the local level.

## Part 6: Forming and Encouraging the Task Force

The Task Force is a group of volunteers who work on specific tasks. The Organizing Team appoints the Task Force Leaders. The Task Force Leaders help recruit volunteers for his/her own specific task force, facilitates and leads the group, and reports its progress to their designated Organizing Team member. Give each Task Force Leader a clear description of their responsibilities, what is expected and how often they are to report their progress.

I use the following true story to help illustrate the importance of delegating responsibilities to volunteers.

Most people will gladly volunteer if they have some guidelines and some room to make decisions and also room to fail. One lady came to a coordinator and asked, "What are you doing about Catholic involvement?" (This could have been any area of need.) Instead of taking on the task as his own, this wise organizer said, "Why don't I make you Task Force Leader for Catholic Involvement." This woman gladly accepted the challenge. She went right out and found 4 or 5 friends who had her same passion and began visiting every Catholic church in the city. And, because she was Catholic, she knew the ropes and how to get things done. She wrote an article and received permission from the Diocese to put the article in the Catholic newsletter. This is what can happen when you empower someone to do a task. It can be multiplied dozens of times over involving hundreds of people who normally would not have been involved.

The following are brief summaries of some possible Task Force groups you may want to consider establishing in your city. You will probably think of other possible groups to create so that volunteers from every aspect of the body of Christ have an opportunity to use their giftings.

### **Church Mobilizer**

Ask each church to appoint a Church Mobilizer. A Church Mobilizer serves to keep the pastor and congregation informed of any needs and special meetings. They are the liaison between the congregation and the City Coordinator. He or she will also find creative ways to involve his/her own congregation by recruiting and signing up volunteers that are needed. The Church Mobilizer makes certain that GDOP activities are announced at church services and placed in the bulletin as well as seeks permission to show the promo video to the congregation. Most importantly, they need to encourage each person to prayer during the ten days leading up to the GDOP. Ensure that there are sufficient quantities of the Ten Day Prayer Guide for each member of the congregation either by ordering directly from [www.waymakers.org](http://www.waymakers.org) or through the local City Coordinator.

### **Volunteers**

Volunteers are the backbone of any citywide event and GDOP is no exception. The Volunteer Coordinator needs to be aware of the many different volunteer positions

available and look for folks that can serve in the different positions. The Volunteer Task Force Leader will want to organize one or two volunteer training sessions before the actual event. The purpose of these meetings is to bring all the volunteers from the various churches together for a time of planning, preparation and sharing of the vision. It is also a time for volunteers to choose where they would like to serve.

### **Pastoral Involvement**

This is made up of mainly pastors for the purpose inviting and explaining the vision to other pastors. This task force could also take on the responsibility of inviting and explaining the vision to the liturgical church pastors, such as the Catholics, that may not be in the normal circles of communication. We don't want any aspect of the body of Christ to be left out.

### **Media**

This small group is responsible for communicating the GDOP vision to the media and also advertising it through radio public service announcements, television or print news. The Media Task Force Leader will prepare a media advisory to be distributed to all public and Christian media sources weeks in advance. The leader will also make sure that reporters receive a press release on the day of GDOP. He or she will also arrange locations and times for media interview, if so desired. Think about this: The media's job is to be skeptical. Don't be defensive. Presenting GDOP in a transparent, non-manipulative way will disarm them. You have a wonderful opportunity to soften their hearts with God's love. They are looking for fresh angles and you can help them find some. Don't use "churchy" language, but don't be afraid of presenting the gospel with clarity, either.

### **Photography and Videography**

Each member of the Photography and Video Task Force will take pictures and video from various vantage points. One may focus on crowd shots, while another on close-up pictures, and yet another may focus on video. Also, try to capture ethnic diversity, racial unity, acts of reconciliation and demonstrations of love among Christians. Please make sure that quality photos and short video footage is emailed to GDOP. A website and a physical address will be announced on the [www.gdopusa.com](http://www.gdopusa.com) website.

### **College and Universities**

A group with special vision for college students, possibly college pastors or campus staff workers will be needed to focus on mobilizing college and student groups. They meet together to discuss strategy for involving college students. They may even investigate avenues for publicizing GDOP on campus

### **Prayer Guide**

The Prayer Guide Task Force will brain storm to find creative ways to help each church and ministry find ways to incorporate the Ten-Day Prayer Guide into the life of each congregation. In some cities, the City Coordinator has ordered the prayer guide and

distributed to each church. Other cities have asked each church to order their prayer guides directly from GDOP. The Prayer Guide is a powerful tool used in preparing the heart of the Church as well as each participant for what God desires to accomplish on Pentecost.

