

Community Transformation

–Vision Statement–

Vision: To transform our communities with the life changing gospel of Jesus Christ by joining together to bring God to our communities in very practical ways.

Mission: To win the lost, make disciples of Jesus Christ and bring positive change to the spiritual climate of our community, promoting and facilitating cooperation among churches, ministries, and associations.

Values:

God's Word - our only standard for conduct and rule.

Prayer - the indispensable foundation for all that we do.

Visible Unity - partnership with each other as God leads us in like-minded efforts united under the banner of Jesus Christ.

Community Focused - working together to influence all people in our community to accept Christ and embrace a "kingdom" lifestyle with Jesus Christ as King.

Innovation - we are open to "new wineskins":

creative methods;
proactive approaches;
contemporary application of Biblical truth to changing community conditions; and openness to risk.

Excellence - our commitment to excellence in all areas should honor God and inspire people.

Goals:

To reach the lost and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

To change the spiritual climate in our community from indifference, competition or hostility, to principles of God's word such as openness, cooperation and obedience.

To unite the Christian community visibly under the banner of Christ so that the world will know we are true Christians by our love and cooperation toward one another.

Strategy:

Pray together

Sponsor or encourage citywide and small group prayer meetings, walks, and vigils;

Identify a network of prayer groups that can respond to community-wide prayer needs.

Focus on building relationships with one another:

Speak well of one another;

Be available to each other in times of crises;

Pray for one another.

Unity in our commitment to our community:

Sponsor cooperative evangelistic crusades and other outreach events;

Where possible, stand together as one voice in our community.

Otherwise move as God leads

A Solemn Covenant by the Christian Leaders in the Thomasville Area

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14

We bow before Almighty God to rend our hearts and not our garments. Out of a deep sense of desperation over the lukewarm condition in the church and the acceleration of corruption in our society, we repent of holding to a form of religion that denies the power of it. We repent of religious pride, of hypocrisy, of prejudice, of status-quo mediocrity, of busyness and prayerlessness. We repent of materialism, selfish pursuit, and lusts of all varieties.

We are called to devote ourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ in brokenness, repentance, and obedience.

We declare that the only hope for the Thomasville Area and for our nation is a mighty reviving work of God's grace, and that such a revival will only come as we prevail in believing prayer.

We, the undersigned hereby covenant to earnestly seek and to faithfully pray together for a biblical spiritual awakening in our personal lives and in the church, and for the advancement of God's Kingdom in our community, our nation, and our world. We furthermore, affirm our unity in Christ and in our common faith, as expressed in God's Word.

We have full hope and confidence that the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus will be greatly advanced in the Thomasville Area, and that He is bringing glory back to Himself through the church.



**Community
Transformation,
Inc.**

CTI BACKGROUND & VISION

(as of January 15, 2004)

Community Transformation, Inc. was born out of the blessings experienced by local pastors coming together annually for the National Day of Prayer, then sensing a need to do so more regularly. It was co-founded by a number of local pastors of different races and denominations, who also sensed a need for an organization of local pastors and churches that was not sponsored by any particular denomination or any particular type of church group. Our vision is not to duplicate or replace your denomination or other groups, but to be a clearing house and facilitator for those endeavors and initiatives on which all could agree and from which all may benefit.

CTI was legally incorporated November 15, 2000, to create an umbrella organization for such cooperation. Of course, it centers on the Lordship of Jesus Christ and focuses on points on which all Christians can agree, such as salvation by grace through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living and true God, the Creator of the universe, and the effectiveness of prayer in Jesus' name by his children, who pray in agreement with His Word and with each other. In particular, it centers on the vision and prayer of Jesus Christ, expressed in John 17:20-21, that his people would "be one" in order that the world would be drawn to the Lord by the church's unity and love for one another. The "church of the city" is the Biblical model. The epistles in the Bible were of citywide application. God sees the whole church as His church. When we see it the same way, and rejoice in one another's blessings as if we are all one family, we experience His pleasure and see even greater answers to our prayers, and "the world will know."

