

Compiled by Pat Brown & Malc Peirce May / June 2000

A
Prayer
Strategy
for
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Malc Peirce (May 2001)

A personal introduction by Malc Peirce

The following document was produced by Pat Brown and myself in May / June 2000. It has been modified slightly since then in terms of grammatical and spelling corrections and layout.

Three appendices have been added, namely "Reading from God's Perspective", proposal for a "Boiler Room" and Notes from the "Sowing Seeds" week with Martin Scott in February 1999, which now seem even more relevant than ever. (If any of these are missing please ask for them).

I would like to emphasise that events which have occurred over the past year may have affected or modified the interpretation of some of our suggestions in this strategy.

In particular I would want to mention the development of 24-7 prayer in the town. This would lead me to a different set of implications and format for a prayer room in Reading and your attention is drawn to the appendix about the Boiler Room.

There have also been personnel changes in that existing "Job" descriptions are no longer valid.

Pat Brown stepped down from much of her public involvement in "prayer" as of July 2000. I would like to personally thank her for all the hard work she put in for Reading in helping to develop prayer and for her personal encouragement.

Russell Baylis is no longer part of the "Core Team" of leaders. Thanks go to Russell too for the years which has given to encouraging prayer across the town.

Andy Freeman has become prominent through his pioneering of 24-7 in the town over the past year and Pete Ward has taken on responsibility for the News Letter and some aspects of the Website. www.readingprayer.com has been set up to link all things related to prayer.

There have been changes to the structure of "Prayer for Reading"(PFR) / TNSP. The leaders decided to work at regionalising PFR. At time of writing there have a couple of regional meetings under this heading, but a regular format is not in place. There is still discussion as to whether "regionalisation" was the right way to go.

There is talk of a prayer room being set up – see "Boiler Room". '24-7' at a national level are interested in getting involved. It needs a building, funding and staff.

Plans are afoot for "The Call – England" in the Madejski Stadium next year. Discussions are underway with Julie Anderson of Prayer for the Nations. This would be a call to repentance and for a turning of the youth culture. It is highly linked to the presence of the Rock Festival in Reading.

Plans are also underway for a prayer presence on and around the Festival site this year.

Prayer Reading 2000 Strategy for

INDEX

- a. The Why and the How of praying for Reading?

Looking at spiritual mapping, gates and walls, intercession, congregations/cells/homegroups.

- b. Overview of prayer strategy

- c. How does it look?

- d. Job description of team

Present individual job descriptions of Russell Baylis, Malc Peirce, Pat Brown & Prue Magee.

- e. Appendix 1: Strategy for one area of Reading- Southcote vision.

- f. Appendix 2: Prayer changes places.... Gordon Hickson notes from Rivermead.

- g. Appendix 3: Mission Houston. Example from U.S.A.

- h. Appendix 4: Biblical overview.

- i. Appendix 5: Prayer for Reading (April 1999) an example of PfR.

- j. Appendix 6: Words received for Reading, confirmed through intercession for Reading from outside of Reading.

- k. Appendix 7 Martin Scott Saturday 27th Feb 99

- l. Appendix 8 Boiler Room

Appendix 9 Reading from God's Perspective

Foreword

In attempting to identify certain possible elements of a "Prayer Strategy" it seemed only right to first of all lay some foundation of understanding as to why we need to be praying, what we might be intending to pray about, before moving on to where and how we might pray, what structure might have to be in place and what the intended outcome(s) might be.

Pat Brown & Malc Peirce June 2000

Introduction

In an ancient time of crisis God said, "**I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so that I would not destroy it, but I found none. So I will pour out my wrath**" Ezek 22:30

We can take for granted that Satan is interested in keeping all men in ignorance of the gospel so "That All Should Perish". Therefore there is a clear need to pray for the city.

When Ed Silviso visited Reading he taught mainly from Nehemiah on the concept of "taking a city for Christ" through rebuilding its Spiritual Walls. When Martin Scott was here that was re-emphasised along with a call to rebuild the Gates to the City.

"I looked for a man among them who would build up the WALL" (Ezek.)