### **Pentecost**

The Pentecost Task Force is responsible for bringing different program scenarios to the City Coordinator. They would research how other cities arranged their gathering. They would also submit suggestions of trusted pastors and leaders in the community who might lead part of the program to the City Coordinator. Remember, whether large or small, The Prayer for the World is a required element of each Global Day of Prayer event.

### **90 Days of Blessing**

This Task Force will explore the many options available for churches, ministries and individuals to reach out and bless their community. There are numerous ministries that have done the groundwork and offer proven outreach ideas.

This Task Force may submit recommendations to the Organizing Team about the most effective way to bless the city. One recommendation may be that each church is asked to develop a strategy for its own neighborhood. Another recommendation may be to ask all the churches to focus attention in one location in the city such as a park. Or, there may be three or four different outreaches where congregations can choose how they want to serve. Discuss creative ways to serve the public servants in your city. One group set up a table to serve coffee and donuts outside the IRS building. Another group I heard about served coffee and donuts once a week at a busy bus stop for early-morning commuters. There are endless opportunities to involve many people.

### **Youth and Children**

Youth Pastors and children's workers can strategize together to discuss age appropriate ways to involve youth and children from all denominations and races. There is even a special prayer guide written specifically for children and one for youth. Develop some material to distribute to church that will teach the concept of prayer beyond themselves and their needs. Visit [www.globaldayofprayer.com](http://www.globaldayofprayer.com) for many more suggesting for creatively involving children and young adults.

### **Banners**

A group of creative and artistic people will be needed to encourage making and/or placing banners around the venue to help stimulate the visual senses that this is about participating with the entire world, not just ourselves. The banners may also include country flags. Perhaps you would want to consider a procession using flags. An entire array of flags can be custom designed or purchased through Praise Banners at <<http://www.praisebanners.com/custombanners.htm>>. For international flags visit <[http://www.annin.com/products/cat\\_flags\\_international.asp](http://www.annin.com/products/cat_flags_international.asp)>

## **Site Management**

Site Management Task Force will make recommendations to the Organization Committee about possible venue sites. For a citywide event, they may also be responsible for crowd control, portable toilets, water, trash removal, security, first-aid and ambulance on site. If an offering is taken, this task group needs to make sure ushers are easily identified and proper collection containers are available.

## **Seniors**

This task force will work to involve senior citizens. It will involve visiting senior centers, retirement communities, and nursing homes and inviting them to participate. It will also be necessary to get the prayer guides into their hands of all those who do not attend church. Organize rides for seniors who are well enough to travel.

## **Prayer**

Members of the Prayer Task Force seek to effectively pray for the city, to intercede for GDOP and to seek to involve his/her own church in the ten days leading up to GDOP. Encourage each church to appoint at least one Prayer Coordinator to represent his/her own congregation on the Prayer Task Force. The Prayer Task Force Leader will communicate the specific prayer needs of GDOP and prayer needs of the city to each member. Each member should organize a group from his/her own church that will join with other churches to prayerwalk strategic areas of the city and to join in prayer meetings throughout the city.

Perhaps the best way to define Prayerwalking is this, “praying on-site with insight.” It is not new to pray in proximity, but we find ourselves so pressed to cover our communities with blessing that we might need a new word to describe this fresh move of intercession.

Most prayerwalking is a delightful low-profile affair: Friends walk two-by-two through their neighborhood quietly directing their conversational prayers for the homes and people they see. Praying Christians usually find ways to be on the scene without making a scene—in the public square without being in the public eye.

We are seeing God stir Christian to pray with determined passion for their communities in an “up close and personal” way. We are praying huge, “city-size” prayers in the very places we are expecting God to answer us. Visit [www.waymakers.org](http://www.waymakers.org) for more information and tools for prayerwalking.

## **Evangelism/Prayer Teams**

If you plan to have some kind of altar call or special prayer at the end of GDOP, you will want to make sure you have prayer teams available to minister. The Evangelism/Prayer Teams Task Group will recruit qualified people willing to serve in this capacity.

# Part 7: Planning the Global Day of Prayer

## Planning the Ten Days

The ten days of prayer are vital. These ten days of constant prayer are a time of preparing our own hearts and preparing the body of Christ for what God desires to do on Pentecost. It is a special way of inviting Jesus to visit our city and the cities of the world.

Millions of Christian will be praying together in extraordinary ways. Find creative ways to gather during these ten days. Many cities will plan prolonged meetings, which will fill 24 hours a day for ten days. Other cities ask one or two churches each day to fill a 24-hour period. Here are some other suggestions.