In communities around the world, where pastors have truly come together in agreement and cried out to God for the outpouring of His Spirit upon their communities and partnered together as He has led, there have been many documented reports of genuine "community transformation," rivaling any documented revival. (See www.transformations.org.) We believe the same can be true for Thomasville, Thomas County, the surrounding counties, and all of Southwest Georgia (our Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria) as well as the uttermost parts of the earth. We appeal to all Christian pastors: please join one another in vigilance and prayer as the elders and gatekeepers of the local citywide church. Get to know, trust and pray with one another, until the unity for which Jesus prayed becomes a reality in our area and the lost are drawn to the beautiful Body of Christ by our love for one another and the moving of His Holy Spirit.

The Mission: To Win The Lost, Make Disciples, And Change The Spiritual Climate Of Our Community

Throughout the three years since Community Transformation, Inc., has been in existence, it has sponsored or co-sponsored the National Day of Prayer annually on the first Thursday in May at First Baptist Church, a gospel extravaganza outreach to over 400 youth held at the Thomas County Central Gymnasium, an area wide prayer meeting at St. Thomas A.M.E. Church, a Pastors Appreciation Dinner at Gatlin Creek Baptist Church, a Marriage Builder Training Conference at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, a Marriage Builders Workshop at New Covenant Church, and has fostered partnerships among various churches and pastors and Christian organizations, which have paired together in one degree or another for different outreaches. It has also provided a “prayer partners” teaching package to be used in local churches to encourage all members to establish prayer partners, to pray for each other and the church, expected to reduce the counseling load of and increase prayer support for local pastors.

CTI. is not interested in “adding” events to your already saturated calendars. Rather, we are interested in helping and encouraging pastors to “partner” with each other in prayer and in practical ways that reduce, not increase, strain and time commitments by sharing both prayer burdens and resources to avoid the cost of time and money that is often duplicated by many pastors and churches. It is as a result of these kinds of initiatives, that the Georgia Family Council (the state offshoot of Focus on the Family), has selected Thomasville as its first pilot community for its statewide “Marriage Builders Program,” and is providing us resources for strengthening marriages. (See www.marriagenet.org)

It is my belief and prayer that as pastors and ministers offer their time, as a contribution to the unity of the church of the City of Thomasville, the Lord will cause each and all to reap a great reward. Jesus said: *“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again”.* (Luke 6:38) I believe in God’s miraculous providence, this promise also applies to the selfless giving of time, in accordance with His will. Time can be multiplied by good stewardship and by God “rebuking the devourer” for our sakes.

My partners and I are privileged to serve you, as one pastor put it, as your “deacon at large”, feeling called to facilitate the coming together of pastors and churches to form the local Body of Christ and, hopefully, genuine, heart-changing, community transformation.

Sincerely,

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Community Transformation, Inc.

Greater Thomasville Marketplace Prayer Summit

- Date:** Friday, September 29, 2006
- Time:** 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Host:** Charles Balfour, CEO
Balfour Timber Company
- Place:** Myrtlewood Plantation
3121 Lower Cairo Road (West Campbell Street)
(3.5 miles west of US 319/Jackson Street)
- Facilitator:** Rev. Howard Boyd
Director, International Renewal Ministries, Inc., d/b/a
Prayer Summits International
- Participants:** C.E.O.s and C.O.O.s of Business, Industry, Government
and Ministry who are Christians Committed to Prayer for
Our Community
- Sponsor:** COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION, INC.,
A Georgia 501(c)(3) Corporation formed by pastors to
encourage and facilitate partnerships among pastors and
churches.

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INDEX

1. Agenda for August 2nd Lunch with Pastors
2. CTI Board of Directors Contact Info
3. CTI Vision Statement
4. CTI Background and Vision (1/15/04)
5. Pastor Prayer Summer Letter (12/28/04)

Prayer Summit Resources

- A. International Renewal Ministries: www.prayersummits.net
 1. Six Foundation Stones
 2. Marketplace Testimonies
 3. The Results of (Pastor's) Prayer Summits
 - B. Project Pray: www.projectpray.org
 1. Prayer Summits – a brief history
 2. About Prayer Summits
 - C. Interview of Doug Small regarding Marketplace Prayer Summits
 - D. A Solemn Covenant by Christian Leaders based on 2 Chronicles 7:14
 - E. Sentinel Group: www.sentinelgroup.org
 - F. Ted Haggard and Jack Hayford: *Loving Your City into the Kingdom* (City-reaching Strategies for 21st Century Revival)
 - G. Mary Stuart Relfe: *Cure of All Ills* (A History of Great Revivals Initiated by Prayer Movements)
6. Greater Thomasville Marketplace Prayer Summit
Date: Friday, September 29, 2006 Time: 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Place: Myrtlewood Plantation Host: Charles Balfour
Participants: C.E.O.s and C.O.O.s of Business, Industry, Government and Ministry who are Christians Committed to Prayer for Our Community

