



Empowering People to Change the World

## **The Road as a House of Prayer**

Steve Holt

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### Our Story:

- Really learned to pray in Japan as we ministered in that difficult land.
- Learned to fast and pray, once praying for 21 days in Okinawa.
- Birthed MSC with 10 days of fasting and prayer.
- Begin each year with fasting and prayer.
- Liz and I have fasted and prayed every Monday for over 20 yrs.
- All nights of prayer frequently.
- Just spent 40 nights of prayer in starting The Road.
- 24 hour prayer during the Wholeheart Advance in September.
- Boiler Room Prayer during our services.

At the holiest place on the earth, during the most holy festival of the year, we see Jesus do something that gives us insight into His heart and mission for the Church...

### Mark 11:15

**So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple. Then He taught, saying to them, “Is it not written, *‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations’?* But you have made it a *‘den of thieves.’*”**

- Jesus is angry! The most angry he ever got was at this time.
- Jesus is zealous for the house of the Lord to be a house of prayer.
- Prayer for the nations.

- Jesus came into the court of the Gentiles, designed by God to be a place where the non-Jews, the Gentiles could come and worship, pray and discover the One True God.
- After the return from Babylon, there were many Gentile proselytes to Judaism.
- Instead, the priests, the pastors, the elders had turned it into a place where they could benefit financially by having vendors and dishonest business practices.
- Jesus is consumed by zeal for the house of the Lord. Jesus is consumed with a zeal that His house would be a house of prayer.
- The church had become a house of consumers and business and not disciples and intercessors.
- Jesus weeps today over the church in America that has become a house of marketing rather than a house of prayer.
- The church is the primary means for the spread of the gospel, through the Fire House of prayer!
- Arguably one could say that the main purpose of the church is a “house of prayer for the nations.”
- No other human institution prays but the church! If prayer moves mountains, as Jesus proclaimed, the church, more than anything else, should be seeing mountains moved!

### **Matthew 17:17**

**Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.” 18 And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. 19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” 20 So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. 21 However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”**

### **The early church caught the vision of prayer as primary...**

#### Acts 1:14

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

#### Acts 2:1

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

#### Acts 2:42

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

#### Acts 3:1

Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour*.

#### Acts 4:31

And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

## **A Pastors main responsibility:**

Acts 6:3-4

Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

## **Zinzendorf, the Moravian Revival and Unceasing Prayer...**

- 16<sup>th</sup> century Reformation by the 17<sup>th</sup> century is waning.
- Pietist movement, with Phillip Spener, which emphasized an intimate relationship with Christ.
- He desired for his life to count for Christ and bought a town in order to build a Christian community he named “Herrnhut,” the Lord’s Watch.
- Pietists Germans, mainly from Moravia began to arrive, being persecuted by Catholics.
- The group had many problems with much bickering and gossip.
- In the summer of 1727 a great revival broke out and the Moravians began to confess sin and reconcile.
  - This led to ever-growing prayer gatherings, as well as the first “night watch,” which began on August 5th.
  - The days that followed were marked by an outpouring of the Holy Spirit (even among the children), which manifested in emotional and ecstatic prayer and singing meetings.

- On August 13th, 1727, these corporate meetings came to a climax; the entire community had been called together for the celebration of the Holy Communion, in which all discord between them found an end and real unity grew in them while singing hymns in brokenness and tears.
- Several groups called 'bands' had already started doing 'nightwatch' prayer meetings by themselves, in which they would walk singing through the village. At the end of every night shift, Count Zinzendorf instructed the night guards to sing certain hymns.
- In one of the Herrnhut corporate prayer meetings, Count Zinzendorf felt that the Holy Spirit was highlighting Leviticus 6:13 to him: “Fire shall be kept burning continually on the altar; it is not to go out.” Urged by the strong impression that “the intercession of his saints should incessantly rise up onto [God], like holy incense”, Zinzendorf proposed the setting up of a never ending prayer-chain to the Herrnhutians.
- On August 26, only thirteen days after the community revival began, 48 Herrnhutians voluntarily committed to form a day and night prayer chain, which became known as the “Hourly Intercession”.
- The team was comprised of 24 men and 24 women, each one of them praying for one hour a day, which resulted in at least two people praying fervently at the same time.
- The Hutberg ('watch mountain'), was the place in which the prayer watchmen spent their time in hourly intercession.

## **At The Road:**

- Started with 40 nights of prayer.
- Boiler Room Prayer every week.
- Ministry Teams during the service.
- 24 hour prayer for Wholeheart Advance.
- Prayer and fasting at the beginning of the year.

We are launching a new prayer initiative for February 27-28<sup>th</sup> calling it “24 Hour War Room.” I believe all of us should take one hour to pray during this 24 hour period.

- I’m looking for 10-15 worship leaders who can play a few songs at each hour.
- We will worship and pray over the 7 Mountains of Influence in our society.

## **War Room: The 7 Mountains of Influence**

- The Church (churches, denominations, para-church ministries, and other religions)
- Family and Marriage (youth, children, and marriage)
- Education (all schools, universities, colleges, and educators)
- Business (marketplace, entrepreneurs, and new innovations)
- Media, Arts, and Entertainment (the press, internet, TV, social media, movie industry, and sports)
- Military (our servicemen and women, strategies, and leadership)

**A typical hour in the War Room: Bring your Bible, Journal, and Pen**

- 15 minutes of worship.
- 15 minutes listening to the Lord.
- 30 minutes of intercession and impressions from the Lord.