

I. Introduction.

Ephesians 3:20-21 | ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask (prayer) or think (faith), according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

- A. During our inaugural Central Illinois Prayer Summit last April, I shared about how God was challenging me and the community here to dream bigger and believe bigger (more biblically). In fact, the concept of an annual prayer summit itself was born out of this challenge from God. My thought was to put it off another year, but He convinced me to try it. My expectations were blown away and I've heard from a number of people that last year's summit was a very significant and life-changing moment in their walk with God.
- B. Last year, I focused on God's dream for our city and I feel that it bears repeating this. We must keep in mind that Jesus has an inheritance in this region that's been purchased by His blood. Jesus shed His royal blood and died an innocent Man so all the people of *our community* could know Him. Think about it, the greatest King to ever live died for this whole city and beyond! There was something He wanted out of the greater Peoria region that He was willing to die for. It's God's dream to bring to full fruition and maturity what His Son laid His life down for on the cross.
- C. For this year's summit (tonight) I sense God honing in our task here at the GPHOP, which plays into His larger plan and dream for the region. He's asking us to keep dreaming, keep believing, keep praying for God's best by being (doggedly) faithful to what He opened these doors for, which is prayer. The greatest thing we can do as a ministry is simply be faithful to what Jesus told us to do. So I'm going to do two things tonight: 1) ask you to think about these stories and 2) ask you to commit to prayer. Stories help us connect to what God has spoken and remind us that our prayers move His heart—making a real difference.

II. Personal stories related to the formation of the GPHOP.

- A. **STORY:** When I was ~20 years old at an altar time (Riverside Community Church) and God put a thought in my mind. "What if the worship never stopped?" **STORY:** Months later at an event called City Shake, I had an encounter with God during worship.
- B. God has made clear over the years that these two experiences would define the ministry He would call me into. A place where the worship would not end and where people would be dramatically encountered by God in ways that are life-changing. (I've watched similar things happen to people here over the first couple of years.) Now, fast forward 10 or 12 years or so...
- C. **STORY:** God begins to make it clear that I'm to transition out of my corporate job and start a house of prayer, a prayer-centered ministry. I pray a secret prayer for a building, which God answers quicker than I imagined.
- D. **STORY:** I keep hearing from people to be faithful in the season of smallness and one night a guy tells me this randomly.
- E. **STORY:** Six months so after starting the GPHOP, I was really tired and discouraged and God spoke to me in an incredible way regarding the GPHOP logo.
- F. **STORY:** The Lord once again emphasized 24/7 in a way that was head-scratching.
- G. Over and over again, God has continued to open doors and speak in various ways emphasizing unceasing worship and prayer.

III. Finishing the foundational level of the GPHOP—the needs right now.

- A. **Day and night**—when we first started the GPHOP over four years ago, I sensed the Lord speaking to me that "step one" was to develop a day and night prayer time. A morning meeting and a night meeting, essentially. I've been working on that to this day. **Morning prayer**—I need more people to come out once or twice a week or so and join with me in prayer from 7-8 a.m. (and 8-9 a.m. on weekends). I need people to pace around with and ask for God to break into our city. **Evening prayer**—I need those who would lead a worship set once or twice a month on weeknights or Saturday nights as we seek to establish a worship and prayer time each night of the week.
- B. **Internships**—Each summer we call for summer interns to give a month or two or three to increased prayer and worship. Prayerfully consider giving your summer to the Lord in an increased way. We also encourage seasons of dedication in which we offer customized internships based on availability. Either way, let me know if this interests you! **Employment/staff**—I'm believing for our "120" or whatever number the Lord has for us to build this work. It may involve you!
- C. **Financial support**—The GPHOP community needs faithful, generous donors who share our vision. We would be so honored by your financial commitment as we seek to build a 24/7 prayer sanctuary that serves God's purposes in central Illinois.

Help me improve my notes! The first person to point out a legitimate mistake/typo on this document (during service) gets \$1.