We have yet to fully understand / identify what we mean by **gates** and **walls** in the context of a modern city. However there seem to be several possible interpretations, all of which may be valid.

1) The Gates of an Ancient Walled City clearly controlled what came in and went out of the city. In the modern context it is probably **Institutions** such as the Council, the Police, the Courts, the Media, Schools, Financial Institutions and the Church, which are, or should be, the "**Gates**" or "**Gatekeepers**" of the City.

2) There is also the historical dimension, which we may find indicates that specific **places** have a particular link to demonic or indeed godly activity.

a) Places of Pagan Worship, of past and current Satanic ceremony immediately come to mind, but we have also sensed that -

b) Cinemas, Shopping Centres, Radio/Television Studios, even Football Stadia may carry some Satanic presence or influence in propagating ungodly behaviour and keeping people away from God.

c) Literal "gateways" in the sense of physical **entry** and **exit** points for Reading such as the Motorway Junctions and the Railway Station. It is probably not coincidental that the area around Junction 11 has been nicknamed "**South Gate**" by Shinfield Baptist for quite a while now and has been seen as the **main** Gate into Reading. Recently the new Commercial Estate opened in South Reading and was named "**Reading Gate**".

How should we pray and when should we pray?

When and how is simple . . .

"Pray in the Spirit on **all occasions** with **all kinds** of prayers" Eph. 6 18

We would not suggest that there is any formula for prayer, other than modelling the pattern of the prayer Jesus taught his disciples. But to be effective prayer needs to be made by those in right relationship with God and it needs to be "fervent".

"The effective prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much"

The Place of the Individual Believer in Prayer.

"Intercession isn't the preoccupation of the zealous few - it is the calling and destiny of the Chosen people, of every blood-washed child of God. If you call Jesus Christ Saviour and Lord, then He calls you intercessor and priest, and today He is calling you to your knees."

Jim W. Goll "The Lost Art of Intercession" ISBN 1-56043-697-2

We would suggest that **every believer** should see themselves as part of a **Network** of prayers within their **congregation**, which in turn is part of a **network** across the **Town-wide Church**, each town networking across the **Nation**.

Neighbourhood Watch and Pray

Another dimension of prayer is having individual believers taking responsibility to pray for their **street / neighbourhood** as a part of the network across the town. It was with this in mind that we first established **Neighbourhood Watch and Pray**. It was only a *vehicle* to encourage believers to do what they should have naturally been doing anyway. It is not something, which we wish to "move on " from. **NWP** is a vital strand of the prayer strategy within Reading.

The place of the Congregation / Cell

An example of encouraging the One Church vision in the local congregation

A most effective way of co-ordinating prayer will be by **Leaders** passing on information to their **Congregations** and **Cells / Home Groups**. If one of a congregation's **Leaders** were recognised as an intercessor, they would be the obvious choice. If not, then a member(s) of the congregation with a clear anointing of God in intercession with, where necessary, support from someone with administrative gifting should be recognised and "set apart / released" as a "**Prayer Co-ordinator**".

It would become that **Prayer Co-ordinator's Role** to: -

- a) Lookout for **relevant information**, prayer needs etc. to pass on across the congregation.
- b) **Encourage** prayer in **appropriate** ways relevant to the individual congregation but for the town as a whole.
- c) **Link** with other congregations across the town, probably through a town-wide recognised intercession co-ordinator for Reading church prayer activities.

In unity with the local congregation model include the below:

- a) A means by which those recognised as being **Apostolic** and **Prophetic** figures in the **Nation** to pass down to the grass roots national prayer needs / prophetic words of encouragement and direction, vision and known major answers to prayer at national and international level. Today we are blessed with a huge variety of means of disseminating teaching and prophetic insight - books, magazines, tapes, Internet sites, e-mail, conferences.
- b) **Release** and support of Intercessory leaders / Administrators in each **church** or **district**.
- c) **Representation** of individual city **districts** or at least the **town** by recognised Intercessory leaders / Administrators at conference level. (With time set aside for feed back to the leadership of the town.)

