

A 4-WEEK TEACHING SERIES

ORDINARY PEOPLE // EXTRAORDINARY GOD

BY BRIAN ALARID
WITH ANDREW MARTIN

Dick Eastman says it well, “We can’t possibly know all there is to know about prayer, but we all have heard stories of God-on-the-move as He responds to the prayers of His people. *When People Pray* is an account of what happens when people *actually* pray.”

Over the course of this 4-WEEK TEACHING SERIES, we are going to go on journey guided by the Holy Spirit partnered with Brian Alarid and his new book *When People Pray*.

Join us as we discover together that “prayer is more about the object of prayer, Jesus, than it is about the outcome of prayer.”

Before we begin together, consider these questions from Brian Alarid:

“So, *what happens when people pray?* What happens when a man, woman, youth, or child pauses to pray to the God of Heaven? What happens when couples and families pray together? What happens when a city or state unities in prayer? What happens when business owners seek God for creative ideas to generate wealth and impact others? What happens when a nation cries out to God? What could happen when every country and people group on the planet are covered in day and night prayer?”

Let’s find out together.

WEEK 4: PRAYER & MISSION

In the early 2000’s, there was a lovely, mature, kind, hilarious, eighteen-year-old young lady named Grace who said goodbye to her parents. She knew the moment that she left would be the last time that she would ever see her mother or father. No one forced her to go, but she made the decision on her own. She traveled nearly halfway across her country to a place that cannot be named or known.

Why did she go? She went because in a secret place of worship, she had an encounter with a most gracious and loving God. She went because the more she grew in her faith, the more prayerful encounters she experienced, the more she wanted to take what she was learning to tell people who had not heard yet.

Specifically, Grace left home because in the far away city to which she went there was a secret school, in a secret house, that was a secret church. It would be there where she would spend a focused amount of time learning all that she could so that she would be even more prepared for the city to which she was called.

She learned how to pray, how to listen to God's voice, how to interact with Him in honor and obedience. She learned how to study the scripture and to teach others to do the same. She learned about the mission - the task in front of her would be extremely challenging, but she was undaunted.

Read Jeremiah 29:7

"Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it because if it prospers, you will prosper too."

1. Houses of Prayer

Rick Warren once said, ***"You judge a church's health not by its seating capacity, but by its sending capacity."***

The disciples were gathered in unified prayer waiting the Holy Spirit's arrival and the church was born. But please take note, the power to the Spirit was not contained by the room in which they prayed. Prayer initiated it, but Mission sustained it.

Brian Alarid says it so well, ***"Real prayer always moved us to mission, and mission drives us to prayer."***

What is at the core of this Jesus movement?

Mark 11:17 gives us the answer, ***"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."*** The word translated as house from the Greek work oikos means: family, house, or household. So Jesus is literally saying *'My family shall be called a family of prayer for all nations.'*

Prayer has never been an add-on option for believers, it is the marker of our family.

Think about that. Think about your life. Is prayer so important that it identifies you to others as a follower of Jesus?

What would happen if God's people became a house of prayer?

“Jesus is call every believer, every family, every church, every ministry, and every Christian-owned business to become houses of prayer. The Holy Spirit is raising up houses of prayer everywhere.” - Brian Alarid

What would happen if every believer prayed consistently and confidently?

This movement is not a call for ministry leaders or church only, it is just as much about people in the marketplace.

Author Os Hillman said, ***“Consider that in the New Testament, of Jesus’ 132 public appearances, 122 were in the marketplace. Of the 52 parables Jesus told, 45 had a workplace context. Of 40 miracles recorded in the book of Acts, 39 occurred in the marketplace.”***

You have the ability to be a house of prayer no matter what your profession or calling.

Doctors and nurses, engineers and architects, teachers and principals, chefs and dishwashers, CEOs and janitors, attorneys and clerks, managers and hourly workers, farmers and real estate moguls, developers and carpenters, electricians and plumbers, movie stars and stay-at-home moms, pastors and children’s workers... all of us are being called out to be houses of prayer and bring the Kingdom of Heaven to our circles of influence.

We are called to live transformational lives.

We were made to impact culture through our faith, prayers, and obedience to God.

We are an ordinary people connected with an extraordinary God.

2. Transforming Cities

In 2017, New Mexico was ranked No. 1 in property crime, burglary and robbery, and No. 2 in violent crime and auto theft. January of that same year, marked the launch of America Prays. The Lord gave America Prays the vision to unite and equip 40,000 churches in 24/7 prayer for a national spiritual awakening.

The more Brian & Mercy and their team prayed, the more the Lord expanded their vision. It was about prayer and mission, the two would be completely inseparable.

If we as believers profess to take all that Jesus taught seriously, then we have to be focused of ‘Transforming Cities’. The work of the church has never been aimed at the church.

Take for instance the Greek word *ekklesia*, it is fairly well known that it is the word translated *church*. *Ekklesia* literally means 'called out ones'. Notice it does not mean called IN ones. So then from its origin the church was made to go outside of itself.

Did you know that the word *Ekklesia* was a word used within the Roman government? It described a group of ordinary men who would gather to listen to the Emperor/king and then they were responsible to see that his vision, & rule was carried out everywhere within the kingdom.

The Holy Spirit is so smart! He inspired the writers of the New Testament to use that word *ekklesia* on purpose for a purpose. What is trying to tell us?

We were made to gather and listen to our King (in prayer & study) and then responsible to see that his vision, & rule are carried out everywhere (the mission) within the KINGDOM. We were designed to be instruments carrying His heart so powerfully that we would constantly be about Transforming Cities.

As America Prays & New Mexico Prays partnered with New Mexico, they gradually began to gain momentum. They partnered with governmental officials, churches, businesses, organizations, and individuals to cover the state in 24/7 prayer. God was listening and their unceasing prayers were making a difference. According to the FBI database, the city of Albuquerque experienced a significant decrease in crime.

Listen to Brian Alarid, ***"When God's people pray, God hears from heaven, and things change."***

Former New Mexico Lt. Governor John Sanchez explained it this way, ***"I like to call them parallels of truth. What works in the spiritual world works in the political world. And I think that America Prays will be that means to bridge that gap."***

Transforming Cities is not optional, but in order to really accomplish this task we as believers must unite. The apostle Paul said it well, ***"There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call - one Lord, one faith, one baptism, on God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."*** (Ephesians 4:4-6)

Prayer Unites Us.

Prayer Transforms Us.

Prayer Moves Us.

Prayer Empowers Us.

When people pray, God does more than they could ask, think, or imagine.

When people pray, their prayers affect generations to come.

When people pray, they discover their God-given purpose and acquire the faith to fulfill it.

When people pray, God sets their priorities straight, families thrive, and businesses flourish.

When people pray, God changes them and the world around them.

What will happen when you pray?

The world is waiting to find out!