

Churches Pray Strategically for City. And See Answers.

About: (Part II) We continue our conversation with Steve and Patti Buss. Because Eugene churches prayed, the government acknowledged miracles happening in their city. This collaborative work has taught the Buss' the significance of the *whole* body.

Podcast Notes:

What is the 1 Church 1 Day Citywide Prayer Model?

24 hour prayer covering that is easily allows each church to pray according their tradition. The framework ensures we pray for peace and prosperity of 10 key areas in our city.

Each church adopts one day every month to pray for 24 hours. Most churches have sign-ups for an hour or half an hour and the church collectively fills 24 hours. This is very sustainable.

People take an extra hour or half hour of their month to be with Jesus and pray about prayer requests given by government officials, educators, business leaders and others.

We often see answers to prayer in the newspaper because we are praying in relevant ways for the community. The community is presenting the requests and every other month we disseminate information about the ways God is responding to these prayers.

The pastors has loved this model. They say it's helping them and their people actually see our community. We're not praying in general. We are praying for first responders, the education system, the arts, businesses and all very specifically.

It's helped disciples where God has placed them and to see His activity.

It also shows us areas where we haven't seen answers and where we need to continue to contend.

The prayer model is very sustainable. The prayer meeting that we gather each month is a labor of love. People will cycle in and out. And we have a team that puts the prayer reports together to communicate the needs and the answers.

One example of an answer to prayer:

Government leaders shared of the need to house 365 homeless vets in a year.



We prayed for 7 months into this. We got statistics about how many veterans were being housed. At the end of the year 404 veterans were housed. It was a miracle. The government officials who were a part of the team presenting prayer requests knew it was a miracle. The mayor knew it was a miracle. Two of these leaders were invited by Michelle Obama to the White House for a luncheon to acknowledge individuals who had done great things to provide housing for homeless veterans. The Lord's hand was all over it. The leaders knew it and the body of Christ knew it too.

Can you share about the One Hope Women aspect of the network?

I don't lead this part of the network but the women meet once per month to pray together. They fast and pray for a day each month. They'll do serving and outreach this summer a part of the Palau Association festival. It's another great layer of connectivity.

It's about the body of Christ joined together in prayer, service, and sharing the gospel.

On and off there were seasons of time where we did One Hope Youth where they did outreach together and nights of prayer together. Depending on leadership presence, there are initiatives like that as well.

On a personal level, what has your experience through this work taught you?

(Steve) One thing that has been important to me is that the *whole* body is very valuable. What we saw as a small congregation, God would utilize the gifts, grace, and personality of a smaller or older congregation work in a way that made it possible for other things to happen. That's been a delight to see. There are larger churches with big staff. But there are smaller churches with bi-vocational pastors who are serving the Lord diligently. Each church has a unique element they bring.

(Patti) Because we all know each other, we are friends and we all really love each other.

Personally along the journey, I've learned if you're going to really walk this stuff out, you have to lay down the right to be offenses. You have to let offenses go. You have to always believe the best. There are people who sometimes never join stuff, and that's okay. They're still the body and we're still connected. Whether they're tangibly doing something with us or not, we will bless them and support them. I don't succeed at this all the time, but we press each other to do this.

This is God's stuff so we don't have to make this happen. He wants us to be one. He wants it.

How does it go as a married couple leading this work?

(Steve) It goes *good*.





(Patti) It goes *well*.

(Steve) We have worked together as a couple in ministry in a lot of different capacities. We have that DNA in our marriage and life.

(Patti) It works because it's our calling. I don't know if I could give a seminar on how couples could work together and do this work. It's how we were called and put together.