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AUGUST 10, 2005 INTERVIEW BY DOUG SILVIS OF DOUG SMALL,
PROJECT PRAY AND PRAYER SUMMITS INTERNATIONAL, WHO COORDINATED THE
COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION, INC. PASTORS PRAYER SUMMIT IN APRIL 2005

DOUG: WE ARE PLANNING A MARKETPLACE PRAYER SUMMIT FOR THOMASVILLE.

1. WHY SHOULD WE HAVE ONE?

Whenever God starts out to do something, the first evidence is a call to prayer among His people! Without prayer, our best efforts are human efforts. There is a difference between sharing meetings, and praying meetings. The texture of the meeting is different. Dependence upon God becomes the center, rather than self-reports. That is a humbling, breaking process that levels the ground and allows for deeper unity.

2. WHY HAVE A "PRAYER SUMMIT" FOR LAY LEADERS?

We are discovering the real power of change in a city is not with clergy, so disconnected from city life, but with business leaders. They often compartmentalize their lives - the sacred and the secular. Many of them have concerns about the city, but the church generally addresses lay ministry only in the context of its own campus operations.

3. WHAT IS THE VISION YOU WOULD SEEK TO COMMUNICATE?

The church is really not a building. It is an organization, but only in a secondary sense. It is primarily an organism (THE BODY OF CHRIST)! It has visibility, but its greatest power is in its invisible influence - salt and light. Its best moments are not on Sunday AM - but Monday thru Friday! But that period is when the church is divided, separated...

What we need is a new construct of church. The church ecclesia (gathered, on Sunday) we understand; but the church Diaspora (scattered and sown through the city), we do not understand. A Prayer Summit will help create that awareness.

4. HOW DO YOU SEE COMMUNITY LEADERS BEING USED AS THEY CATCH THAT VISION?

The city can be divided in any number of sectors - arts & entertainment; banking-finance; industry; government; professional services/agencies; health care; education/university, college, secondary, etc.; social services/family; news/media; the judiciary/law enforcement and safety; the faith community - and more. This is the marketplace. It is not a term meant only for those in the professional arena ... we are looking for people of faith, leaders in each of these areas who have a concern about the city, its godliness, its mission and purpose, and the ways the church manifests the compassion and truth of Christ to the city or community.

5. WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE INITIAL PRAYER SUMMIT?

The gathering of marketplace leaders is often the first attempt to have Christian leaders see their role in the mission of the church in the city! As they begin to pray together - to hear one another's hearts, they come to know one another. In Selma, Alabama, there was a great moment when a dear sister who worked for one of the city departments said:

"Now we know one another. We had a vague sense about one another. I had heard you (pointing to someone in the circle) were a Christian. Now that I have heard you pray, I know you are! And the judge - we've prayed with a judge! And we've had prayer with the mayor - we've prayed with the mayor and heard his heart. We can't be the same after this!"

What is being created are the relationships necessary to sustain any long-term movement toward city transformation.

6. GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE OF A CITY WITH WHICH YOU ARE CURRENTLY WORKING?

In Little Rock, we have launched a marketplace initiative. They are still examining what and how they might approach the needs of their city and area. They have a strong pastoral prayer movement in the city, and they have had numerous share-fest events in which the churches collaboratively ministered to the needs of different elements of the city - sometimes pouring in as much as a quarter of a million dollars toward city needs. Now they are beginning to identify key sector leaders, and I will share with them at a luncheon. Each month, they will focus on one of the sectors, inviting as many of a certain sector as possible. For example, they might invite bankers and finance people, who are believers, to a luncheon to hear the story of a potential marketplace summit specifically for their sector.

7. WHO WOULD YOU INVITE?

Invite representatives from every sector of marketplace and ministry. As always, a couple of sectors will always respond more positively than others. And you go with the ripe hearts, but attempt as broad and inclusive an event as possible, then build on it in the future.

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Prayer Summits > About Prayer Summits > A Prayer Summit is...

