

The Voice of Charlotte Awake

AWAKE PRAYER

- Pray that the newly trained Multipliers will begin to find those in whom God is leading to salvation.
- Pray God’s comfort and peace for the students, families, faculty, and administrators at UNCC in the wake of April 30th shooting.
- Pray for open doors of ministry for the Christians at UNCC and the college ministries on campus.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will raise up intercessors for revival, one at a time, from the congregations throughout the city.
- Pray for young women and men to decide not to abort their babies, and for the churches and ministries who reach out to them with the love of Christ.
- Pray for the Love Charlotte movement as the church prepares for RNC2020 next July.

Bible Clusters

READ • TALK • PRAY

Want to help others encounter God through His word? Keep it simple and start a Bible Cluster!

Go to BibleClusters.org for video training and information.

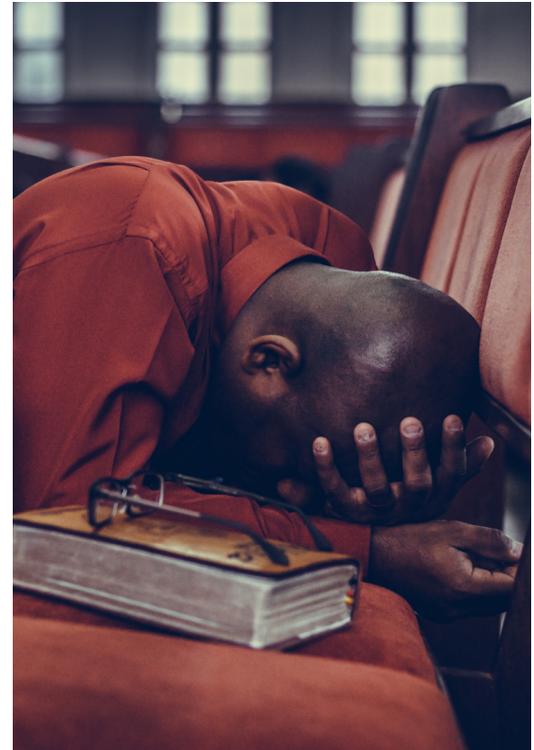
PRAYER CAN BE TOUGH

by Dr. David F. Ingrassia

Prayer seems so easy that even little children can do it, but in reality it is one of the most challenging experiences even the most mature believer faces. The Bible even says that because we don’t know how to pray, the *“Holy Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words”* (Rom. 8:26)! As difficult as it can be, prayer is apparently so important that God does not leave it to us alone. He has to help us.

Why such difficulty? Perhaps it is because we are used to human communication experience when we talk and the other listens and verbally responds forming an interactive communication. On the other hand, as any husband and wife can testify, even human communication stretches beyond mere words to the realm of the unspoken glance, approving smile, or disapproving cold shoulder. We don’t always need words to communicate. But in prayer, communication for many seems to be one-sided as if speaking into Dixie® Cups attached by string.

Prayer can also be difficult because we don’t always know what to pray. We have many, many needs, which often occupy the space of our prayers; and it tends to be easier to fill the prayer space with our concrete concerns rather than with more amorphous words of adoration and praise for His infinite beauty and goodness. After all, we respond to a fireworks finale not by a verbal detailed description of each multicolored exploding palm tree or percussive hammer of sound, but rather with a more spontaneous onomatopoeia of *“oohs”* and *“ahhhs.”* Praying to God about His own infinite nature



is more like that— an inner response of admiration without words.

And maybe prayer is difficult because we don’t know its purpose. Is it to let God know what we need? If He is all-knowing, why do we need to tell Him? Is it to praise Him? Is it to get Him to respond in a certain way?

The Lord’s prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) gives us some needed direction. First, prayer is focused on God not our needs. As we pray, *“Your kingdom come,”* we bend our stubborn wills to be in line with His will and His kingdom plans. Second, even when we pray for *“daily bread,”* the context is to ask God for what we need today in order to fulfill His will and advance His kingdom. Check out our podcasts for more about prayer.



A SUMMER ADVENTURE: PRAYING FOR YOUR NEIGHBOR

By Rocky Norkum

The courageous laughter of children at play, the crackling start of a cold mower engine, and the scent of charcoal in the air are all signs of the welcomed return of summer where the scales of the work-life balance tip a little more in our favor.

These longer, hotter days brighten our streets and homes with more walking, chatting, and outdoor cooking that winter attempts to isolate every year. And for the Christian, many more doors are opened not only for interaction, but acts of love toward our neighbors.

One the best ways to love your neighbors is to pray for them. Our ultimate hope for our neighbors should be that they might receive eternal life, so we pray that God

removes the blinders and softens their hearts to receive Him.

Praying for your neighbors is a Spirit-led adventure for you, your family, and your Christian neighbors to participate in. You can begin right now praying for the believing neighbors and the non-believing neighbors, the ones you know and the ones you do not know.

Use a tool like www.BlessEveryHome.com to identify the neighbors around you, so you can begin to pray for them by name while in your home or on a summer evening stroll. Ask the Lord for opportunities to pray with Christian neighbors for the lost in your neighborhood. And ask the Lord for opportunities to show biblical



hospitality to those who are desperate for God's peace. Also, look for our Charlotte Awake App this summer on iTunes and Google Play.

If praying this way seems awkward, then ask the Lord to give you His heart for your neighborhood and to help you take first steps. Remember, this is all His work though He graciously allows us to be the showcase for His love.

MAY HAPPENINGS

Podcast: Prayer Walking



Church Awake

Pastor David Ingrassia sat down with Pastor Dana Bryan to discuss the role of prayer and his season of prayer walking in the founding of Center City Chapel in uptown Charlotte. While Dana prepared the harvest field in prayer, the Lord was preparing Dana's heart for the ministry work he was going to undertake. He didn't expect it to take the time it did, but looking back, he can see the faithfulness of the Lord in every step of his walk. You can hear this episode on our Church Awake podcast..

Bible Clusters: Have You Tried Them?

In partnership with American Bible Society, we created an incredible resource for you to learn what a Bible Cluster

is and how to start one. By visiting BibleClusters.org, you will find eight, easy-to-follow videos, no longer than three minutes each, that will help you pray and follow the Lord in starting one.



So what is a Bible Cluster? The idea is simple—people come together to read the Bible, talk about it, and pray. The effects are profound: people encounter God together. Charlotte Awake created the site to be easy and free to use. You do not need to let us know your intentions in starting a Bible Cluster, but if we can be of any help, do not hesitate to ask.

Next Multiplier Lab 2.0 Coming Soon

Everything happens by prayer, and since the “god of this age has blinded the minds

of unbelievers” (2 Cor. 4:4), we do not send Multipliers into the Lord's harvest without first praying for the Lord's leading and empowerment.



This training is designed to help Multiplier Lab 1.0 graduates pray with their 2x2 Partner in order to discern what “ministry field” the Lord wants them to enter. They will learn how to pray specifically to “till the spiritual soil,” and will learn the power of prayer walking. They will also begin to pray specifically to discover persons of peace to whom the Spirit will direct them.

