

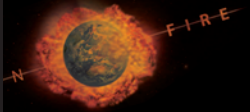


The FURNACE

24 HRS OF PRAYER

WORSHIP PRAYING SOAKING BURNING

In Ezekiel 10:2 the bible tells us go into the Cherubim and under the cherubim are burning coals of fire. With your hands take a handful of burning coals and scatter them across the city. In Australia – the aboriginals used burning coals to light fires in the wilderness the fire in the natural has been used to cleanse the land of rubbish, create new life as trees need the fire to come to release new seeds. The Furnace is an expression of church that can be a time and place where believers come together in united prayer under the banner of Jesus Christ and pour out theirs in passionate vertical worship together with intense united prayer mixed with splashes of prophetic acts, art, dance. It's a place for the fire to burn, a place for us to sit at the feet of Jesus, a place for us to hear from heaven, a place for us to contend for our generation, to burn for God – then to see justice and mercy flow out like a river. The Furnace is a like a little fire being lit – as others are started this will prepare the nation for what the bible describes as the glory of the lord covering the earth as water covers the seas. As a movement we have a vision to see a Prayer Furnace start in every university campus and key cities and towns across Australia and nations in the South East Asia Pacific Region



PRAYER MANUAL

What are Furnaces like!

One of the things that often takes people by surprise when they start a Furnace Prayer Room, can be an explosion of creativity. It is a bringing together of creativity, releasing new sound through burning worship, contending in unremitting passionate prayer and intercession, impartation, soaking in worship, fanning the flame and spreading the fire of God into the streets, seeing the kingdom of God multiply rapidly.

During the 10 days of Prayer many people are led to use art to paint, draw their prayers, visions and also prophesy. We feel that such creativity is really important to encourage. So provide materials and plenty of wall space. Practically you may need to protect the floor! It's well worth buying a big roll of lining paper and a bulk load of blue tack.

You may become concerned that the art stuff is becoming a distraction from prayer for some people rather than an expression of it. However it is important not to be judgmental. You could put a gentle notice up to encourage people to engage with God through words as well as art and the problem normally sorts itself out. In his letter to the Corinthians Paul describes a similar tension between praying with the mind / with words / with rational thought on one hand and on the other hand praying non-verbally through his spirit:

“For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. What shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.” (1 Cor. 14-15)

Occasionally inappropriate things may appear on the wall. If this happens just quietly removed these! However wherever possible leave artwork up - not wanting to censor people's prayers.

Spiritual warfare and prayer furnaces

There are all sorts of different types of prayer, ranging from quiet thanksgiving to noisy intercession. In Generation Fire you are taking a mixed group of people onto the front-line of spiritual warfare. It is important, therefore, that leaders take a careful, pastoral and balanced lead in all of this. On one hand we must recognize that this really is a battle against 'principalities and powers'. On the other hand we should create an atmosphere of safety and confidence in the prayer room. In case you are nervous about handling this side of things, here are a few do's and don'ts:

DO:

- Encourage people to pray in pairs, unless they specifically want privacy - especially at night.
- Give some basic teaching about our authority in Christ.
- Provide simple prayer guidelines to lead people through the hour in a constructive way.
- Trust God to protect and cover those who are immature and vulnerable.

DON'T:

- allow sensational / spooky stories to circulate generating fear
- Allow the focus to become Satan - an atmosphere of worship will keep things on track.
- Take on major spiritual powers over the nation/area/generation unless it is in a mature context.
- Allow weirdo's to take over the room or generate a spooky atmosphere!

"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves." (Matt. 10.16)

How to do plan for Prayer Furnaces

That are 24-3 or 24-10 or 7 (For a more exhaustive guide to running a 24-7 Prayer)

