



Greater Peoria HOUSE OF PRAYER

"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations..." –Mark 11:17

May 2023 | Spring Gift-Matching Fundraiser & Ministry Update

Greetings, friend!

Can you believe that we're closing in on our **10-year anniversary** at the Greater Peoria House of Prayer? It's hard to believe myself. Toward the end of 2013, and into the early parts of 2014, my wife Mandy and I launched into the biggest transition of our lives—full-time ministry with a focus on intercessory prayer. Since pioneering the Greater Peoria House of Prayer, our family and the GPHOP community have sought to follow the Holy Spirit's direction as well as serve the greater Peoria area primarily as an intercessory foot-washing ministry. In other words, we've sought to remain in a humble posture relatively behind the scenes and simply pray with a heart of service. Of course, we do much more than pray, but that is our central focus—the whole point of our existence. By the grace of God, we do what we do because we believe God is faithful to answer all those prayers in His perfect timing and wisdom. After all, Jesus said, "My house is a house of prayer" (Luke 19:46).

Before I go any further, let me first say **"Thank you!"** for helping us get this far. **10 years is a testament to the grace of God and the support of many fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.** Your prayers, encouragements and financial backing has helped carry us for a decade, and it means the world to us.

We're looking forward with enthusiasm to what God has in store for the next 10 years of ministry at the GPHOP, and to do that **we need your support more than ever.** Each month we need \$8,000 to meet all of our financial commitments, which comes to about \$100,000 annually. To help us get there, **every gift—up to \$10,000—will be matched dollar for dollar for the rest of the month of May.** This means your gift doubles in value. We're hoping to make the biggest dent possible in our annual need during this time so please prayerfully consider a generous gift today.

Also, as we enter into a season of much gratitude for the Lord bringing us this far, **we'd love to hear from you** about any way that my family and the ministry of the Greater Peoria House of Prayer has been a blessing to you. This may have been a particular time of prayer, a message on a Friday night, a *Prayer Point* segment on the radio—or maybe it's a combination of a number of things. Either way, we'd love to know the ways Jesus has used us as we've put our small offering of loaves and fishes into His hands. If you have any testimonies to share, please email us at info@gphop.org.

If you have any questions about this fundraiser or ministry finances, please don't hesitate to contact Brittany Schwind, our bookkeeper, via email: brittany@gphop.org, or by phone/text: 309-678-8205. As always, financial gifts can be mailed to the address below on our letterhead, or given quickly and securely on our website at gphop.org/donate. Last but not least, please see the back of this letter for an update on our 2023 financial goals and ministry impact.

All for Jesus,

Derek A. Kistner
Founder and Executive Director
Greater Peoria House of Prayer

GPHOP 2023 Giving Goals And Impact Update

Your financial gifts to the GPHOP are making an impact in central Illinois and beyond.

Even with our heart to remain low and in the back, the GPHOP has more and more become a **strategic local “hotspot” for prayer and worship events**. Still small in the grand scheme of things, but certainly significant in the eyes of God. For example, in just the first half of 2023, the GPHOP has hosted moving worship nights with local ministries such as The Church Has Left The Building, a powerful National Day of Prayer event in partnership with the Arise 309 leadership team, and an amazing young adult missions trip with IHOPU students from Kansas City. We are currently joining with the global Isaiah 62 Fast that concludes on May 28th (Pentecost Sunday) with an estimated 100 million Christians praying for God’s purposes to prevail in Jerusalem, Israel and among the Jewish people worldwide. **These kinds of events impact the spiritual atmosphere of our community and far beyond.**

2023 has been a challenging year for the GPHOP from a financial perspective. Yet, we have much hope. We continue to believe God for **80 individuals, families, churches or organizations to partner with the Greater Peoria House of Prayer at \$100 per month, or \$1,200 per year**. This would ensure our entire annual budget of \$100,000 is covered, and that our routine expenses as well as planned events are fully funded. However, any amount of financial gift helps significantly.

Here are some examples of how your gift supports the GPHOP ministry and blesses our community:

- Daily prayer gatherings
- Weekly Friday Encounter Night gatherings focused on corporate worship, Bible teaching and prayer
- *Prayer Point* broadcasts, which are inspirational prayer-focused radio segments featured on WBNH 88.5 FM, a local Christian radio station serving central Illinois
- The Central Illinois School of Prayer, which offers one-of-a-kind local theological training with an emphasis on personal growth in prayer and knowledge of Scripture
- Discipleship groups that meet regularly to focus on spiritual growth
- Citywide events such as the recent ministry trip by a large group of young adult students from the International House of Prayer University in Kansas City, MO
- Summer Kids Camp (July) and children’s events focused on investing in the next generation of youth
- Monthly pastors and leaders prayer gatherings that bring together shepherds and community leaders from around central Illinois for prayer and encouragement
- Regular gatherings with local and international ministries to foster a spirit of Christian charity and unity throughout the community (Arise 309, Isaiah 62 Fast, The Church Has Left The Building)
- Our website, gphop.org, which features biblical teaching resources and inspirational content
- Missionaries who minister here in the U.S. and around the world

Specific Current Needs

Sometimes those who partner with us financially would prefer to give to a specific need. Here are a few of the specific needs. Also, we are seeking to refresh our GPHOP and school of prayer short and long sleeve t-shirt stock as they go quickly.

- Ameren - \$500
- Apparel/branded merchandise - \$1,000
- Rent - \$1,200

Gift Matching

Gift-matching campaigns help us significantly as many are energized by their donations going further than normal. Please email derek@gphop.org if being the primary anonymous donor of an upcoming gift-matching fundraiser is of interest to you. Thank you!