### 1. Find creative ways to gather:

- Pray together as families or small groups in homes

- Leave church doors open for small gatherings

- Organize 24/7 prayer. Many churches can join together to cover each of the ten days.

  - This encourages working relationship between other congregations.

- Organize special concerts of prayer among congregations

- Fast for one or more of the ten days

- Pray over the phone with a friend

- Find practical ideas about 24-hour prayer at

[www.24-7prayer.com](http://www.24-7prayer.com), or [www.xtremepayer.com](http://www.xtremepayer.com) and [www.globaldayofprayer.com/247](http://www.globaldayofprayer.com/247)

**2. Pray unitedly**—At the first upper room prayer meeting, Christians prayed with “one mind” or “in one accord.” Pray in agreement with others by offering brief prayers that keep pressing forward on the same themes. Utilize online tools such as “How to Prayer: A Users Guide.” This tool will help you deepen your prayers, sharpen and broaden your praying. It is also a wonderful intercessors’ guide.

**3. Pray with different languages**—Many millions of Christian the world over will be praying these prayers. Go on line at [www.globaldayofprayer.com](http://www.globaldayofprayer.com) to find translations available in a number of languages including Spanish.

Here is what a few cities did to encourage the use of the Ten-Day Prayer Guides and to help out and to notify their community.

The City of Big Sandy, Texas, has an active ministerial alliance that has promoted the Seek God for the City and the 10-days of prayer leading to Pentecost Sunday. They hand-delivered the Prayer Guide to each household in Big Sandy (approximately 600) and delivered packets to 17 different churches.

Lake Forest, MN felt challenged to step out further on behalf of this Global ten days of prayer time this year. We connected with as many prayer leaders in the community from various churches as possible. They looked for a central location that wouldn't hinder anyone from participating. The room was set up with many prayer helps and stations allowing people to be "actively" praying for the community, state, nation, world and for Israel. Some doubted they would be able to fill 10 days 24/7 around the clock. They not only filled every hour around the clock without difficulty over the ten days, people were begging for more time in the prayer room!

## Planning the Global Day Gathering

Ask your Program Task Force to investigate several different ideas and scenario to keep the prayer gathering fresh, meaningful and effective. Investigate new venues that might be outside a church building. Keep in mind, most churches are associated with a particular denomination and this can influence participation. You will want to work toward a venue that will not discount any particular part of the body of Christ.

Determine in advance the length of time you will have your facility so the Task Force can plan effectively for Global Day of Prayer. A structured event should not be something to shy away from. Nehemiah had a well-scripted plan when he rededicated the temple.

Stay away from a program that entertains. Instead, focus your gathering toward an interactive program that includes a variety of different formats. Include responsive prayer so the group itself can take an active part in the gather. Nothing is more discouraging than to go to a prayer meeting and be a spectator.

Select a good moderator who is able to keep it moving and keeps everyone on task and able to bring each section to a close.

Here are some of the components you might consider including in your gathering

- **Worship:** It is essential that songs used are simple, explicit, audible and dear to the hearts of many.
- **Procession:** Consider using flags from many nations or banners with the Names of God.
- **Thanksgiving:** A time of remembering and thanking the Lord for all He has already accomplished and for what He is going to accomplish in the days to come.
- **Recognize the World is praying:** Be sure to announce very clearly that hundreds of millions of people have gathered in prayer. This is a global occasion expressed locally. Not a local event among many others.
- **Offering:** Determine ahead of time if an offering should be taken for a specific community need
- **Prayer:** Focus your prayer on the hope that we have in Christ. When dealing with highly polarized political issues, pray toward Christ's glory and blessing instead of one

particular aspect or possible solution. Include some of the following types of praying: small group prayer or “huddles” or “clusters”, a “Concert of Prayer” guided prayer time, or reflection and silence.

- Repentance: Since it is a day of repentance and prayer, provide opportunity for people to approach God in repentance, perhaps modeled after Daniel’s prayer which identified with the sins of his own people.
- The Prayer for the World: This is a required aspect of the Global Day of Prayer that will be used by each event around the world.
- Closing: Call everyone to fix their hope on Christ, the finisher of our faith. So everyone is ending on the same note, you want to focus your adoration on Him.

To help incorporate more pastors or leaders in your community, consider asking two pastors or leaders to come together to read each section of The Prayer for the World. Read through “Leading PFTW” on the DVD for more great suggestions. Use several pastors/leaders from diverse denominations and races to lead in prayer. One can read the prayer and one can offer a short relevant prayer. It is always a good idea when asking pastors to pray to give them a time frame and a clear topic. Pastors are so used to preaching. Remind them that this is a time of prayer not preaching. Be specific. For instance, ask a pastor to lead a one or two minute prayer. And give him or her the topic. Incorporate a college or high school pastor and students who will pray on behalf of the next generation. Include a liturgical pastor. Offer prayer in a couple different languages, especially languages that are representative of your community.

