Intercession

I. WHAT IS INTERCESSION?

A. INTERCESSION IS INTIMATE PARTNERSHIP AND AGREEMENT WITH GOD.

1. Intercession is intimacy. Prayer is an exchange of romance. God speaks to us and it moves our hearts. When we speak back to God, His heart is moved. God desires to establish or deepen this romantic relationship with us. He desires intimacy with us. He wants us to know His heart and more so, to feel the very emotions of His heart, and then He wants to hear us cry out for the longings of His heart to come to pass. His longings become our longings. It’s partnership at the most intimate level possible.

   a. We begin to feel and do what God feels and does.

      “For Zion’s sake I WILL NOT HOLD MY PEACE, and for Jerusalem’s sake I WILL NOT REST…” (Isaiah 62:1)

      “I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; THEY SHALL NEVER HOLD THEIR PEACE day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, and GIVE HIM NO REST…” (Isaiah 62:6)

2. Intercession is partnership. Intercession is the means by which God’s will is established on earth. God does not act apart from human beings partnering with His heart. Intercession expresses the bridal identity of the church. There is nothing more powerful that can fuel God’s heart to move upon the earth than the cry of His bride, whose desires reflect His own.

3. Intercession is agreement with God. Intercession is agreement with what God promised to do. When we ask God to do what He desires to do, we are declaring that we agree that His desires are good, and that His desires have become our desires.

B. INTERCESSION EXPRESSES GOD’S DEFINITION OF THE CHURCH.

   “…My house shall be called a HOUSE OF PRAYER for all nations.” (Isaiah 56:7)

   “…PRAYER ALSO WILL BE MADE FOR HIM (JESUS) CONTINUALLY, and daily He shall be praised.” (Psalm 72:15)

   “PRAY WITHOUT CEASING…” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

II. WHAT DO I DO DURING AN INTERCESSION SET?

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A. EXPERIENCE ENJOYABLE PRAYER. Experiencing God’s beauty and God’s burning desire for us is what makes prayer enjoyable. Experiencing God’s beauty and desire is the primary source of power that will fuel the End Time prayer movement. The power to engage in night and day prayer is found in having a heart that enjoys God. Encountering God’s beauty and desire for us is where we most enjoy our primary reward, which is God Himself. Our primary reward is not the breakthrough of revival. Revival is fantastic, but it is our secondary reward. Jesus Himself is our primary reward. We carry this reward inside our hearts. In other words, we live with a fascinated heart as we drink deeply of God’s beauty and desire for us.

1. Experience God’s beauty. This means to understand and experience revelation of the attributes of God as given by the Holy Spirit. This leads to an elation of our spirit, which can be felt in our emotions and which transforms the way that we think and feel about God, ourselves and others.

   a. How do we experience God’s beauty?

      1. Simply ask God to reveal His beauty to you.

         “PLEASE, SHOW ME YOUR GLORY.” (Exodus 33:18)

         “That the Father of Glory would GIVE TO YOU A SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM (JESUS), THE EYES OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING BEING ENLIGHTENED, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us…” (Ephesians 1:17-19)

      2. Read the Word, turning it into dialogoue with God.

         a. The Bible is the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. When we dialogue with God about His Word, we invite Him to tell us about who He is and we open our hearts to the very nature and therefore, beauty, of God.


         a. Pray in the Spirit.

            1. Our personal prayer language edifies us by renewing our inner man, or, charging our “spiritual battery.” It tenderizes our spirit with the knowledge of God. Praying in the Spirit makes us sensitive to small fragments of divine information. The Lord imparts divine information about who He is and how to pray.

            2. The way the Bride prepares for war is that she engages with the Holy Spirit through speaking in tongues. When we speak in tongues, our heart becomes connected with God’s heart in

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an exchange of love between Him and us. Tongues open the human spirit to God as we focus on the Father’s Throne with a heart cry of “I love you” to Jesus.

b. Sing Spontaneously.

1. Singing Spontaneously releases both the faith and intensity to encounter the manifest presence of God. This opens the human spirit to the Holy Spirit in an enhanced way.

2. There are two ways to sing spontaneously:

   a. Singing with our spirit in tongues. The human spirit both prays and sings.

   b. Singing with our understanding from the Scriptures. The human mind both prays and sings.

