Changing the Spiritual Climate in Your City
(How to begin a city-wide transformation movement)

by Pastor Greg Pagh
Elk River, Minnesota

Here are some practical steps for pastors and marketplace leaders to begin developing a prayer-based transformation movement in their local city or region. This process is based on the teachings of Jesus in Luke 10 as he sent out his disciples two-by-two to the cities ahead of him. As we incorporate these principles of Prayer Evangelism on a city-wide basis we will experience a change in the spiritual climate. Transformation will begin to impact every level of society.

1. **Pray**
   a. Read Ed Silvoso's book, "That None Should Perish."
   b. Call together a "cohesive core" of both pulpit and marketplace leaders who share a vision to see your city transformed.
   c. Begin a weekly community "prayer meeting" to pray for your city. Be an answer to Jesus' prayer for unity in John 17. Meet in a public space rather than a local church. Keep it to one hour.
   d. Appoint a facilitator to bring a scripture and prayer focus each week and then let the Holy Spirit lead the prayer time.
   e. Learn from each other and be enriched by the wonderful variety of ways that God's people pray and express faith.
   f. Keep the focus on what unites, rather than what divides!

2. **Speak Peace**
   a. Start with each other. Bless and speak peace to your fellow pastors and believers. Remember that you're partners, not competitors.
   b. Begin to refer to the "church of the city" more than to your own congregation. The "church of the city" is made up of every believer in Christ regardless of church, denomination, or theology.
   c. Speak peace to your city. Take your authority to "refuse and permit… bind and loose." Matthew 16
   d. Send a note or make a phone call to a public official or city leader thanking them for their service.
   e. Exchange "drive-by cursings" for "drive-by blessings."

    f. Foster a climate that communicates that the church is "for" the city, not "against" it.

3. **Build Relationships**
   a. Be intentional about becoming friends with both pulpit and marketplace ministers in your city.
   b. Invite other pastors or city leaders out to lunch. Visit them on their turf and show genuine interest in their lives. Pray for them.
   c. Intentionally build relationships with key leaders in your city, i.e. mayor, city council, police and fire chief, superintendent of schools, school board, principals, business leaders, etc.
   d. As your "prayer group" is established, invite key leaders to attend. Listen to their challenges. Ask for their prayer requests. Speak peace, bless, encourage, and pray for their needs.
   e. Do things together as the "church of the city." Share in a Unity Service." When someone comes up with a good idea at your church, explore how it could be done in partnership with others.

4. **Respond to Felt Needs**
   a. Allow your "prayer meeting" to cultivate a spirit of genuine caring. Respond to each other's needs in new ways within the whole "body of Christ."
   b. Identify a need in your city and rally the "church of the city" to respond to it.
   c. Show up and volunteer for "secular" projects. Be visible in your city at community events.
   d. Love your city and the people in it. Coach some kids. Mentor some youth. Provide for the poor. Visit those hospitalized or in prison. "Prayer Walk" your schools. Clean-up a highway or park. Speak out with one voice. Know what you are for, not just against.
   e. Pray with someone in your city for a "felt need" in their life.

5. **Proclaim Good News**
   a. Take time in your "prayer meeting" to declare the praises of the Lord. Declare your "unity with a purpose."
   b. Speak a positive word for the Lord wherever you are as the Holy Spirit opens the doors to conversation, sharing and testimony.
   c. Focus on "building the kingdom" and let Jesus take care of "building the church."

    d. Remember that transformation is a process. We are called to pray and work together in unity even when things get tough.

    e. Share testimonies often that give the praise to God.