Around the world, revival fires are blowing. It is estimated that as many people came to Christ from 1990-2000 as were saved from 100-1900 A.D. Unbelievable! This incredible harvest continues according to Dr. Ralph Winter of Global Missions, with as many as 210,000 people being saved on a single day typically in third world countries.

Coupled with this global explosion in church growth is an unprecedented *prayer* revival. 170 million people are now involved in serious prayer for world evangelization. The link between this massive prayer revival and the ingathered harvest should be clear to all.

"God's intense longing to bless seems to be graciously limited by His dependence upon intercession," Andrew Murray reminds us. If we are to see a nation-changing revival--a *great awakening*--we must pray!



Around the world, prayer summits have been and continue to be the catalyst for a renewed spirit of revival in the hearts of pastoral leaders. What is a prayer summit?

It is an extended 3-4 day prolonged prayer and worship experience shared by church leaders. The focus is upon personal transformation that results in vital and visible renewal, overflowing into the life of the church, and impacting the community. It is the beginning of a process of spiritual renewal, rooted in relationships, both vertical and horizontal. It seeks first the face and heart of God...not merely his hand. It focuses upon his Holiness and our desperate need for His grace. It is a humbling experience that often invites us to a place of personal brokenness and life change. It typically produces an incredible level of unity among the participants-particularly pastors of a given city. It leaves its participants begging for practical expressions of genuine brotherly love and community impact.

A Relational Growth Process

We attempt to encourage a city to be intentional in issuing the call to go to a summit. And to engage in that process relationally. No flyer or bulletin will produce a successful turnout to a summit, or to a pastor's prayer gathering. The movement grows pastor-to-pastor, and then one-pastor-at-a-time. Once we have gone through that very strenuous invitation process it is tempting to see it as a one-time procedure, never to be repeated. In truth, the strategy of intentionally and systematically, by means of relationship webs, recruiting new pastors into the prayer process must be repeated, many times and again. Being personal and intentional in reaching out to others is what makes the summit a relational movement and not merely an annual renewal event.

Along with being intentional in expanding the movement is the personal element. We stressed as we went to summit that every pastor in the definitive geographic area should get a personal invitation to go to summit, if possible from multiple individuals. After the summit, it is so tempting to do a monthly mailing of prayer group locations and opportunities for ministry connections. That is the old way. While newsletters are useful, they cannot take the place of ongoing personal connections.

Ultimately, a prayer summit is a meeting with God! Simple. Unscripted. Unhurried. No hype! Not built around a human personality, but around Jesus. Not a seminar. It exalts Christ and values the simplicity of time in His presence. It stands in the stream of the Biblical Solemn Assembly. It is often life-changing for its participants. And in the long-term, it is community impacting.

Listen to words of one pastor:

God was there. His presence was so real that for twenty or more minutes not a pastor said a word. Many were weeping silently. Some were flat on their faces on the carpet.

For three days we had sought the Lord. Hour after hour we had been in his presence, seeking his agenda for our lives and ministries. Walls had come down. Three days of worship, confession, and repentance had brought us to this sacred time of silence. Our souls were so full we couldn't take any more. No one dared to speak. It was a holy hush!

The desire of Doug Small, Project Pray and International Renewal Ministries is to come alongside a group of leaders and pastors and assist in promoting the cause of spiritual renewal. The prayer summit is not to be viewed as a mere event, but as the beginning of an on-going process.

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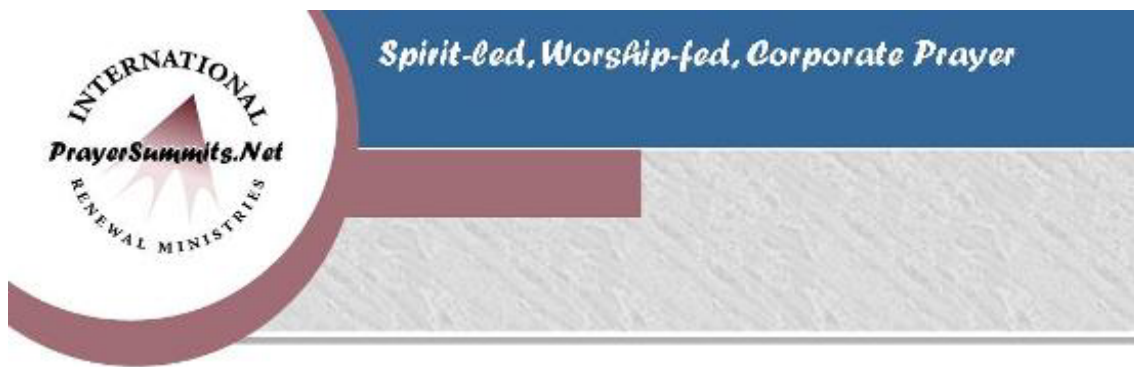