   “I will SING WITH THE SPIRIT, and I will also SING WITH THE UNDERSTANDING.” (1 Cor. 14:14-15)

   “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another IN PSALMS AND HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS, SINGING WITH GRACE IN YOUR HEARTS TO THE LORD.” (Col. 3:16)

   “Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, SINGING AND MAKING MELODY IN YOUR HEART TO THE LORD.” (Eph. 5:19)

c. The Benefits of praying and singing in tongues:

1. It is a universal benefit. It is not just reserved for those with a special calling.

2. It is easy to operate in tongues. It does not require special training.

3. It is a free gift to all without the need to earn anything, therefore, there is no pride of attainment.

4. It unifies intercessors instead of isolating them in individual prayer.

5. It inspires our spirit rather than leaving us with spiritual dullness before God.

6. It focuses our spirit on God rather than requiring the need for constant creative language.

7. It has a deep impact reaching the inner man and not just our intellect.
8. It expands our capacity in the Lord. In other words, when our spirit is engaged, our mind can still receive from God and others.

9. It gives us the ability to continue long hours in prayer without being limited by our human language and affection.

10. It is a springboard into other spiritual gifts.

2. Experience God’s desire. This means to understand and sense, or feel, what God wants do in us, in others and in the events of human history on the earth and into eternity. When the Holy Spirit reveals this information to us, we can actually feel the emotions of God’s heart inside of us. It is an exhilarating sensation that energizes and frees us from wrong mindsets.

   a. How do we experience God’s desire?

      1. Pray the prayers of Scripture. Prayer that comes from God’s heart expresses His desires. This is the kind of prayer that the Holy Spirit releases Divine authority on. This is the kind of prayer that God answers. Praying the prayers that come from God’s heart enhances the enjoyment of our intimacy with Jesus. Apostolic prayers are prayers that the apostles prayed. The chief apostle is Jesus, and the 12 apostles have prayers recorded in the New Testament. These apostolic prayers are God’s very prayers, or desires.

      2. Practice Praying Positive Prayers. When we pray positive prayers, we enter into the delight of asking for the things that bring pleasure to God. This is a gateway into feeling His desire in our inner man. New Testament Biblical prayers focus on releasing God’s grace instead of hindering or removing negative realities like sin or demons. There is a positive focus on the impartation of good instead of a negative focus on removing the realities of sin. The New Testament focus usually flows along themes of joy, thankfulness and victory.

* We do incorporate the negative dimensions of prayer that target confessing, resisting and renouncing the realities of the world, flesh and devil. However, we recognize that they are not the major focus of the New Testament model of praying.

   a. Practical tips for Praying Positive Prayers:

      1. Pray to God instead of talking to people when you pray corporately. Focus on “asking” instead of “explaining.” Speak directly to God – be more conscious that He is watching and listening than that others are watching and listening. This will prompt you to direct your heart toward Him in love and partnership.

      2. Lift specific promises of Scripture up to God and ask for their fulfillment in our present day context.

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3. Ask for the inbreaking of positive things rather than the removal of negative things.

Example: Positive Prayer: “Father, I ask that Your light and truth would break in upon the church in Kansas City!”

Negative Prayer: “Father, I ask that You would remove darkness and deception from the church in Kansas City!”

*Note: God hears, cares about and discerns all prayer, whether positive or negative. Because of our natural human tendency to become weary and discouraged, praying positive prayer allows us to maintain prayer day in and day out by helping us engage in joyful supplication rather than trying to bear the emotional weight of negative realities expressed through negative prayer. This is especially relevant in a 24-7 prayer ministry such as IHOP-KC. It is because of both the Biblical model and human dynamics that we encourage positive prayer.

B. PRAY ON THE MICROPHONE

*Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to pray on the microphone. Praying on the microphone is in no way mandated, but encouraged as a way to engage your heart in intercession and to help lead the prayer meeting. Anyone can do this, no matter what their personality, style, or disposition.

1. A few helpful tips for praying on the microphone in front:

   a. If you wish to pray on the microphone, make your way to the front row of blue chairs. They usually fill up quickly. Be prepared to wait at least 45 minutes for your turn since the prayer meeting is intermingled with worship and other prayer focuses.

   b. Select a New Testament prayer or Old Testament prophetic decree to pray out of. The “key apostolic prayers” list is a great place to start.

   c. Please hold the microphone VERY close to your mouth (to prevent sound feedback in the room). Don’t feel any pressure to shout on the microphone, rather speak at a moderate volume level.

   d. You have the option to pray with the singers or not. If you pause, the singers on the platform will begin singing spontaneous prayers. Within every 2-3 short songs, you may interject more short prayerful phases. In this way, we are going back and forth in team ministry in intercession.

   e. Pray “positive prayers.” (See “practical tips for praying positive prayer,” page)

   f. When you are finished, feel free to simply set the microphone down and walk away.

