

Guidelines for this Prayer Campaign

Before we cover the guidelines for being a part of this prayer campaign, let me tell you a short story. Three times in the past I have started a small, informal prayer group composed of people who had various problems and needed prayer. The idea was this: each of us would pray for the problems of one another. My friends agreed, and we started praying for one another. However, after about six weeks had gone by, I discovered that I was the only one still praying for the other members. And this happens every time I attempted to start such a prayer group. Though the other members were willing to join such a group and engage in prayer every day, their commitment was short-lived. They were willing in theory, but short of determination. They would “get busy,” “forget to pray,” or “lose sight of the goal.” Though they were willing, they lacked self-discipline. This problem is addressed in point (3) below.

At any rate, let us cover the basic guidelines for being part of this campaign:

(1) Firstly, this program only requires us to pray only *one minute a day*. And it could be done anywhere and at any time: when on the way to work, when taking a break, when going for a walk, when going to bed, while being in bed—at just about any time.

(2) Secondly, if anyone “gets busy” or forgets to pray one minute on any particular day, he can simply make it up by praying two minutes on the next day. If someone forgets to pray an entire week, he can just make it up by praying seven minutes at the end of the week. If he fails to pray much during the entire month, he can simply not be counted for that month and begin praying the following month.

(3) Thirdly, *anyone can pray*. We do not have to be a “prayer warrior;” we do not have to pray for a half-hour a day; we do not have to pray for an hour a day. Surely, anyone who is willing is quite able to engage in this kind of prayer. *We all can join in*. Our power is in our numbers.

(4) Fourthly, we can pray out loud or just silently in our minds. Though it is always better to pray out loud in order to prevent our prayers from getting confused with our wandering thoughts, if need be, we can just pray silently; God will still hear us.

(5) Thirdly, there must be a system of monitoring who is praying and who is not. Without this, the campaign will fail. Therefore, the best way to do this is to have each church monitor its own people. How they do this is up to them. For instance, a church could send out an email to all participants and ask them to respond to the question, “Are you still praying one minute a day on the average?” Or a church could ask their participants to respond by a show of hands during Sunday worship services. However a church plans to do this, there must be some kind of monitoring. Then, at the end of the month, the churches would send an email to the website of this campaign that contains a number—i.e., the number of people who are still involved, still praying. This campaign would then keep a record, available to any who would care to visit the website, of how many people throughout the city, state, and country are still actively praying. But the bottom line is this: past experience proves that if there is no monitoring, there is no campaign.

(6) This campaign will be recommending what subjects will be targeted for prayer. Each church can add elements or additional targets as they desire. But we do ask that participants pray about the objects that are recommended here. As time goes on and new targets are needed, churches may offer suggestions. Churches will then be able to vote on what the new targets will be.

(7) Regarding finances, this campaign will not be soliciting funds nor asking for donations.

(8) American politics will not be a concern of this campaign and will be avoided as much as possible. Instead, the main goal will be the alleviation of human suffering of the victims of wars and genocides being perpetrated by criminal governments.

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