Spirit-led, Worship-fed, Corporate Prayer

Six Foundation Stones

The following six statements provide a foundation for our perspective on Prayer Summits.

- We deeply desire to see a move of God initiated and sustained in as many communities as possible.
- We are convinced that a significant, sustained prayer movement is essential for this to take place. This prayer movement will greatly impact our relationship with God and with one another and our ability to fulfill our Scriptural responsibilities.
- We believe that this prayer movement will lead to and launch other Spirit-directed, united, strategic activities.
- We believe that quality Prayer Summits are catalysts to initiate and sustain this significant prayer movement.
- Therefore we deeply desire to see as many quality Prayer Summits take place in as many communities as possible.
- However, even if a move of God does not result from our prayer efforts, or it does not happen in the manner or time frame we expect, we believe that the value of a Prayer Summit is not diminished, because we have spent time in His presence doing the 'one thing' He deeply desires of us.



The Results of a Prayer Summit

Since the entire movement and ministry are based on relationships rather than events, great care is taken to maintain the unity of the Spirit that begins at a Prayer Summit. The International Renewal Ministries team prayerfully seeks to strengthen the relationships that naturally begin in such significant appointments with God. We want God's best for pastors, the flocks they shepherd, and the kingdom of God around the world. Prayer Summits are only the beginning of what God wants to do in our lives. Team members are observing, recommending, and involved in the following:

- Individual pastors commit to being godly men continuing to seek intimacy with Christ, living holy lives, and being men of prayer;
- Local pastors commit to accountability to each other;
- Pastors meet regularly (weekly or bi-weekly) for prayer;
- Servant leaders meet often to hear from God as to His vision for the one Church in the community;
- Pastors love others into the fellowship of prayer and unity;
- Pastors are encouraged to learn how to pray regularly with spouses;
- Pastors hold retreats (or prayer advances) with their church boards;
- Pastors' wives get together for a Prayer Summit;
- Pastors lead their congregation to become a praying church;
- Pastors provide citywide celebrations of unity and prayer rallies as the Holy Spirit clearly directs;
- Pastors identify and mobilize intercessors;
- Houses of prayer or prayer cells emerge in every community;
- Pastors call for revival emphasis meetings;
- Believers unite to pray for revival;
- Vision-casting gatherings are held;
- Servant Leaders seek God's guidance for citywide strategies for city reaching;
- Research is done throughout the community to understand the needs;
- Leaders mobilize heart-hungry people for prayer and city reaching;
- Pastors and spouses enjoy a Prayer Summit together;
- Often, separate Prayer Summits are held for women in ministry leadership and business and professional men;

- City wide strategies for unity and evangelism are developed and implemented;
- Leaders share with other communities what God is saying and doing;
- Leaders persevere in prayer until heaven-sent revival comes;
- Leaders and lay-workers prepare for harvest.

The above-mentioned are components of a process, not necessarily in specific order. They are not steps of a formula that must be followed, but seem to be important and necessary elements of the process toward the fulfillment of the vision. So, we rejoice with our brothers and sisters who have taken various steps to see God's blessing, keeping our eyes fixed on the author and finisher of our faith, the one who does as He pleases.

IRM representatives usually maintain regular contact with the Servant Leaders in a city as a part of the on-going relational bond and to assist in the fulfillment of the desire for a long-term sustainable movement. We desire to develop an ongoing dialogue with local leaders, providing numerous services under the directive of the Holy Spirit. IRM representatives desire to maintain regular communication with local servant leaders via e-mail, telephone, letters, and visits. They are available for:

- Personal, corporate, or regional consultation;
- Vision-casting to a larger segment of the community;
- Connecting to various resources to enhance the movement;
- Occasional missionary journeys to offer encouragement;
- Assisting with strategic planning for the one Church in the city;
- Assisting with the implementation of specific methods and major events.