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INTRODUCTION

We're delighted that you're considering is establishing a movement of prayer in your city. Generation Fire is a movement that god is raising up for such a time as this- we believe that it is on Gods heart to mobilize young people to pray 24/7 but to encourage Organic Prayer and this can be expressed through establishing Furnace Prayer Rooms, or mobilizing prayer in schools or it could be city wide prayer gatherings. But the primary objective is to saturate the world in prayer, hence releasing the fire of God, lighting revival fires through prayer and seeking the face of God. We believe passionately that Generation Fire is part of a movement - beginning right now - which could turn the tide of youth culture back to Jesus. There is an awesome sense of being caught up in something God is doing in our generation. He is gathering an army and bringing us to our knees. He has started it. He will make it happen. History makers must learn to pray - "to move man, through God, by prayer alone." (Hudson Taylor). Whatever you do, don't get too complex (or 'sensible') about it. Star Trek's captain Spock would never approve of Generation Fire - it is entirely ridiculous at every level! All you need to do is find a room with a kettle mobilize the troops and start to pray. Hopefully this article will make the 24-7 undertaking a little

easier. It is really practical and informative and tries to answer many of the issues we have encountered in praying 24-7. And the thing about us is that we are bad at praying! Terrible in fact. We still can't get more than a handful of people to normal prayer gatherings.

SECTION 1. WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

Generation Fire exists to release the fire of God through organic prayer- saturating cities and nations with intense passionate mission minded praying – seeing nations transformed by Gods Power.

1. Turning the tide

According to legend the ancient (Danish) King Canute tried to turn back the tide in a small village called Bosham, near Chichester. The ancient Britons (not a very clever bunch) considered Canute to be as powerful as God and he, being a Christian king, determined to prove them wrong by making himself look foolish. And that is how the great King Canute came to position his throne on the sea shore one day, as the tide swept in towards him. Soon his regal throne was surrounded by water putting the great King's power in perspective against God's. Right now the tide of western youth culture is surely approaching its lowest ebb. Suicide rates are rocketing amongst young men. Eating disorders and other self-image problems afflict women everywhere. Materialism seems to determine everything. And thousands leave church every single week. But, of course, it is at the moment of lowest ebb, that the tide turns with greatest force. The tides and seasons of human existence are not determined by kings like Canute or by media icons worshipped by millions. Human destiny rests in the heart of God and the hands of his people. That is why we must pray. Organic Prayer is growing and multiplying fast, alongside many other wonderful prayer initiatives. The exciting thing about Generation Fire is the way that it mobilises young people to pray for their friends and their heroes. Again and again we have declared our intention to 'be history makers in this land'. God has heard that heart cry and is gathering an army of young, reckless intercessors for whom God is an addiction and prayer a way of life.

2. The 100 year prayer meeting

The idea of praying 24 hours a day, 7 days a week is nothing new. The apostle Paul urged the Thessalonians to, "Pray continually" Isaiah describes watchmen on the wall who... "will never be silent day or night" and goes on to challenge us like this: "You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth." (Ch. 62) One of the most stunning examples of 24-7 prayer comes from the Moravian community of Herrnhutt, Germany. On 13th August 1727 the Spirit of God fell with such power upon them as they confessed sin and shared bread and wine, that a prayer meeting began that was to continue without a break for more than a century. This praying community, tucked away in a remote German village went on to rewrite the history books as they took the gospel to the ends of the earth and introduced people like John Wesley to Jesus. The Moravians prove to us that the tide can indeed turn right

across nations and generations. The sea of popular opinion does not listen to Kings on their thrones who shout at the waves. The tide turns when nobodies unlock the power of persistent, faithful and focused prayer.

SECTION 2: BRINGING TOGETHER OF WORSHIP, ART, PRAYER & FIRE

As there are many different examples to look at when it comes to 24-7 Prayer, with the concept of the Furnace we sensed that God wants to do something original here in Australia and this part of the world. We are encouraging the idea of bringing together of worship teams that can minister with a Harp and Bowl style of Worship with providing a space for people to engage in Praying for the nations, to prophetic proclamations to just resting in his presence and praying for the release of the fire of God over a City and Nation. Worship teams would come to take a 3-4 hour set and then have a different team to join in together over 5 minutes whilst the change over takes place. In the midst of this – you can have a person also facilitating in prayer and that would be the change of the watchman. We are encouraging you to take a step of faith and experient and aim to discover a unique expression that is right for the place God has put you in. The Furnace needs to also marry Prayer and Mission together- Prayer cannot not go without Mission. So we would encourage you to take your firey ones onto the streets as you have been burning for the lord in Worship and through Prayer, as the Fire of God burns take it to the Streets.