Cross Denominational Intercessory Prayer Groups

Most people recognise that there are those who are called by God specifically to **intercede** in ways and for lengths of time which are above and beyond the general prayer life of every believer. There is a place for cross-denominational intercessory prayer groups to bring together these people, along with, at least at times, those with prophetic gifting to seek the face of God at a deeper level. Often it is the intercessors, who through long hours of prayer and learning to **listen**, who hear from God.

Such groups are vital in **Spiritual Warfare**. **George Otis** (the editor / commentator on the "Transformations" video) points out that establishing a "**beachhead**" in prayer will be costly. The enemy will prevent it in any way he can because of the potential posed by it to his kingdom. That first wave of serious pray-ers will be attacked mercilessly like the first wave of men to hit the beach. The best image of the beachhead analogy is the film "Private Ryan". Taking that first piece of ground in a "city" requires dogged determination and passion. "Unless the church is consumed with a burning desire for divine visitation, united prayer will become merely another project." Regrettably, time and again it takes a tragedy in a City before the leaders really become serious.

It was with establishing "beachheads" in mind that Martin Scott last year "prophesied" that Pat Brown should take responsibility for "marking the boundaries" of Reading in prayer. Pat set about establishing a weekly intercessory group in East Reading and subsequently another in Caversham. The plan would be to next establish one in the West and then in the South. This was more a "stumbling" into the prophetic word of "pinning the corners" that Martin had shared than a pre-conceived sense of following the prophetic word!

Martin prophesied to Malcolm Peirce to "take and hold the centre ground". This was in the context of already going to the Town Centre to pray. It would be wonderful to look back in years to come and see that these 5 points of prayer were part of the "beachhead" being established.

We would recommend that each area intercessory group have a recognised facilitator / co-ordinator who could feed back revelation to the leaders of the town. There is a danger that a kind of prayer hierarchy could come in to being or blockages holding things back but we would want to keep contacts / networks as natural and fluid as possible, built on relationship and communication.

The military analogy above leads to another vital element akin to **reconnaissance**.

Spiritual Mapping has been described thus: As a surgeon "sees" and is directed by ex-rays before he operates so strategic prayer "sees" and is directed by spiritual mapping.

"Spiritual Mapping"

Increasingly we are becoming aware that **places** and **people groups** are spiritually complex entities. Converting large numbers of people isn't quite as simple as just organising certain evangelism activities, be it tent crusades, street preaching, door to door work or witnessing to friends and family. It has been shown in places around the globe where there have been conversions and church growth in large numbers that good evangelism strategies work best as they follow on to intense prayer and what is becoming known as "spiritual mapping".

To really begin to understand the subject we recommend reading "Informed Intercession" by George Otis. The following section is a very inadequate introduction to his thinking.

Otis (a) I.I. page 56 considers that there are a number of factors responsible for transformed communities, these include

1. Persevering leadership Neh 6:1-6
2. Fervent, united prayer
3. Social reconciliation Matt 5:23-24; 18:15-20
4. Public "power encounters" Acts 9:32-35
5. Diagnostic research/spiritual mapping Josh 18:8-10

(He adds that 1 and 2 are always factors)

"Spiritual mapping" recognises that we do not live in isolation from our **environment**, our **history** as a "place" and as people groups. There is a sense in which *God relates to the land* that we are rooted in as well as the people who dwell there -

"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the **LAND**"

Spiritual mapping is about identifying the **spiritual dimensions** of a place and its people. It has a number of aspects: -

- 1) Identifying the **culture / sub culture** of the group which are to be reached with the gospel (i.e. - what is likely to be the most effective approach?)
- 2) Identifying the **history** of the **place** in terms of specific acts, events (e.g. bloodshed), covenants, idolatry etc. that its people have indulged in.

Otis has identified **three phases** of "Transformation"

- 1) Spiritual beachhead - attained by a group of believers spearheading in united prayer
- 2) Spiritual breakthrough - a period of rapid church growth and expansion
- 3) Spiritual transformation - a climactic season attended by dramatic socio-political renewal

Spiritual Mapping in Reading

There has been some research done already into Reading's history - such as the Abbey and Church history, the "Battle of Reading" and so on. The booklet "Reading from God's Perspective", which has much valuable history recorded, now appears as Appendix 9 and was produced by a team in 1996 of which Pat Brown and Russell Baylis were a part.

