

## **A 30 Day Prayer Experiment in April, 2019**

*Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)*

We have taken this urging, this call from Jesus to put God and his work in our lives as our highest priority for 2019. It is our “year verse.” I believe it is an invitation from the Lord for us to make room for big things that he wants to do in our lives personally and corporately, as a congregation.

About a month ago, I was in a time of listening prayer, seeking the Lord for direction, when I heard two words drop into my mind and heart: “Pittsburgh Experiment.” I was familiar with the term, but needed to refresh my memory a bit. The Pittsburgh Experiment was launched in 1955 by Rev. Sam Shoemaker, one of the most widely known Christian ministers of the nation in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. He came to Pittsburgh from New York City and declared that he desired to see his new home become as famous for God as it was for steel. In that spirit, he launched the Pittsburgh Experiment.

At the core of this initiative is a **30 Day Prayer Experiment**, in which two or more people join together in prayer daily for thirty days to pray about a circumstance in their personal or professional lives. The experiment part of this initiative has to do with seeing what God will do when his people take their concerns to him in this concerted fashion. Through praying, the individuals become more aware of God’s presence in their lives. Sometimes those praying witness a resolution to the matter through a change in circumstances, and

sometimes they witness a change in themselves as a result of praying.

As I pondered the idea that the Lord dropped into my spirit, I had a strong sense that this was an invitation for Wellspring to enter into a **30 Day Prayer Experiment** with God. Upon testing the idea with the other pastors, there was a strong sense of confirmation. *So here is what we are proposing for the thirty days of April: we are challenging Wellspring to enter into an intentional prayer experiment. We are proposing both a corporate and a personal dimension to this prayer experiment. We will agree on some prayers together as a body over the month of April; and we are hoping that everyone can engage with at least one other prayer partner to bring one or two matters of personal concern to the Lord.*

Possible prayer partners might be your spouse or other family member, a friend, or someone in your small group, or we will help you to find a prayer partner for the **30 Day Prayer Experiment**. You can “meet” on the phone each day, or in person, at your mutual convenience. I believe that this initiative is part of us seeking God’s Kingdom “first”—as a priority—in 2019.

*We are also planning special gatherings for corporate prayer on each of the Wednesdays in April, beginning at 7:00 PM.*

I believe that this **30 Day Prayer Experiment** is an invitation from the Lord to see Him do amazing things in our midst. So, please let me encourage you to enter into this experiment with God over the month of April! Let’s seek God’s saving and transforming rule and reign in our lives and see what he can do!

*Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:33*

We are asking each of you to agree in prayer each day for these two requests that flow out of our year verse:

***\*\*Lord, please grace us with expressions and manifestations of your Kingdom and your righteousness. We want to see people encountering you deeply every time we gather; we long to see people come to know your salvation; we ask for gifts of physical healings and for deliverance; we ask for relationships to be restored and for wholeness and shalom to rest upon Wellspring and all who call this place home.***

***\*\*Lord, please give us all we need to carry out your Kingdom purposes at Wellspring. We ask for laborers for the harvest; we ask for finances to do the mission; we ask for clarity of vision and direction for the work; we ask for zeal to do the work you have called us to do.***

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These are the two personal concerns I am asking the Lord to address during this *30 Day Prayer Experiment*:

1)

2)

About the same time that the Lord was drawing my attention to this **30 Day Prayer Experiment**, Pastor Kevin found himself drawn to a simple yet powerful prayer that has emerged out of Wales in recent years to express agreement for fresh outpourings of the Holy Spirit. It is called the Caleb Prayer. We have adapted it slightly for our use at Wellspring and are suggesting that we make this part of our **30 Day Prayer Experiment**.

### **The Caleb Prayer**

***O High King of Heaven,  
Have mercy on our land.  
Revive your church;  
Send the Holy Spirit  
For the sake of the children.  
May your kingdom come to our state and nation.  
In Jesus' mighty name. Amen.***

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With God's help, I am entering into this **30 Day Prayer Experiment** as part of seeking God's Kingdom first in my life, for our church, and in our state and nation.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_