

DEEPER CHRISTIAN LIFE MINISTRY, NORTHERN EUROPE

CORPORATE WORKERS' TRAINING PROGRAMME, 2ND QUARTER, 2014

THEME: STRENGTHENING THE INNER MAN

09:45 – 10:15: Prayer Session 1	14:00 – 14:30: Prayer session 4
10:15 – 10:45: Prayer Session 2	14:30 – 15:00: Book Review
10:45 – 11:45: Bible Teaching	15:00 – 16:00: Ministerial Development
11:45 – 12:45: Church Planting Seminar	16:00 – 16:15: Q&A, Briefing
12:45 – 13:15: Prayer Session 3	16:15 – 17:30: GS' Message

WORKSHOP SONGS

Sweet hour of prayer

1. Sweet hour of pray'r! Sweet hour of pray'r!
That calls me from a world of care
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known;
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By thy return sweet hour of pray'r.
2. Sweet hour of pray'r! Sweet hour of pray'r!
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless;
And since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His Word and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my every care,
And wait for thee, sweet hour of pray'r.
3. Sweet hour of pray'r! Sweet hour of pray'r!
May I thy consolation share,
Till from Mount Pisgah's lofty height,
I view my home and take my flight:
This robe of flesh I'll drop and rise
To seize the everlasting prize;
And shout while passing through the air,
Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of pray'r.

Higher ground

1. I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining everyday;
Still praying as I onward bound,
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

*Lord, lift me up, and let me stand
By faith on heaven's table land;
A higher plane than I have found,
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.*
2. My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise, and fears dismay;
Tho' some may dwell where these abound,
My pray'r my aim is higher ground.
3. I want to live above the world,
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled
But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found:
"Lord, lead me on to higher ground."
4. I want to scale the utmost height,
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
For faith has caught the joyful sound,
The song of saints on higher ground.

THE POWER AND PRACTICE OF PRAYING SCRIPTURES

Prayer is fundamental to man's relationship with God. It was Abraham's habit, right from his early days of following God, to build an altar to God everywhere he went and call upon Him (Genesis 12:7,8; 13:3,4,18, etc). We also see his prayer grow with the progressive revelation of God to him. When he got more revelation of God at his meeting with Melchisedek, his prayer level changed (Genesis 14:18-20 cf. 21-23). Similarly, his communion with God in Genesis 15 revolved around a greater revelation. In chapter 17, we see a higher level. His prayer in Genesis 18:23-33 shows a more intimate understanding of God's attributes. We can thus conclude that our prayer becomes more profound and more effective in line with our understanding of scriptures – the mind and manner of God (Romans 15:4).

THE POWER OF SCRIPTURE PRAYING

Praying scriptures is a powerful exercise that guarantees praying according to God's will (I John 5:14,15). Many people pray from the head without understanding what the will of God is. Praying scriptures is powerful and effective. Why? **One**, it is God's command for us to pray according to His will. And what God has said in His word is His unbreakable will (Psalm 89:34; 119:89). **Two**, it is an expression of faith. He who brings scripture to God confirms that His word is true and reliable (Romans 4:18; II Corinthians 4:13). **Three**, it is a potent argument in prayer (Job 23:3,4). What else could be more powerful than to ask God to do what He has promised to do? If ordinary men would not alter their

promise even when it was difficult to fulfil (Judges 11:30,31,35; Matthew 14:6-10), how much more our omnipotent God? To pray scriptures is to express our faith in the written word and thus in the One who wrote it.

We have several examples in scripture. **Abraham's** prayer reflected his understanding of God's justice, which he had from his walk with God (Genesis 18:23-26). **Jacob** took God's promise back to Him when he feared to meet his brother Esau (Genesis 32:9-12). When **Moses** got stuck in his dealing with Pharaoh, he brought God's word back to Him and God gave a greater promise and a greater revelation (Exodus 5:22,23; 6:1-8). In the face of impending judgment, it was God's word that Moses used as final argument to secure divine pardon (Exodus 32:10-14; 33:12-19). His next intercession added an extra dimension because of his extra, fuller knowledge of God's manner (Exodus 34:6,7 cf. Numbers 14:17-20). Later generations never forgot this revelation and used it time and again in their plea to God (II Chronicles 30:9; Nehemiah 9:17,31; Psalm 103:8; 116:5; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2). **David** prayed scriptures (II Samuel 7:17,18,25-29). **Nehemiah** did so (Nehemiah 1:8-11). **Daniel** took God's Word to Him in prayer and relied on an earlier covenant with Solomon; he prayed and acted scriptures (Daniel 6:10 cf. I Kings 8:25,26,46-50; Daniel 9:1-4 cf. Jeremiah 25:11,12). The New Testament shows the same pattern (Acts 4:24-31). Praying scriptures is scriptural!