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Please note: The Tuesday 10am and Tuesday 4pm intercession times are all-staff meetings where generally, the Mission Base leadership lead out in prayer. In addition, the main leadership of IHOP may suddenly “jump” in line to capture and drive home a key (kairos) moment in God in prayer.

2. How to Pray Using the Apostolic Prayers or Old Testament Prophetic Decrees in the Harp and Bowl Model:

   a. Decide what or who the target of your prayer is.

      Examples: The church in Kansas City, the church in any city or nation, the government of a country, the lost of any city or nation, etc.

   b. Using the “Key Apostolic Prayers” List (Page 23-24) or “Prophetic Decrees and Promises from OT Prophets” List (Harp and Bowl Syllabus, part 2, page 142-145), pick the prayer or decree that best expresses what you want to pray for.

      Example #1: If you want to pray that the church in Kansas City would grow in the knowledge of Jesus, you might pick Apostolic Prayer #1:

          “THAT THE GOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE FATHER OF GLORY MAY GIVE TO YOU THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.” (Ephesians 1:17-19)

      Example #2: If you want to pray that the church in Kansas City would experience revival, you might pick the Prophetic Promise found in Isaiah 35:1-2:

          “The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and THE DESERT SHALL REJOICE AND BLOSSOM AS THE ROSE; IT SHALL BLOSSOM ABUNDANTLY AND REJOICE, EVEN WITH JOY AND SINGING…” (Isaiah 35:1-2)

1. No matter what you want to pray for, you should be able to find an Apostolic Prayer or a Prophetic promise to match the cry of your heart – they cover pretty much everything. Feel free to ask the associate prayer leader to help you find an Apostolic Prayer or Prophetic promise that matches the burden of your heart.

2. It’s okay if you don’t feel anything “burning” in your heart. If you don’t feel something specific that you want to pray for, just pick any prayer or promise – all of these prayers and promises are on God’s heart all of the time, so it’s impossible to pray the wrong prayer!
You can choose to pray through just a phrase or a section of the Apostolic Prayer or Prophetic promise. You don’t have to pray through the whole prayer/promise.

c. If helpful, create an outline of the prayer. This may help you to organize your thoughts and therefore present a clear train of thought for others to follow as you lead the room in intercession.

1. Pick 2-3 points (actual phrases from the Apostolic Prayer or Prophetic promise) to pray through. Your prayer will be more focused if you concentrate on a few points of the prayer, rather than trying to pray through all of the points and themes of the prayer.

Example: Ephesians 1:17-19:

Point #1: “That the Father of Glory may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him”

Point #2: “The eyes of your understanding being enlightened”

Point #3: “That you may know what is the hope of His calling”

Example: Isaiah 35:1-2:

Point #1: “The desert shall rejoice”

Point #2: “the desert shall blossom abundantly”

Point #3: “Even with joy and singing”

2. Make notes under each of your main points as you prepare to pray. Include cross-references and your own expression of the Biblical prayer or promise.

3. Pray through each of your points, one at a time, either pausing to let the singers sing or not.

d. Practice articulating your heart:

1. Why is it important to articulate our hearts?

   a. It is exhilarating to develop language to express the truth that God deposits in our hearts through His Word. We feel the sensation of pleasure in our heart when we express God’s truth through our own understanding and with our own vocabulary. Human Beings are the only creatures on earth who are given the gift of language. It is an awesome and fascinating privilege to be able to communicate the depths of our heart to each other and to God. By developing an ability to put the ideas and feelings that are in our hearts into words, we do a couple of things:

      1. We explore the emotions of God’s heart more deeply.

      2. We inspire others to identify stirrings in their hearts.

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3. We expand our own understanding of the Word of God.

2. How to articulate your heart:
   a. Practice putting passages of Scripture into your own words.
      
      Example:
      “That the eyes of your understanding would be enlightened”
      “That the innermost part of your spirit would be illuminated”
      “That your innermost man would be awakened by the light of God”
      “That the eyes of your heart would fully comprehend”
   b. Cross-referencing is another wonderful tool – finding other Bible verses that explain or expound upon your point to articulate yourself. How good it is to use the Bible to expound on the Bible!
   c. It may be helpful to use a thesaurus to expand your vocabulary when meditating on the apostolic prayers.

