

# TX COLLEGE CHURCH

PARTNERING WITH CHURCHES TO REACH TEXAS COLLEGE STUDENTS

# 181

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Ministry Retreat

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## Strategic in Prayer

posted Jun 29, 2016, 2:20 PM by Ginger Bowman [ updated Jun 29, 2016, 2:20 PM ]



"After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." Acts 4:31 NIV

Throughout scripture we see the power of prayer. In the book of Acts, believers are empowered. In Isaiah Hezekiah prays boldly and God gives the victory. In 1 Kings Elijah prays and fire falls from heaven. In Ephesians Paul exhorts the church to pray "in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." So why would we develop a strategy for ministry without prayer?

**Prayer should be central to our ministry.** It is our source of strength, because it calls on the power of God to do what we cannot do on our own. Do you believe that prayer is powerful and effective? If so, how will you make prayer central to all you do?

- **Begin with prayer.** Before you ever put plans on the books, take time to pray about them. Gather your leaders and your students and ask them to seek the Lord about what He would have you do. You will be seeking His guidance and helping your students see the priority of prayer. Asking them to pray makes them part of the team and imparts ownership. Before the semester starts, plan a prayer night with a list of things you want to pray over about the coming year. Include areas of ministry, names of students, events, leadership, and spiritual direction. Ask students to help create the list.
- **Plan for prayer.** We can intend to pray, but if we don't plan for it we will not do it as we should. Prayer requires intense focus, and in this busy noisy world we live in we must intentionally shut out those things that would pull us away so that we can be focused in prayer. Plan regular times of prayer that help your group to focus in prayer. Schedule times in the week that everyone will agree to pray together for your church wherever they are. Create a closed social media group that is focused on praying for needs that arise and invite students to post requests as they have them.
- **Call the church to prayer.** It is important for students in your ministry to pray. It is just as important for other members of your church to pray for your students. The *most* that people in your church can do for your ministry is pray. Nothing is more important. Seek out people in your church that you know will be diligent in prayer to pray for you and for your ministry. Find people who will pray for a student or a group of students by name. Plan times in worship services for the congregation to pray for college ministry.

We are engaged in a spiritual battle for the souls and lives of college students. We will not be effective against the enemy without first spending time on our knees before the Father. Let's call upon His strength this year.



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**Ginger Bowman**