One of the things we need now is more research. We need to identify the "keys" to the city. For instance Malc feels that "The Hand of St. James" somehow still has a "hold" over Reading which needs to be broken. Whitley Wood in South Reading may well be affected by this. He also believes that Reading should be regarded as a "garrison town" and that there may well be a key there.

The Kennet, rising as it does near Avebury with all its occultic connections may even to this day be a source of satanic influence. The confluence of the Kennet and the Thames was probably regarded as a spiritual power source. The Abbey may well have been founded on an earlier pagan site, obliterated and long since forgotten.

Pat has in recent years been involved in "Spiritual mapping" in London and she has developed links with the Mitchells and the Hicksons

Further Strategies

24/7- Prayer Watch

Jesus said, "It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer".

As "Church", believers within the town / city are the "house of God", indeed each individual is the dwelling place of God by the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament God established a whole tribe, the Levites, to attend to prayer night and day 365 days a year. We can argue that prayer is still going up 24 hours a day around the globe. However there is a growing movement which suggests that God wants to restore 24/7 in every place.

- - 24/7 comes from the prison culture indicating being locked up 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

In February 1999 Martin Scott prophesied "a new monastic order, taking vows, prayer, for Reading. Houses of prayer in Reading."

The levitical call, which seems to be growing across the nation for those who are committed to seeking the Lord around the clock, is a radical call. The Levites were set apart firstly because they were willing to absolutely put God first. (Ex 32:25-29)

Could we be seeing the first outworking of that call in Reading?

Two prophetic people received words from the Lord regarding the Levites in the last few weeks...one had the words "Levites within your walls" for Reading and the other that the Lord would call a the levitical people for Reading...those who minister before the throne day and night.

"They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble. But we prayed to our God and posted a guard DAY and NIGHT to meet this threat"

Neh. 4: 8-9

We would suggest that in Reading it is impracticable for individual congregations to operate 24/7 a Prayer Watch on their own. But together, across the town, it could easily be done.

For 24 hour prayer to be feasible on an ongoing basis there are 2 possible approaches, which could be used either one or both: -

1) **The "Prayer Wall"**

Reading Youth Prayer Network, co-ordinated by Richard Fairbairn (Wycliffe) is already creating a rota of 168 people who are each pledging to pray during one specific hour per week. To date they have 68 people. It is possible to sign up on the web page through "readingchurches". The advantage of this is that people do not need to leave home. They can get up in the night, if that is their time, pray, and go back to bed. The disadvantage is "isolation" and lack of consistency and development. A suggestion is having each person ring the next on the rota at the end of his or her hour to pass the baton on. This could be very disturbing to families in the night hours.

2) **The "Prayer Room" / "Prayer Tower" / "House of Prayer"**

To set aside a room somewhere in town which is open and manned, if not permanently, then at least for long periods of time, 24 hours a day on a rota basis.

The advantage of this is that: -

- a) Prayer needs / prophetic words / visions can be **recorded** and left in the one room. Subsequent pray-ers can then read, assess, build their prayers upon.
- b) Maps and pictures, books and written **material** can **accumulate** over time as resources for prayer. For instance at the Greyfriars 24/7 there were maps of Reading, but also a map of Manchester for prayer into Soul Survivor 2000.
- c) There is an overlap of people at changeover times and an opportunity to pass on **experiences** and **impressions** at first hand.
- d) If **God** so chooses, He can create in that room a very special **sense of his presence**. Sensing the presence of God, which aids pray-ers in **sensitising** them in personal repentance, intercession, insight and prophetic utterances.
- e) People can **call in** anytime during the day when they feel led to.
- f) There will be times when the quantity of people present leads to **spontaneous** or **planned** group **prayer** or **worship**.
- g) Individual congregation prayer co-ordinators have a **central resource** for **inspiration** and updating.

An ideal situation would be a room(s) as described above with an office(s) next door from which to administrate the prayer strategy, co-ordinate prayer mpping and collate information.

household / street / district & institution in London. If the whole city is covered in an **Intercessory "Net"**, the City can be changed.

