

Keeping Intercession Fresh on a Team

Adapted from an interview with Erin H., serving in Asia

Anyone who has served cross-culturally for any length of time will tell you that there are times when team prayer and intercession times may get a little dull or repetitive. To circumvent that issue, consider what Erin shares below:

Our team at this time prayed once or twice weekly together and as I've cultivated my own prayer life over the last couple of years, I've found that although I am not clueless, I have a long way to go in growing in prayer and intercession.

Our team used a strategy during this season that really worked for us. At the natural semester break, we took some time and asked the Lord what the main areas were for pressing into intercession - both for our country and for our movement work. We felt like they were 1) the Church, 2) the government, and 3) the Lost. Because we also run a Kingdom business, we slipped that in every so often when there were specific breakthrough needs.

There were 8 people on our team at that time, and each week we'd focus on one of the three areas, and one person was responsible for sending out prayer reminders each day. They usually had some personal time with the Lord at the start of the week, and got ideas for the prayer times then. Some examples from our times together:

- sing a specific song over the church today and declare these specific lines of the song over the Bride throughout the day
- read this scripture passage several times, and use it to declare Father's heart for His Beloved
- we're going to prayer walk over lunch, near the traditional church down the street

Each day was different, and each person was able to present the requests from a unique angle, which came from the way Father had wired them personally. In this way the actual prayer requests as well as the day in, day out of intercession never got monotonous. It was always fresh and fun, and each person felt empowered and released to lead out in a way that they personally felt led.

Again, we had two corporate intercession times each week; one during Wednesday lunch, and one on Thursday evenings. Each week, one team member would be responsible for sending out daily reminders, and a different team member would be responsible for leading each of the corporate times. For our corporate times, the person

who was scheduled to lead (someone other than the one sending out the ideas for each day, usually) could use the songs, scriptures, etc., from what had been sent out for the previous day's intercession, and they would also use new ones they felt the Father had given them, and then we would focus on that same theme.

Overall, we felt like the Father was saying, "If it's not fun, I have an upgrade for you."

Again, we see that keeping times of intercession fresh depends largely on relational connection with the Lord. If we can grow in intentionality about waiting on the Lord and listening to His direction for our times of intercession, those times will almost certainly be more vibrant, encouraging, and effective. Too often we enter times of prayer with our lists of things that we feel are important, when really we need to begin (and end!) by asking God what is on His heart.

Even when we set aside time to listen to God, we often do so by asking "closed questions" - questions that would normally be answered "yes" or "no". As you wait on the Lord, try to consider what "open-ended questions" you should be asking. Maybe begin by asking Him what you should ask Him!