Greater Peoria House of Prayer Announcements for May 4, 2018

1. **Welcome** to the Greater Peoria House of Prayer... we're glad you're here and blessed to be worshipping God with you! Be sure to pick up the **free** materials at the back table in the prayer room or the desk near the front of the downstairs fellowship area, which includes teaching notes, stickers, pens, prayer cards and more. **Daily schedule:** We have morning prayer right here in this room seven days a week from 7-8 a.m. Monday - Friday and 8-9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. We have afternoon prayer four days a week: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. - noon. We have evening prayer with live worship from 6-8 p.m. Monday - Saturday. On Friday's, we have an extra prayer gathering from 10-11:30 a.m. Our **Friday Encounter Night** is from 6-9 p.m. and is our main corporate gathering each Friday evening featuring live worship and a teaching to inspire love for Jesus and prayer.
2. **UPCOMING EVENTS:** Kids Camp 2018 for children ages 2-10 will be June 20-22.
3. **Prayer room ministry opportunities:** If you are interested in leading or ministering during a live worship set by singing, playing an instrument, prayer leading or behind the sound board, please contact us at info@gphop.org. We'd love to have you serve on one of our teams! **Team ministry opportunities:** If you feel the Lord has gifted you in the prophetic (or would like to grow in this gifting) and would consider helping on a prophetic team, send an email to info@gphop.org. Contact Mandy Kistner at mandykistner@yahoo.com if you would like to schedule a future healing ministry appointment or help out on the healing team.
4. **Missions:** Please keep the following missionaries we support in prayer as well as be sensitive to their financial needs: **Ashley Bucknam** and **Alicia Wright** (ACTS School, Colorado Springs, CO); **Tim and Blair Fraim** (Florianopolis House of Prayer; Florianopolis, Brazil); **Eric and Erin Simmons** (Minnesota House of Prayer Network; Twin Cities, MN); **Amy Dirks** and **Phil Kellenberger** (International House of Prayer, Kansas City, MO). Also keep friends **Tyler and Sarah Cook** and family in prayer who are beginning a HOP in Ottawa, IL.
5. **Social media:** Follow us on Facebook (Greater Peoria House of Prayer - GPHOP), Twitter (@GPHOPrayer), Instagram (@GPHOPrayer), Vimeo and YouTube for regular updates and inspiration. Use these social media sites to get the word out, share pictures, quotes you heard, etc. Contact Derek at derek@gphop.org if you're interested in helping with GPHOP's social media.
6. **Refuge ministry:** There are several groups who use our facility for their ministry purposes. Please keep the following in prayer: Christian Business Men's Connection Bible studies (Thursday mornings), Kinisi 424 senior worship leader meetings (monthly/as needed), kingdom business prayer groups (as needed), prophetic dance classes (as needed) and Sunday church gatherings (as needed).
7. We provide **free wifi** to everyone here! The password for the **GPHOP** router is on the chalkboard in the downstairs fellowship area. You can also connect to either the CableWiFi or xfinitywifi routers if you have a personal Comcast account.
8. **Prayer requests:** If you would like our community to pray for something specific, please submit it to info@gphop.org.
9. **Giving:** The prayer room budget is approximately \$3,000 per month. If you have been blessed by the GPHOP and would like sow financially into the ministry, we would be more than blessed. You can give in cash, but if you would like to give to GPHOP with a check, please make it out to "Greater Peoria House of Prayer" or "GPHOP"—your gift is tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity! It's helping make day and night prayer with worship possible in central Illinois. You can place your gift in the Saturday night offering during the 7 p.m. teaching or drop it in either of the two black donation boxes. Donations can also be mailed to our physical address at 117 East Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611. Donors can also use PayPal to give electronically.

*Thank you for helping to **keep this prayer room sacred** by ensuring conversations with others are brief and kindly reminding others to do the same. There is a large fellowship area downstairs if you would like to talk at length.*