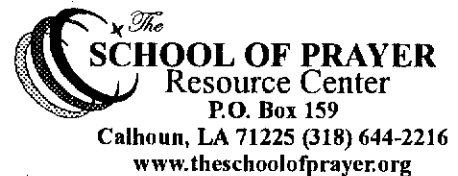


SUGGESTIONS ON BUILDING A PRAYER MINISTRY: A PRAYER ROOM



An Intercessory Prayer Room can be developed as a place in the church building where members come to intercede for the requests that are placed in the room.

Why have such a Prayer Room? Can't we all just pray at home?

Certainly we can all pray at home... But *do* we? Most Christians I know have trouble disciplining themselves to pray. Just as some people need to join a health club to discipline themselves to get in shape, many Christians and congregations need the discipline of a prayer room to make progress in prayer.

Note the advantages of a prayer room:

(1) It's a central place to keep all the prayer requests. It's also a great place to keep lists of local and national elected officials, judges, missionaries, etc. who need our prayers.

(2) It's a quiet place to get away from your busy life and find time to pray. It keeps you away from the phone, TV, computer and other hindrances to prayer.

(3) It makes a statement - "our congregation is *serious* about prayer and about knowing God." If a church will go to the trouble to build a prayer room, or remodel another room and create a place to pray, it says a lot about the congregation's determination to pray. (Just think of the other specialized rooms we build, especially places to *eat*.)

(4) It becomes a wonderful place to meet with two or three others to pray; sometimes such rooms are even used during the invitation for those who need private counseling.

(5) It's a central location, a "headquarters" for the prayer ministry of the local congregation.

Some ideas on beginning a prayer room:

(1) The ideal prayer room should be accessible to church members from outside the building, or at least have an entrance that doesn't require opening the whole building.

(2) Some churches have electronic keypad entries so members can use the room without a building key.

(3) Pray and decide how God wants you to use this room; will it be just a place for members to pray, or will it be used to house a telephone line that takes requests from the community?

(4) As you decide the purpose for this room, you'll need to decide how to furnish it: consider designing it with a desk or table, chairs, carpeted floor on which to kneel, bulletin boards, books and Bibles needed to encourage prayer, telephone and phone book, prayer request files, notepaper, etc. Be creative, and be willing to adjust as you progress.

(5) Consider prayerfully appointing someone as "Prayer Coordinator" - this person will organize and coordinate all the prayer activities of the congregation and will maintain the prayer room and prayer lists. Choose someone who can organize, but also someone devoted to intercession.