We encourage you to incorporate multiple faces and names to be presenters at your gathering. Gatherings can be held in municipal halls, beaches, church buildings, school auditoriums, high school athletic fields, mountaintops, homes and many more.

- Hamilton, Alberta—The Prayer for the World was prayed in seven different languages. Consider different venues for your gathering. Think about what will prove to be just the right-size challenge for believers in your community. It doesn't need to be bigger to be better. Some recent experiences show that effective gatherings take place in many kinds of venue.

- Ypsilanti, MI—40 people gathered in a public park. No permit was needed and easily organized. They had tremendous hope for what would unfold.

- El Paso, TX and Juarez—Mexico, hundreds of people gathered on both sides of the Rio Grande, with plans to meet at the middle of the bridge. Rain and lightning dispersed the crowd to different church buildings before the dramatic moment on the bridge. But the symbolic setting needed no translation to communicate the hope of unity in Christ and the transformation of nations.

- In St. Louis, MO—Thousands of Christians from hundreds of churches met at the

baseball home of the St. Louis Cardinals on Pentecost Sunday for each of the past two years, joining millions around the world for a truly Global Days of Prayer. The unique feature of the St. Louis events has been the complete focus on Jesus alone. No other name, title or ministry affiliation was mentioned despite a wide diversity of race and denomination. Planning and organization was bathed in prayer and dependence on the Lord. A large cross on second base, hundreds of liturgical dancers waving colorful banners on the baselines, white "doves" released from the pitcher's mound symbolizing the Holy Spirit, shofars trumpeted the opening and closing, talented praise bands, and multiple forms of prayer were offered, all with the purpose of making God smile.

- Atlanta, GA—Complications in covering the costs incurred in 2005 for the use of a well-known downtown auditorium presented challenges for the 2006 gathering. They decided to meet outside on the Capitol steps and sensed God's blessing, even though lightning cut their gathering short.
- Huntsville, AL—A severe thunderstorm blew through during the event. We all continued the prayer meeting under the cement entryway - shoulder to shoulder in prayer. It was awesome.
- In Cedar Rapids, IA—We used international prayer leaders from Nagaland, India, China, Mexico, Australia and Nigeria—all praying in their mother tongue.
- Menomnie, WI—We saw pastors working together in new ways that was wonderful and encouraging.
- State College, PA—After organizing a citywide GDOP event on a Sunday evening in 2005 that drew some 300+ participants, a dozen pastors in State College, PA decided to do a Sunday morning joint GDOP worship service. This year, between 2000 and 2500 people participated, even though it was outdoors at a prominent shopping plaza parking lot with a prediction of rain (a light drizzle actually started during the service, but the prayers of God's people held the rain off until all the people were in their cars). We gathered food items for the local food bank and had excellent local media coverage.
- Hartford, CT—We had 4300 come to the stadium and participate. There is great excitement and we expect 15,000 in 2007.
- Framington, NN—We invited pastors and ministry leaders to lead our prayer time and the result was an increased call to break down denominational barriers and to come together to pray.
- Schenectady, NY—The bulk of the offering from the churches at GDOP was given to City of Schenectady to bless the city.

## Planning the Ninety Days of Blessing

As in the first Pentecost, transformed Christians transformed their communities, offering themselves to God as the instrument through which their prayers are answered. Like the first Pentecost, our goal is to fill the streets with “awe and wonder.” The Global Day of Prayer encourages the forming or furthering of local alliances among pastors, congregations, mission agencies and business leaders bring practical, transformational blessing to their communities. Check out the video on the DVD titled “Introduction to Servant Evangelism.” This 4-minute video gives you a quick understanding of servant evangelism.

Servant evangelism projects are designed to "show God's love in practical ways with no strings attached." Servant evangelism softens the hearts of persons who are not yet Christians—people who often think the church exists only for itself or that it only wants people's time and money. By doing a "low-risk" activity that shows "high grace," those resistant to the faith may (now or in the future) become more open to the saving message of Jesus Christ.

Essentially, servant evangelism is accomplished by any activity. All of it done under the umbrella of on-going prayer.

Done in the name of Jesus

Providing a beneficial service to people (cleaning neighborhoods, painting houses, outreach block parties, house-to-house prayer, Bible distribution, back-to-school fairs, car washes, etc.)