Local leaders are encouraged to communicate regularly with the IRM office. If one IRM representative is not available, others will be, to serve our brothers and sisters in the most effective way possible.

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What Is The Prayer Summit Experience?

Even for pastors and prayer leaders, the Prayer Summit is probably different than any meeting they have previously attended.

We worship, but this is not a praise and worship service. We read Scripture, but very differently than on a typical Sunday morning. We pray, but with a unique flow; this is not your Wednesday night prayer meeting. Nor is it merely a prayer retreat, designed for you to spend personal time with the Lord. Certainly not a Prayer Conference, do not expect any sermons or study outlines.

The Prayer Summit utilizes all of the above but in such a unique way, that it becomes wonderful to experience but difficult to describe.

Think of it as a place where all of God's children, red and yellow, black and white, can come together in a humility that produces Scriptural unity. It's an environment, which welcomes the expression of every person, culture and tradition. It's a prayer meeting where all have both the freedom to be themselves and the responsibility to serve others.

Our Foundation

Our foundation is the **Word of God**; it is our authority. Our prayers are both based upon and bound by the teaching and truths of Holy Scripture.

You are encouraged to pray biblically. Choose texts that are brief (several verses, not an entire chapter, please) and which reflect the priorities of the session. This is not a time to inject your favorite Scripture or last Sunday's three-point outline...

Our Focus

Our focus is **Jesus Christ**. We come to the Prayer Summit to adore Him, confess our shortcomings to Him, thank Him, seek His will and ask the Father on behalf of the Son, for the transformation of our community.

Since He is our focus, He sets the agenda and determines what we pray. Our prayer sessions are not merely opportunities for each of us to pray through our "spiritual shopping list." Rather, they are designed to encourage corporate prayer, where we collectively ask the Father, on behalf of the Son, for His transforming work according to the principles and priorities of Scripture.

Our Facilitator

We seek the facilitation of the **Holy Spirit**. In prayer we will seek His leading and His direction. In this regard, we will corporately endeavor to submit to His guidance as we seek to understand God's will for the transformation of all sectors of our community.

Our Format

Each prayer session is designed to seek a unique and Biblical goal according the various patterns and paradigms expressed in Scripture, expressed through our singing (hymns, praise choruses, gospel, spirituals), our reading and praying of Scripture, and our prayers. Our singing may be a declaration of worship ("vertical" - directed toward God) or a declaration of our beliefs ("horizontal" - directed toward the assembly). Our singing is never performance; it is a vehicle of our praise to God or our praise of God. The Bible is part of every prayer session. One of the facilitators may lead us through a brief reading of Scripture. Every participant is encouraged to pray according to the pattern of God's holy Word.

At various times throughout the summit, the prayer focus will be on offering praise, giving thanks, making requests or bringing intercession. Each session will have its own focus and each participant will, humbly and considerately, reflect his or her own individuality. Pray with all you heart, which to us means, through your passion and personality.

Our Freedom

Since we have varied traditions, all are encouraged to **be mindful of others**, deferring, if necessary, for the sake of unity and harmony. At times, this means those who pray with exuberance may need to "tone it down." At other times, this may also mean those who are uncomfortable with the volume or emotional display need to give freedom and not take offense. The issue is not what is comfortable for or preferred from your experience. What matters is:

- Does it bring glory to (i.e. does it please) God?
- Does it have Scriptural warrant?
- Has this been prompted by the Holy Spirit?
- Is it under the authority (in the name) of Christ?
- Does it contribute to the unity of Christ's church?
- Is it consistent with what the Lord is doing in this meeting?

While we all anticipate the blessing of personal time in the presence of Christ, the Prayer Summit is a rare opportunity for leaders to meet corporately with their Lord.

As such, let our prayers be pleasing to God, grounded in His Word, according to the leading of the Holy Spirit and in the name and authority of Christ. Let our prayers be for the up-building of the body and reflect our corporate unity.

Whatever you do, do unto the Lord...

Our deep desire is that this perspective will help you and others around you be built up in the faith of our Lord and Savior and in the unity of the Holy Spirit!

The following has been written by Phil Miglioratti
from the Chicagoland Prayer Summit
and Adapted by A. J. Coch