3. How to lead others in intercession:
   a. When you pray on the microphone, you are helping to lead a prayer meeting. When prayer leading or praying on the microphone, the goal is to serve the room.
   b. The following are IHOP-KC Values that are important to remember when praying on the microphone:
      1. team ministry – we go farther together;
      2. inclusiveness – everyone can participate;
      3. the centrality of the Scripture – God’s language unifies our heart with His and others.
   c. The following are some dynamics to keep in mind when you are praying on the microphone.
      1. Volume – Though it is necessary to hold the microphone very close to your mouth and to speak clearly, there is no need to shout on the microphone. A moderate volume level is encouraged, with an occasional projection or shouting volume. The room is not engaged by continual shouting, but rather by dramatic contrasts. Theologically, shouting does not mean that we are more gripped with the Holy Spirit or that we are making a greater impact in the spiritual realm. Authority is not manifest by volume, but by Divine activity.
2. Clarity – This means that it is clear to the room what your prayer focus is. Your main points are clearly defined and prayed through and they follow each other in a logical way. Repeating key phrases and using concise statements creates clarity.

3. Topic – Is your prayer focus one that the majority will be eager/ excited to partner with you on? Praying for the church in Kansas City, or the government of our nation, etc., are examples of focal points that the majority can join with you in. Praying for a friend or relative that no one knows except you may cause disinterest and disengagement of others. Again, we pray on the microphone to lead and serve the room in intercession. Praying on the microphone does not make our prayer any more important to God; rather, it is a tool that helps us join together in prayer.

4. Enthusiasm – Are you passionate about your prayer? Does it show? Others will be more inclined to join in with your prayer if they sense that your heart is engaged and burning. *This does not mean shouting or exaggerating your emotions.* This means being aware that you are trying to bring them along with you in intercession. Monotone speech or a casual delivery may cause others to disengage. Remember that you are speaking to God – connect with Him and your passion will be expressed.

5. Length of Prayer – 5 minutes is a pretty good length. If you go longer than 5-7 minutes, often the room will lose interest and disengage. Also, there are usually others waiting to pray after you.

6. Timing – You may want to add little 2-3 second phrases *in between* the singers’ singing – not during their singing – to reiterate your point to the room. *Please do not shout over the choruses.* Also, it is helpful to read the room in terms of when to begin warring in the spirit. Usually it is best to go into a time of warring in the spirit when the music and the singers are the most intense-sounding.

*There are more dynamics to be aware of when praying on the microphone, but these are the main ones. It will take time to learn to lead the room, but the more you go up there and pray, the more you will learn, the easier it will become and the more enjoyable it will be.*

C. RAPID FIRE PRAYER

1. What is Rapid Fire Prayer? Rapid Fire Prayer is a series of short prayers, prayed on the microphone one after the other, interspersed by choruses from the prophetic singers.

2. Why do we do it? Rapid Fire Prayer provides an opportunity for more people to pray on the microphone per intercession set and it also can bring energy to a prayer meeting because of the energizing dynamic of the short “bursts of prayer” from several different voices.

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3. How does a Rapid Fire Prayer cycle work? The prayer leader will announce a rapid fire cycle. He or she will announce what the prayer focus is and will invite 10 – 15 people (anyone who wants to) to come up and pray a ten to fifteen second prayer on the microphone. The Rapid Fire cycle leader will start by praying a one or two minute prayer. After that prayer, the singers will sing a chorus. Then one by one, those in line will pray a ten to fifteen second prayer. In between every few intercessors’ prayers, the singers will sing a chorus. Then, the next person will pray and so on until everyone in line has prayed.

4. Rapid Fire Prayer is a great way to begin praying on the microphone if you are nervous or just want to get a “feel” for it.

D. SMALL GROUP PRAYER

1. What is small group prayer? Small group prayer is the gathering together of a small number of people to pray for a particular people group, nation, event, etc.

2. Why do we do it? Small group prayer is an opportunity to connect our heart with others as we agree together in prayer. This connectivity strengthens us in community and love for one another and also gives us energy in continuing in prayer.

3. How does small group prayer work? The prayer leader will announce a small group prayer time. He or she will invite anyone so desiring to gather into small groups of 4-5, all over the room, to engage in prayer over any burden the group would like to intercede for together. Do not wait to be invited into a group; simply approach and join a group.