THE PRACTICE OF PRAYING SCRIPTURES

If we would pray scriptures effectively, we must pray them scripturally. It is not enough to open and read scriptures in prayer. It is more than reciting verses in prayer. The word of God is powerful and it is the believing, fervent heart that will use it as prayer weapon. How do we pray scriptures profitably? We can learn from Daniel:

1. Effective praying begins with understanding. Read what is written to gain necessary knowledge. Pray for understanding of the scripture (Daniel 9:1,2). You need illumination. You must understand the context of the word and its specific application to your life or situation. That way you will not pray amiss.
2. Go deep on the promise (Daniel 9:2). Daniel did not quote all the scriptures but held to one promise (Jeremiah 25:11,12). He studied a lot, understood by the books and locked on to one promise. Those who lead scripture praying should follow this example.
3. Set your face unto the LORD to seek Him based on the revelation of scripture (Daniel 9:3). Regard the promises as fuel for prayer and the commandments as conditions to fulfil.
4. Let your prayer reflect faith and commitment to the word and promise of God (Daniel 9:4). It is not enough to just read the word back to God; it must proceed from the heart.
5. Satisfy God's righteousness first (Daniel 9:5-16). Daniel did not sin personally yet he knew sin led to their captivity. He dealt first with this object of divine displeasure before asking for divine favour (Psalm 66:18).
6. Pray specifically using God's word as support, defence or argument (Daniel 9:17-19). God will honour His word **AND** your faith therein. God recognises His word when He 'sees' it in a believing, fervent heart.
7. Be passionate about it (Daniel 9:19). There is nothing more nauseating to God and spiritual men than heartless praying (Luke 18:11,12). Scripture praying should not be cold, dull and lifeless. Pour your heart out. Let God know you mean it. Be not cold or mechanical: cry out!

Daniel got an answer (Daniel 9:20-23). He prayed purposefully and he was answered specifically. Praying scriptures is powerful praying. It is informed praying. It is faith-backed praying. Moreover, it brings results. We should not pray like the heathen or prophets of Baal. We should pray based on God's promises and with a fervent heart full of assurance. As we meditate deeply on the written word, the Holy Spirit will brood upon it and covert it to the spoken one in our hearts. The prayer that thus proceeds from the heart will have power with heaven.

KEY ELEMENTS IN PLANTING A STRONG AND STABLE CHURCH

Titus 1:5, 1 Timothy 1:1-3, 3:14-15

The mandate of the Great Commission given by our Lord to His disciples is to **"Go ye... and teach all nations"** (Matthew 28:19). To do this, the church in Northern Europe is strategically following the DAWN project. A model in the strategy is to move in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ who **"went through the towns preaching the gospel..."** (Luke 4.43; 9.6; Matthew 9.35; Mark 1.38). We are to reach our cities for the Lord Jesus and plant enduring and stable churches where souls would be saved, sanctified, spirit-filled and saturated for the second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus.

Our texts give us insight into Apostle Paul's model of planting a virile and strong church. He left Titus in Crete, a location in an island in the Mediterranean Sea while Timothy was the pastor of the church at Ephesus. They were to teach, set things in order and made provision for the spiritual administration and edification of the churches.

As leaders over God's precious people and heritage, we can learn from Paul's pastoral principle of planting viable, stable, strong and rapturable churches in our cities. In doing this, there must be obedience to: (i) Pronounced Command from Christ (Matthew 16:15; John 20:21). (ii) Propelling Concerns (vision and passion) (John 4:31-38; Proverbs

29:18). The extent to which a pastor/leader yields himself to God determines the quality of the vision he receives from the Lord (Numbers 12:6-8). (iii) Persevering Communion with God (Galatians 4:19; I Timothy 2:1-6). (iv) Participatory Commission (II Kings 6-1-3; Matthew 4:18-22). Contact others socially. Arouse the interest of others – family, friends and peers, establish a common interest. Do not go too far; and do not condemn, stick to the main issues and focus on Christ. (v) Public Communication (Psalm 68:11; Matthew 10:27; II Timothy 4:2). Preach the word; use the pulpit to send the fire of transformation, renewal, and revival. (vi) Personal Consecration (I Corinthians 9:16; Romans 1:14,15). (vii) Promised Compensation (Hebrews 6.10; Daniel 12.3).