As a last thought, when and how should we pray?

"Pray in the Spirit on **all occasions** with **all kinds of prayers**" Eph. 6:18

John the Baptist was offended by Jesus (Matt 11) and lost his head. ..BUT Jesus honoured him as he does the men and women who go for it and get wounded.

Take up the sword and fight.

"Rise up, O warrior of the Lord".

Elijah was taken out by Jezebel, and fear took him out of the battle and God had to tell him to pass on the baton to the next generation. Taken out but highly honoured!...on the mount of transfiguration.

Elisha learns the secret...only double the anointing of the last generation will take out the Jezebelic spirits and that anointing only comes through Revelation. The moment his eyes were opened and he saw in the spirit, and powerful Kingdom anointing came on him. Jezebel was taken out.

When our hearts are soft we will begin to see with the eye of faith for Reading.
Allow God to soften our hearts...

With London, Gordon did not see the harvest, did not see the urgency... no faith for London
Looked over the U.K. to the Muslim world. God changed his heart, gave him sight for London,
saw the urgency...an angel hovering over London with a bowl of prayer crying out to the
Church to wake up before it is too late :

God is coming in a Kairos moment of visitation...but whether it is in judgement or mercy is up
to us. Ed Silvoso prophesied there is eighteen months before judgement comes upon the
capital.(We probably only have 6 months left of this time!)

M25 Prayernet established, walls of prayer going up 24 hours in 12 sectors of the M25 and then
in each of the Boroughs.

London needs Reading. Turn our faces towards the capital and pray.
We are a garrison town, a fortress for the capital.

The sword..... Leaders put your hands to the sword in unity.

Appendix 3

MISSION HOUSTON: MODEL FOR OTHER US CITIES-?

From: "Jim Herrington" <jhmh@flash.net>

In its January meeting the Mission Houston Leadership Team adopted a record budget and assigned new responsibilities to Ken Shuman. Mission Houston is a citywide ministry that serves the whole body of Christ in the Greater Houston area as it unifies and mobilizes to reach the whole city with the gospel. The Mission Houston staff team serves pastors of local congregations and leaders of widely recognized ministries - networking them in prayer and assisting them as they work with other community entities to prayerfully discern and implement a strategic plan for the transformation of their part of the city. The ministry was formed in 1995 by several citywide ministry leaders and has rapidly grown to involve hundreds of pastors from across the denominational, cultural and racial spectrum of the church.

The Leadership Team, which serves as a governing board for the ministry, adopted a budget of \$771,100 in its January 2000 meeting. This represents a dramatic increase over 1999 and reflects the tremendous responsiveness of pastors and churches to this ministry. Jim Herrington, Mission Houston's Executive Director, said that the ministry has surpassed its three year financial goals in its first year. The ministry began with four full-time staff members and then expanded unexpectedly and considerably in 1999. "The growth of our staff has been a God thing. Over the first 9 months of 1999 five pastors of healthy, growing congregations left their churches to join the Mission Houston team." Herrington said, "I told them that we did not have the resources to provide a pay check. But one at a time - each in his/her own way - came back to say that pay check or not, this was a vision that God had put in their heart." The greater Houston area has a population of nearly four million people with approximately 2500 churches. Developing relationships that result in substantive unity among pastors among this many churches is an enormous task. "Though we were surprised at the timing of God in calling this team together, we are deeply grateful. This allows us to accelerate the achievement of our vision," Herrington said.

Mission Houston has divided the city into 21 geographically defined regions for the purposes of administering their work. Each staff member serves two or three regions which will contain 175-300 congregations.

The budget provides a staff to serve the pastors of the city, and it provides for ministry projects such as the annual Greater Houston Area Pastors' Prayer Summit. Jim Herrington, Mission Houston's Executive Director, said that funding for the work comes from three primary sources. "The largest source of funding is from individuals who are able to give over and above their tithes and offerings to the local church. Local churches are the second source of funding, and local foundations provide the third source." Herrington said that the number of churches who are supporting the ministry increases significantly each year. "We believe that within three years local churches will be our primary source of income," Herrington said.