E. THE LIFE LINE

1. What is the “Life Line?” The “Life Line” is made up of strips of red tape along the floor in the front right area of the Prayer Room. “Life Line” offers an opportunity to take a purposed stand in the Prayer Room on the issue of life. It is a means to appeal to heaven for the establishing of a culture of life – and specifically, the ending of abortion – in our nation and the world.

2. Why do we do it? We want to take a determined stance in our plea for life. The “Life Line” is a way to sustain our prayerful appeal for life. It can provide the awareness, focus and energy needed to intercede for this particular issue in an on-going way.

KEY APOSTOLIC INTERCESSIONARY PRAYERS

(not a comprehensive list - compiled by Mike Bickle July 99)

1. Prayer for revelation of Jesus’ beauty and the Bride’s destiny unto transforming our heart

“...the Father of glory, may give to you the SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the HOPE OF HIS CALLING, what are the riches of the GLORY OF HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS, and what is the exceeding GREATNESS OF HIS POWER TOWARD US” (Eph. 1:17-19).

2. Prayer for the release of supernatural strength in the heart unto experiencing God’s emotions.

“...that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, TO BE STRENGTHENED WITH MIGHT THROUGH HIS SPIRIT IN THE INNER MAN, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, MAY BE ABLE TO COMPREHEND with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Eph. 3:16-19)

3. Prayer for God’s love to abound in our heart resulting in discernment and righteousness.

“And this I pray, that YOUR LOVE MAY ABOUND still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may APPROVE THE THINGS THAT ARE EXCELLENT, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being FILLED WITH THE FRUITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.” (Phil. 1:9-11)

4. Prayer to know God’s will, to be fruitful in ministry and strengthened by intimacy with God.

“We…do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may have a WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD, fully pleasing Him, BEING FRUITFUL in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; STRENGTHENED WITH ALL MIGHT, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.” (Col. 1:9-12)

5. Prayer for unity within the church across a city.

“Now may the God of patience and comfort GRANT YOU TO BE LIKE-MINDED toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, THAT YOU MAY WITH ONE MIND AND ONE MOUTH glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus.” (Rom. 15:5-7)

6. Prayer to be filled with supernatural joy, peace and hope.

“Now may the God of hope FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING, THAT YOU MAY ABOUND IN HOPE by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Rom. 15:13)

7. Prayer for Israel to be saved through Jesus.

“My heart’s desire and prayer to God for ISRAEL is that they may be saved.” (Rom. 10:1).
8. Prayer to be enriched with the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit leading unto righteousness.

“I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, THAT YOU WERE ENRICHED IN EVERYTHING by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, so THAT YOU COME SHORT IN NO GIFT, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, THAT YOU MAY BE BLAMELESS in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor. 1:4-8)

9. Prayer for the release of apostolic ministry and to abound in love and holiness

“…we rejoice for your sake before our God, night and day praying exceedingly THAT WE MAY SEE YOUR FACE and PERFECT WHAT IS LACKING in your faith? Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, DIRECT OUR WAY TO YOU. And may the Lord make you increase and ABOUND IN LOVE to one another and to all…so that He may ESTABLISH YOUR HEARTS BLAMELESS IN HOLINESS before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.” (1 Thes. 3:9-13)

10. Prayer to be equipped and prepared to receive the fulness of God destiny for the church.

“Therefore we also pray always for you THAT OUR GOD WOULD COUNT YOU WORTHY OF THIS CALLING, AND FULFILL ALL THE GOOD PLEASURE OF HIS GOODNESS AND THE WORK OF FAITH WITH POWER, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Thes. 1:11-12)

11. Prayer for the Word to increase by the release of Holy Spirit power.

“Finally, brethren, pray for us, THAT THE WORD OF THE LORD MAY RUN SWIFTLY AND BE GLORIFIED, just as it is with you, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you. NOW MAY THE LORD DIRECT YOUR HEARTS INTO THE LOVE OF GOD AND INTO THE PATIENCE OF CHRIST.” (2 Thes. 3:1-5)

12. Prayer for impartation of Holy Spirit boldness through the release of signs and wonders.

“…they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: ‘Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth... The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ. For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Now, Lord, look on their threats, and GRANT TO YOUR SERVANTS THAT WITH ALL BOLDNESS THEY MAY SPEAK YOUR WORD, BY STRETCHING OUT YOUR HAND TO HEAL, AND THAT SIGNS AND WONDERS MAY BE DONE through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.’ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:24-31)