

## **LONG GROVE COMMUNITY CHURCH THURSDAY NIGHT PRAYER MEETINGS**

### **Q: What Is It?**

A: Long Grove Church is hosting a PRAYER MEETING every Thursday (except holidays) in the Community House at 7pm ---starting November 10, 2016. It is open to all people to come and spend time in God's presence and to call on the LORD for His glory and purposes to be revealed in our country, community, family and lives.

### **Q: How Long Will It Last?**

A: The plan is to go from 7pm to 8pm. Most of that time will be devoted to prayer. People who attend will be able to share prayer requests though they need not do so to participate. However most of the talking and social interaction will happen before and/or after the 7pm-8pm hour. We plan to do this every Thursday for the foreseeable future except on holidays. Will we ever go later than 8pm? There may be a time or two that we go a few minutes after but the plan is to keep it to an hour.

### **Q: Why Are We Doing This?**

A: God commands us to pray. Historically the church and the people of God have gathered to pray corporately and regularly. The Barometer of health for our church is our prayer life. God moves when His people pray. We will be changed in His presence whether we see immediate answers or not. We are not praying to get what we want but to unleash what God wants. It is not a demand and request for our will to be done but a surrender to God's will. We are corporately declaring our humility and dependence upon God and praying for our country, city, community, families and church. God wants us to show up. He loves us and enjoys when His people call out on His name. It was the only thing that the disciples specifically asked Jesus to teach them to do--- to pray—they were so amazed at his prayer life. We need God and we need Him on His terms. Prayer is the primary way to declare and experience that.

### **Q: If I come will I have to pray out loud?**

A: No, just come and be in His presence and pray quietly and silently. However, the more you actually do pray out loud the more you will feel more

comfortable and confident in doing so. The only wrong way to pray is to make it into a performance or a show or to repeat rehearsed babbling –in other words to not be humble and authentic. We invite you to come and learn to pray and grow in it. But we will not require or compel people to pray in ways that they do not wish too.

**Q: Can I just stay home and pray?**

A: Yes, you can and we would love for you to join us in prayer from wherever you are. There is power and encouragement in coming together with others in God's house but we are also the temple of God and the Holy Spirit lives in us ---so we can pray anywhere and everywhere. However if you are like me or most people ---the structure of actually going somewhere to pray with others will help you actually do it. We also know that people are busy and it's hard to get here---so feel free to join us when you can or wherever you are.

**Q: Is there childcare provided?**

A: Not right now but possibly in the future we will provide this. Let us know if you would like to help with this. However feel free to bring a child with you or baby---Jesus said unless we become like a child we will never enter the kingdom of God (Matt.19). Maybe they can teach us a few things. All are welcome.

**Q: What type of praying are you going to be doing?**

A: We will probably have a mix of different types of prayer—possibly the A.C.T.S –adoration, confession, thanksgiving supplication model and maybe other times of direct intercession. Some of the time will be just listening and being in God's presence. It will be a combination of different types of prayer that allow for God to be focused upon, for God to be in control for us to respond to the Spirit's initiative. We will also have times to pray for personal requests either privately or together.

**Q: Who is this for? Can anyone come?**

A: YES –it is for everyone----we would love people from the community to know that they come and just be in God's presence without the trappings of

performance or religion. Anyone who recognizes their need for God is welcome.

**Q: Do I need to come to this every week or can I come when I can?**

A: Come whenever you can. No long term commitment is required. But if you think it is important and you want to come regularly we encourage you to plan ahead and make it a priority.

**Q: What books do you recommend on prayer?**

A: We recommend the BIBLE ---and doing a search on [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) of the Prayers of Paul, the O.T. patriarchs and prophets and the prayer life of Jesus. However we also recommend FRESH WIND FRESH FIRE by Jim Cymbala. TOO BUSY NOT TOO PRAY by Bill Hybels. PRAYER: DOES IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE? By Philip Yancey. Any book on Prayer by Andrew Murray, E.M.Bounds, Sammy Tippit and Leonard Ravenhill. Some of these are in our church library.

**Q: Is it worth it for me to come there and pray?**

A: YES! More than you will ever know.

#### QUOTES ON PRAYER:

1. "You can do more than pray **after** you have prayed; but you can never do more than pray **until** you have prayed." A.J. Gordon

2. "God does nothing except in response to believing prayer." John Wesley (Famous evangelist who spent 2 hours daily in prayer)

3. "Prayer strikes the winning blow; service is simply picking up the pieces." S.D. Gordon

4. "One should never initiate anything that he cannot saturate with prayer."

5. "If I fail to spend two hours in prayer each morning, the devil gets the victory through the day. I have so much business I cannot get on without

spending three hours daily in prayer.” Martin Luther

6. "Prayer does not change the purpose of God. But prayer does change the action of God." Chuck Smith

7. "Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are **helpless** against our prayers." Sidlow Baxter

8. “God shapes the world by prayer. The more prayer there is in the world the better the world will be, the mightier the forces of against evil ...” E.M. Bounds

9. “Prayer is where the action is." John Wesley

10. "Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is powerful on his knees." Corrie ten Boom

11. "Talking to men for God is a great thing, but talking to God for men is greater still." E.M. Bounds

12. "The men who have done the most for God in this world have been early on their knees. He who fritters away the early morning, its opportunity and freshness, in other pursuits than seeking God will make poor headway seeking Him the rest of the day. If God is not first in our thoughts and efforts in the morning, He will be in the last place the remainder of the day." E.M. Bounds