BIBLICAL PATTERN OF BUILDING A STRONG AND STABLE CHURCH

Exodus 25:9,40; 39:42; I Corinthians 3:6-15; II Timothy 2.19-21.

Moses was called, cleansed, and commissioned by God. Examine yourself whether you are in Christ. Be certain that you are called by Christ (John 1:12); cleansed by Christ (John 15:3); crucified unto the cross with Christ (Galatians 2.20); consecrated unto Christ our Captain and Commander (Philippians 2:7-8); committed unto building a saved, sanctified, Spirit filled, sound, stable and rapturable Church; companion of the cross of Christ; Christ-centred. These are virtues that will help you to lay the foundation of a strong, stable, saturated, separated, spirit filled and rapturable church in your location. Seek to be a vessel of honour.

BASIC PRINCIPLES IN BUILDING A STRONG AND STABLE CHURCH

Acts 8:4; 9:6-9; 13:14-15, 44 with 17:2; 18:1-3; 19:1; Acts 16:1,2; 14:21-23.

Planting a strong and stable Church requires wisdom from Christ the Chief Shepherd. Having been called, cleansed, consecrated and prayed fervently unto God (i) Survey the next city in your area of Ministry for necessary information on the residents. Consider culture, religion, demography etc. (ii) Set goals by contacting peoples of like precious faith. Usually of same race, same profession, family, friends, newly arrived resident from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean's, faith based churches around the areas. (iii) Schedule DAWN activities-send out formal and informal invitations to friends and family to brethren of like precious faith to prayers meeting and fellowship (Acts 16:16). (iv) Locate a place for meetings/fellowship. Remember the Church in the house.-The Paris Church (I Corinthians 16:19, Romans 16:5) (v) Set aside funds for rent and equipment-computer, pulpit, chair, PA system, etc (Acts 2:44,45). (vi) Select a location leader (Acts 14:23). (vii) Systematic training of members on evangelism (John 4:28). (viii) Stimulate/encourage/Motivate members and empower them (Acts 11:29). (ix) Spiritual warfare – engage in it fervently (Acts 6:3,4). (x) Study the word and search the scriptures (II Timothy 2:15). (xi) Serve the Lord in worship, seminars, conferences, retreat etc (Hebrews 10:25). These are the basic and tested principles that have worked in other places. They will work for us. A case study is the planting of the Church in Geneva. The National Overseer said: There was a vision/passion for it; some of our brethren (a family) attended the April Retreat in Germany. Fellowship will begin.

Nehemiah shows us an effective manual of Church Planting: (i) Information (1:1-3). (ii) Intercession (1:4-11; 2:20; 4:9). (iii) Instruction (2:1-10). (iv) Investigation (2:11-16). (v) Identification (2:17-20). (vi) Involvement (3:1-32; 4:13-23; 5:1-19; 7:1-73). (vii) Impartation of Christ's teachings (8-13).

THE NECESSITY AND NATURE OF PERSONAL SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

II Peter 3:18

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” The quality and strength of the inner life should receive significant focus from every believer and also from the Church. Your testimony and effectiveness in divine service hinge strongly on the spiritual power you consistently display. Personal development is a programme that helps you to add substance and depth to your spiritual life in a systematic way. This seminar shows you why and how.

THE NECESSITY AND PRIORITY OF PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Every land intended for fruitfulness requires cultivation. So also is a spiritual life that is intended for strength, stability and ultimately, fruitful service. Of all that a believer needs to do, the strengthening of the inner man tops the list. **“Be strong”** is a very common injunction in scripture (Deut. 11:8; 31:6,7,23; Joshua 1:6,7,9; I Cor. 16:13; Ephesians 6:10). Spiritual development serves two purposes. **One**, it build you up and enables you to stand firm in the Lord, not falling and rising and not sickly spiritually (Acts 9:20-22; I John 2:14). And **two**, it promotes fruitfulness in divine service (II Kings 19:5-8; I Peter 4:10,11). You thereby receive strength to carry ministerial assignments and you also have something substantial to offer when you minister because the inner life is deeply enriched. Specifically, personal development focuses on the following actions:

1. Development of godly character, inward purity, serenity of the inner life and spiritual strength (I Timothy 4:7).

2. The discipline of true discipleship: obedience, timeliness, dutifulness and habitual exercise of grace (Phil. 4:9).
3. Development of basic Christian routines: prayer, meditation, study and effective witnessing (Romans 12:11).
4. Increase of faith, courage, perseverance and such qualities that foster victory and fruitfulness (II Timothy 2:1-7).
5. The maintenance of constant fellowship with God, which keeps the heart fresh and avoids the danger of coldness or backsliding (Jude 20,21).
6. Systematic development of graces, gifts and skills, which lie at the foundation of a successful ministerial life in later years (Proverbs 18:1; II Peter 1:8-11). Opportunity comes to the ready man. The preparation you make today will open doors for you tomorrow. People who have vision prepare before the testing time comes!

The personal development programme therefore includes ingredients that build the inner man. The believer who has this is also able to make better use of regular and special programmes in the Church. In fact, he profits more than his peers because he has a vision and a programme to support it. He attends Church with a higher purpose. He participates in programmes with diligence. And he serves in the Church to grow and expand his usefulness.

THE NATURE AND PATTERN OF PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Personal spiritual development entails actively and systematically cultivating your inner life. That means you need to engage personally and consciously in actions that build the spiritual life. How should you go about it?

1. Adopt the aspiration and attitude of a humble learner (Exodus 33:18). Have a goal, a model to work towards. This could be a specific Bible character or contemporary Christian. Jesus is our perfect Example, yet He has impacted mortal men whom we can take as example. Apostle Paul wrote: **“Be ye followers of me...”** (I Cor. 11:1).
2. Plan your growth (Proverbs 24:27; Ephesians 5:16). Yes, you can plan it! Reserve blocks of time daily and weekly for your meditation, prayer, personal study, church service and other spiritual duties and guard the time jealously. People cannot encroach into your life aimlessly when you have it diligently planned and dutifully followed.
3. Plan the elements of spirituality into your life and diligently add them one by one into your life through conscious exposure to a healthy spiritual environment, active learning and internalising prayer. Spiritual development is an incremental thing, building on conversion (faith) as a foundation (II Peter 1:5-9). Having received the word into the good ground of a prepared heart, you must work day by day to bring forth fruit with patience.
4. Set time aside for fruitful communion with God (II Corinthians 3:18). Expand your regular time to include deeper meditation and prayer on core spiritual qualities (see point 3 above). Grow beyond “Daily Manna”.
5. Take time aside periodically for personal Bible Study and extended prayer. Study the fundamental doctrines of the Bible for a deeper and personal understanding (Acts 17:10,11). Learn to use Bible Study tools like the Concordance, Chain Reference, Commentary, etc to enhance your understanding of the Bible.
6. Make use of opportunities for questioning and mentorship (Matthew 17:10; Mark 7:17; 9:28; 10:10). Be methodical: write the questions down, ask knowledgeable people and record the answers. Mentorship will help you develop by observing and learning from a more experienced believer.
7. Exercise your skills (Matthew 25:28-30; Luke 19:24-26). Development becomes more effective when it is tied to duty. Evangelism, involvement in house fellowship and other Church activities will help you in the sense that you can work more consciously towards relevant skills.
8. Expose yourself to nourishing Christian literature and messages (II Timothy 4:13). You will thereby expand your horizon and widen your learning.

Aspiring for dynamic growth and ministerial power?

Then you must invest in the right preparation. The Northern European Workers’ Conference is a unique opportunity to make significant progress in your ministerial equipment. With a focus on training for personal development, prayer for significant breakthrough and anointed ministration for spiritual refreshing, this meeting offers you the right environment to conceive and/or incubate your spiritual dreams.

The meeting will be held at:

Jugendherberge Köln-Deutz, Siegesstrasse 5, 50679 Köln, Germany from 6-9 August 2014.

The registration is now open. With a meagre contribution of €100 for full boarding, there is no reason to deprive yourself of this unique opportunity. Set your agenda in order and create time for visible spiritual and ministerial progress. It is your greatest investment for this hour!