In other matters of business, the Leadership Team affirmed a proposal to make Ken Shuman the Co-Director of Mission Houston. Shuman is the founding pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in northwest Houston where he served as Senior Pastor for 13 years. He joined the Mission Houston team in 1999 as a city-reaching catalyst for communities as diverse as Spring, Humble, Greenspoint, the 5th Ward and the near northeast side. In this new role Shuman will coordinate the work of the eight member staff and oversee citywide ministry projects undertaken by Mission Houston. Herrington will continue to cast the overall vision for Mission Houston and will guide the development efforts for the organization.

Appendix 4

A biblical view

Exodus 35:31 to 36:1

And he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skills, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts –
And he has given both him and Ohaliabthe ability to teach others....
So Bezalel, Ohaliab and every skilled person to whom has given skill and ability to know how to carry out
all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the Lord has commanded.

The Lord calls and equips.

Haggai: 2 "The time has not yet come for the Lord's house to be built"

v 9f: Because of my house which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house.

v 12: Then Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel...and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the Lord....and the people feared the Lord.....

So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel....and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people...
They came and began work on the house of the Lord.

It's time to stir ourselves up and begin again work on the One Church in Reading. To work in unity and harmony together for this one vision.

Zechariah: 4 v 9 The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple, his hands will also complete it.

The Lord has laid the foundation of his one church in Reading.

Zechariah 8: This is what the Lord Almighty says "I am very jealous for Zion, I am burning with jealousy for her".

The Lord is jealous for the vision of His one church in Reading.

Jeremiah 9: "Oh that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears"

The Lord weeps over the Reading. Destruction is coming.....warnings are being heard.

v 17 Consider now! Call for the wailing women to come

The Lord is calling for a people who are willing to weep His tears for Reading.

Ecc12:6

Remember him – before the silver cord is severed

Or the golden bowl is broken;

Before the pitcher is shattered at the spring,

Or the wheel broken at the well.,

And the dust returns to the ground it came from,

And the spirit returns to God who gave it.

Many each day in Reading are dying and going to a godless eternity.

Amos 5: A call to repentance

Seek me and live, Reading.

Appendix 7 Martin Scott – Saturday 27th Feb 99

New Monastic order.

- Pilgrims will come to Reading and go even to Rome. 24 hour prayer centre in Reading.

Released in heavenlies - ***youth movement*** of a 1000. Need to pray for connection.

Racism is a key area to pray into in this town.

There will be ***houses of prayer.***

- The church will be houses of prayer.
- The church will minister to the poor and oppressed.
- If the church is generous then contrary to all predictions the economy in Britain will expand and we will be in a position to give to other nations.

* ***Malc*** - keep going to the centre

Reading is a ***key*** to Bristol, Wales and London.

- Got to pray things in NOT organise them in.
- People will start to go to cities to pray. We must cross boundaries elsewhere in order to take our territory. Reading, Chester, Sunderland and Liverpool are fortress places.

There will be ***restlessness*** on the church in Reading. Prayed for 'burning feet'.

- The old boundaries must be walked.
- The well must be opened up again.
- The Southgate must be established. Shut the Southgate to the enemy then witches coven in Coley will close down.
- Need gatekeepers for schools. The University has no gatekeeper - when is it time to establish that gate. Watch and pray.

TFC - will send raiders from the West.

Has ***Elijah*** come?

- Is the Spirit of reconciliation to come or is it here now?
- Need to cross boundaries –
- Catholics to work with new churches etc. (None of us believe everything that right)

Jezebel - ***Spirit of control.*** –

- Need to come to an end of having our own way.
- Spirit of Ahab is being confronted.
- People are so committed to doing nothing - another stronghold.
- We've got to get in shape and get prepared for what is to come.

The ***boundaries in Reading*** go a long way out.

- In South as far as Shinfield.
- Put gates in place and then put gatekeepers in place.
- Some commissioned to get on walls and pray.
- The old historic boundaries must be held.

Greyfriars - The well at Greyfriars needs to go deeper. Someone is putting boulders in that well. They have got to stop.