For which no financial consideration is expected or accepted (not even donations)

These are activities in which almost anyone can participate regardless of age (children and youth love to participate) or spiritual maturity. They may be done individually, in small groups or even large groups. Go out and have some fun blessing your community. For hundreds of ideas to get your started, visit [www.servantevangelism.com](http://www.servantevangelism.com)

The following are just a few of the many website that offer outreach ideas:

In Steve Sjogren's words, “Small things done with great love will change the world.” Check out his website, Servant Evangelism, at [www.servantevangelism.com/ideas](http://www.servantevangelism.com/ideas) where you can find over 300 suggestions for blessing your community.

There is the block party concept. A block party is just that—it is a party in which we bring resources and Christ-centered entertainment to a neighborhood block to begin the process of change. No matter how successful the Block Party itself may have been, it is ultimately the follow-up program that reveals the fruit of the event and whether or not a true adoption has taken place. You can even ask your police department for their suggestion for the “best” block to focus on. You can reach their website at [www.rockcitychurch.com](http://www.rockcitychurch.com).

Why not hold Sidewalk Sunday School? Using a concept that goes back to the middle ages, but refined on the streets of high-density urban areas & ghettos around the world, this program works in all settings and cultures. While primarily an outdoors program, it is easily adaptable to an indoor setting [www.sidewalksundayschool.org](http://www.sidewalksundayschool.org)

Here are a few other suggestions about how churches can come together to bless their local schools: Moms in Touch—organize prayer for a public school [www.momsintouch.org](http://www.momsintouch.org)

See You at the Pole—help organize on-site prayer at local schools [www.syatp.com](http://www.syatp.com)

# Timeline

## Organization & Structure

October through December

- Network with leaders in your city.
- Establish Local Advisory Board
- Form an Organizational Committee
- Search for Task Group Leaders
- Send announcement postcard to churches

## Involvement

January through March

- Communicate with Church
- Recruit and train volunteers
- Get commitments from churches

## Mobilization

April and May

- Publicize gathering
- Announcement in churches
- 40 Days of Prayerwalking before GDOP
- Final logistics for May 11, 2008

## **January**

- ✓ Read your Global Day of Prayer Organizer Guide (The G-DOG)
- ✓ Send invitation to pastors
- ✓ Advisory Board meeting
- ✓ Begin Registration at [www.gdopusa.com](http://www.gdopusa.com)
- ✓ Recruit Volunteer coordinator
- ✓ Establish database of church & pastors
- ✓ Apply for any permits
- ✓ Dedicate a GDOP phone line
- ✓ Appoint Task Force Leaders
- ✓ Establish important meeting dates
- ✓ Volunteers to call all pastors for RSVP
- ✓ Finalize Registration after Board is firmed up

## **February**

- ✓ Host citywide pastors breakfast/luncheon mtg
- ✓ Sign up participating churches
- ✓ Organizational Committee meeting
- ✓ Recruit Church Coordinators
- ✓ Collect volunteer sign-up sheets
- ✓ Meet with Task Force Leaders
- ✓ Meet with any pastor unable to attend meeting
- ✓ Set a budget
- ✓ Seek God for the City begins Feb. 6, 2008
- ✓ Email update to Church Coordinators
- ✓ Begin fundraising

## **March**

- ✓ Task Force Leaders Mtg
- ✓ Continue recruiting Church Coordinators
- ✓ Organizational Committee meeting
- ✓ Fill in remaining Task Force Leaders posts
- ✓ Continue collecting volunteer sheets
- ✓ Order Prayer Guides and Posters
- ✓ Email update to Pastors
- ✓ Email update to Church Coordinators
- ✓ Notify Christian radio and TV
- ✓ Notify Christian bookstores
- ✓ Monthly prayerwalk

## **April**

- ✓ Hold a volunteer training meeting
- ✓ Notify local newspapers
- ✓ Radio PSA spots
- ✓ Distribute Prayer Guides
- ✓ Monthly prayerwalk
- ✓ Organizational Committee meeting
- ✓ Prepare bulletin inserts for churches
- ✓ Reminder about Prayer Guides
- ✓ Organizer 24/7 prayer during the “Ten Days”

## **May**

- ✓ May 1-Natl Day of Prayer
- ✓ May 1-Ten Days to Pentecost
- ✓ Pastors prayer meeting
- ✓ Monthly Prayerwalk
- ✓ Organization Committee meeting
- ✓ Meet with Task Force Leaders
- ✓ Run through plan for the day
- ✓ More prayer!
- ✓ May 11-Watch and see what the Lord will do.