

Prioritising Prayer When Life is Busy

Fridaynights are usually our busy young family's only opportunity to crash out - kids in bed, tea in oven, feet up and box set on.

So when it comes to the 'Enough' half-nights of prayer, I'm ashamed to say I have to dig very deep for the willpower to drag myself out the door and pray for four hours!

The reason I do is simple. I've learned that corporate prayer is where the rubber hits the road – where the action is – in church life. Historically, prayer has always been at the cutting edge of significant moves of God. As church family we simply can't expect to make progress in fulfilling God's purposes for us if we're not prepared to sacrifice the time to come before God together and ask him for help. Praying on our own is important, there is simply no substitute for regular silence and solitude before God, but Jesus tells his followers there is a powerful dynamic in praying alongside others:

"Truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I with them."
(Matthew 18)

My business survives on prayer. I don't really advertise or network. It's pretty much word-of-mouth and entirely God's provision. After ten years, I've learned to simply pray and trust God.

“Be encouraged, God is going to do significant things in our city, but it starts with you and I getting together to pray!”



Sometimes work comes in at the last minute, but God always comes through.

I have fond memories of sharing an office space with my mate James, where we were in a regular habit of putting down our work and spending time with God, reminding each other of things to be thankful for and bringing our urgent requests to him. When we stopped sharing an office we would still meet to pray wherever we

could, if even on a park bench! These were precious times. I always walked away feeling a mixture of settled calm – that God had everything under control – and active excitement at what he might do next.

There's a powerful short story in the back of Pete Greig's book *Red Moon Rising: How 24-7 Prayer Is Awakening a Generation*. We recently shared it with our local friends to help convince them to join us in praying for our community every week. It tells the story of the 1859 revival in Ulster where 100,000 people made commitments to Christ.

History suggests it started with a small prayer meeting of just four men. It didn't grow for three months but within two years there were 100 prayer meetings per week across their parish – 16 every night!

Be encouraged: God is going to do significant things in our city. But it starts with you and me getting together to pray!

Jon Mullender

