



Global Day of Prayer May 23, 2010

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Mexico

Welcome: The pastor or worship leader states the theme of the service and invites all to hear Jesus' words as He proclaimed them (Luke 4:18-19) near the beginning of His public ministry. Jesus chose this Scripture from the book of the prophet Isaiah when invited to read Scripture in the synagogue.

Today we will focus on prayer:

- for our world,
- for release and freedom for those imprisoned and oppressed physically, emotionally and spiritually,
- and for God's people to be released for His work among the imprisoned and oppressed.

Opening Scripture:

Psalm 107:1-15

Leader: ¹Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
His love endures forever.

People: ²Let the redeemed of the Lord say this –
Those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,
³those he gathered from the lands,
from the east and west, from north and south.

Leader: ⁴Some wandered in desert wastelands,
Finding no way to a city where they could settle.
⁵They were hungry and thirsty,
and their lives ebbed away.

People: ⁶Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,
And he delivered them from their distress.
⁷He led them by a straight way
to a city where they could settle.
⁸Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for men,
⁹for he satisfies the thirsty
and fills the hungry with good things.

Leader: ¹⁰Some sat in darkness and the deepest gloom,
Prisoners suffering in iron chains,
¹¹for they had rebelled against the words of God
and despised the counsel of the Most High.
¹²So he subjected them to bitter labor;
they stumbled, and there was no one to help.

People: ¹³Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,

And he saved them from their distress.
¹⁴He brought them out of darkness and the deepest gloom
and broke away their chains.

All: ¹⁵Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love
And his wonderful deeds for men,
¹⁶For he breaks down gates of bronze
and cuts through bars of iron.

Prayer: Prayer inviting the Lord's presence during this time of worship and intercession will include the focus of freedom and release from sin through our Lord Jesus Christ. This may include a time of expressing confession and of thankfulness for the freedom we have experienced through knowing Christ as our Savior. He alone breaks the power of sin and death.

Opening Song Suggestions:

Hymns

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (text Charles Wesley)
“Jesus Shall Reign” (Isaac Watts)
“Ye Servants of God” (Charles Wesley)
“Rejoice the Lord Is King” (Charles Wesley)
“There is a Fountain” (William Cowper)

Praise and Worship Songs

“Mighty To Save” (Hillsong)
“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)” (Chris Tomlin)
“Kings and Nations” (Robin Mark)
“There Is a Fountain” (Selah, contemporary version of hymn)

Testimony:

Option 1: During the above worship time your worship leader may invite a believer to share how Christ's power released him/her from the chains of sin, sharing the transformation Christ has made in his/her life

Option 2: Someone who has gone on a short-term mission trip may explain how God is working in another people group to bring His salvation.

Prayer Focus:

(Allow at least a half hour for this prayer focus.)

Option 1: Use PowerPoint slides or overhead projector transparencies to divide the prayer time into prayer for each world area, highlighting needs in each location. It may be helpful to begin the time praying for your own community needs and then branch out around the world.

Option 2: Divide the meeting room into areas/stations: North America, Latin America, Europe, Middle East and Asia. Allow people to choose a world area to pray for. At each station have a display board including an area map, highlights of specific countries and needs in those areas. You may prepare a handout of each area with prayer requests gleaned from *World Mission People* magazine or the weekly “Hotline.” Photos are always helpful at the display area. Perhaps a leader at each station could hand

out prayer cards and specific prayer requests. Individuals could pray, and then the whole group could pray together, led by the station leader, to finish the prayer time.

General prayer requests fitting the *Release* theme:

- Pray for those who are *imprisoned* by cycles of sin including addictions, violence, prostitution, sex traffic and abuse.
- Pray for those who are *blinded* by false religions and those who have never heard the truth of the gospel.
- Pray for those who are *oppressed* by poverty, hunger, disease, wars and oppressive governments.
- Pray for those who are *imprisoned* for their faith in Jesus.
- Pray that God's transforming power might break the chains that imprison – spiritually, emotionally and physically; open blinded eyes to the light of the gospel; and release hearts of those living under oppression.

Sample of specific prayer requests:

- Pastors and believers in FM house churches in an Asian country are being threatened and harassed by police. Pray God will release these believers from fear and that the gospel truth will continue to be proclaimed and many will be saved.
- Missionary Phyllis Sortor in Nigeria requests prayer for Hope Academy, a school that was recently taken over by a former pastor of the church. Pray this school will be restored to the FM Church.

Message Option:

A brief message on Mark 5:1-20 could be shared. Possible observations relating to “release:”

- Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee in this encounter. What does this tell us about this demon-possessed man? *In the eyes of his countrymen he was a madman, yet Jesus crosses the sea to minister to him.*
- What do we learn about the spirit world? *A very real, fierce battle was going on for this man's soul. He was possessed by a “legion” (a legion was 6,000 soldiers) of demons. Yet Jesus' power prevailed.* How do you see this same battle going on today? What do people need to be *released from*?
- Mark describes the amazing transformation in this man who now was a Christ-follower. How does Jesus transform people today?
- This new believer begs Jesus to let him go with Him, yet Jesus does not allow him. Why was the man to stay in the Decapolis? What was this man *released for*?

Challenge: Commentaries tell us this region, on the east side of the Sea of Galilee, was a series of 10 cities settled during the time Alexander the Great conquered Palestine. They remained distinctly Greek. Thus, this man, the first follower of Jesus in the region, was a Gentile. The story reminds us that Jesus' message of salvation was not just for the Jews, but also for the entire world.

What has Jesus released you from and for? What is He asking you to do in your community and around the world?

Songs of Response:

“The God of This City” (Bluetree/Chris Tomlin)

“Multiply Your Love” (Andy Park)