Furnaces can happen once a month to 10 Days 24hour.

Below we give some tips on how to plan your 10day 24hour prayer furnace.

(Please note: The following are simply practical lessons we have learned and not prescriptive.)

1. How long?

- How long do you plan to run for? We ask you start meeting once a month and then participate with the 10Days Prayer furnace with the Global Day of Prayer.
- Remember: It takes at least 36 people-hours to fill just one day! Don't be over ambitious. It is always better to quit while you are ahead rather than get everyone totally exhausted.
- We suggest that no-one plans to do more than a month at this stage, although if you do go over the month marker, naturally, we will be delighted.

2. When?

Choose the day of week carefully Consider:

Local Commitments: Are your key people going to be around? Does it clash with other church commitments? Does it clash with exams or other school/college events? Could it build up to an evangelistic focus or form part of such a push?

The Bigger Picture: Please talk to us about when you would like to start a Furnace and who you have as team to help you get started. What resource you need, and whether you plan to do a 10 Day Prayer Furnace

Think Ahead: Plan the year, start with having furnaces once a month, then try going 24/3 and then perhaps 10 Day Furnaces more than once a year.

3. Where?

We think it is really important to locate your prayer in a fixed place. Why?

- The Holy Spirit can fill a place as well as a person. There can be a real sense of God's presence in the room after hours of prayer there.
- There is something good about people having to go somewhere to pray- even at night.
- There is built in accountability that means people have to turn up on time to 'pass on the baton'. It is too easy to oversleep etc. and not to tell anyone if it is all split up in people's homes.
- There is a focus for the creative and it is somewhere you can read other people's prayers and testimonies. You need to think through various issues when selecting a prayer room;

Security: How secure is the building? Think especially about late at night.

Facilities: Obviously you need toilets. Tea/coffee and biscuits are a step in the right direction. You also need a stereo and a selection of music, as well as lots of paper (large) and pens, paints, brushes etc. Other things to consider include blu-tak, dust sheets, Bibles, Patrick Johnson's 'Operation World'.

Noise/Disturbance: With people coming and going all the time and music being played at all hours, try to find a venue that is 'neighbour friendly'. If it has to be in a private house, can you use a detached one or a basement?

Decor: Create a good environment that will encourage prayer (don't make it too posh!) You could include a globe/world map, prophetic symbols as well as significant prophetic words your church has received. You could divide the room into sections. Using 4 walls, you could have 1 for personal prayer requests, 1 worship wall, 1 wall for world issues, as well as a wall designated for the signing up sheet and a sign to say who is 'on call'. You could build somewhere for people to post prayers. We built a 'Prayer Slug' from sheets of plastic and hoops. In the 'Slug' people put prayers they had prayed/names of people they were praying for to show that they were given to God. You could build an 'intimacy tent' within the room. It is also advisable to have a safe space for a candle to burn throughout the prayer season. It might be a good idea to commission some arty types to design the room, so that it has a real impact when people step inside. You will need to recruit a team of reliable people to be your 'on call' team. These people will each then cover a 24 hour period of the week.

Their job is as follows;

Fill up slots: We are suggesting that you have teams facilitating 3-4 hour blocks which will give time and space for you to sit at the feet of Jesus, to allow the holy spirit to move, and for the fire of the holy spirit to burn in your hearts. A second team should then take the midnight to dawn shift and then another group takes the first hours of daylight. During 10day furnaces make sure to cover the gaps.

Be on-call: On an allocated day, the person is on call for 24 hours. They must be contactable throughout that period. (Ideally they need to have mobile phones) We have found that it works better to run from 9 a.m. rather than midnight, as this saves people having to turn on phones in the middle of the night. They visit the prayer room at 9 a.m. to write their name on the 'On call' board. If someone does not turn up for a prayer slot (Yes, it does happen!), then the person who is on call is phoned, and they will either need to fill the slot themselves or get someone else to relieve the previous person.

Tidy: It is their job to ensure that on their day the room is kept stocked (tea/coffee/paint etc.) and tidy.



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Source: Generation Fire Inc & 24-7 Prayer Movement

Donny McGregor



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