

# **BHOP Forerunner Gathering – JENNIFER LAWRENCE JUNE 14, 2009**

## **Worship Based 24/7 Prayer: *Cultivating a Prophetic Environment***

### Introduction

Over the past three months we've communicated several of the "basic principles" in the framework of BHOP's vision:

- Intimacy with God - the centrality of knowing and loving God, with ongoing revelation of WHO God is, experiencing His love and agreeing with His plan (**Mt. 22:37,38; Eph. 3:16-19**)
- Eschatology - BHOP believes that crisis is coming before Jesus' Second Coming, therefore there is a call to gather (**Joel 2:10-17**), and to be a people who watch and pray
- Intercession - God has chosen intercession as the primary means by which He releases His government (power) through Jesus and with His people both now and forever
- Great Commission - we need to be rooted in revelation of God's BIG mission of coming to establish His kingdom on earth in order to know our mission to prepare the way for His coming (**Mt. 24:14; 28:19,20**)

### **The question remains:**

**How does BHOP seek to create an environment to foster this kind of revelation and intercession?**

#### I. BHOP BASIC PRINCIPLE #2: WORSHIP BASED 24/7 PRAYER

- A. Our desire is to establish a place set apart for worship-based 24/7 prayer with "watchmen" continually set on the wall (**Is. 52:7-10; 62:6,7**)
- B. Through singing and proclamation of the Word, a prophetic environment is cultivated; becoming a "singing seminary" where revelation of truth from the Word can more easily go deep into the heart as singing theologians are raised up

#### II. CULTIVATING A PROPHETIC ENVIRONMENT

##### A. What do we mean by "prophetic"?

1. Prophecy is the God-inspired testimony of Jesus (**Rev. 19:10**), including (but not exclusive to) the written Scriptures
  - a. The key to understanding God's voice is to know His heart
  - b. The spirit of prophecy and prayer are given by God to equip the Church to make known the testimony of Jesus and what is on His heart
  - c. Declaring with insight the knowledge of God, the motives of His heart, the beauty of His name, and the wisdom of His ways

*The oracle of one who hears the words of God, who has knowledge from the Most High, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened...  
Num. 24:16*

2. To offset the lies of the world, the flesh, and the devil, we must be saturated with the truth of the Word of God; requiring time and a place for truth to penetrate deeply, healing the heart and liberating the mind. Prophetic worship is imperative for the breaking off of strongholds in hearts and minds (as David with Saul in **1 Sam. 16:23**)

Worship Based 24/7 Prayer: *Cultivating a Prophetic Environment*

## B. Music and Singing

## 1. Universal expression of emotion

a. In every culture and language we see the use of music and song as a key mode of expression - weddings, funerals, parties, birthdays, anthems, songs of victory or defeat, loves songs... we were made to communicate significant realities and emotions in this manner

b. Proliferation of music in our society

(1) radio, television, movies... what would a movie be without a soundtrack?

## Magnitude of the music business today:

- One of five Americans plays a musical instrument. These musicians spend more than \$5 billion a year on instruments, accessories, and sheet music.
  - The annual sales of cassettes, discs, and videos, combined with their prime delivery medium, broadcasting, exceed the gross national product of more than 80 countries in the United Nations.
  - This pervasive interest in music begins with a young audience: By the time teenagers have left high school, they have spent more time watching television and listening to music than they have in school!
- David Baskerville, The New Eighth Edition of the Music Business Handbook and Career Guide

2. Helps create an inner receptivity

3. Facilitates corporate agreement - that with one heart, one mind, one voice we can all be feeling, singing, praying the same thing at the same time

4. Allows for increased longevity in the place of prayer

5. Fosters an environment for singers to sense what is on God's heart, communicating it through song over others, releasing a spirit of prophecy - **2 Kings 3:15** *"But now bring me a musician." Then it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him.*

6. The Singing God

a. God sings over people **Zeph. 3:17** *The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.*

b. God is full of emotion and we are made in His image... we love music and song and so does God

**Worship Based 24/7 Prayer: Cultivating a Prophetic Environment**

- c. Illustrated by C.S. Lewis in the The Magician's Nephew as Aslan creates Narnia with his song. Aslan sings everything into existence. "Aslan in a deep, wild voice then sang, 'Narnia, Narnia, Narnia, awake. Love. Think. Speak. Be walking trees. Be talking beasts. Be divine waters.'"

## 7. Around the throne of God

*The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders... sang a new song... (Rev. 5:8,9)*

*They sang ...a new song...no one could learn that song except the 144,000. (Rev. 14:3)*

## 8. Commanded by God and the Word

- a. "Sing to the Lord" is one of the most reiterated exhortations and exclamations in the Bible (*Ex. 15:1,21; 2 Sam. 22:50; 2 Chr. 20:21; Ps. 7:17, 9:2, 18:49, 30:4, 33:3, 47:6, 67:4, 81:1, 89:1, 95:1, 98:1, 100; Is. 42:10-15; 1 Cor. 14:15*)

*1 Chr. 16:9 Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works!*

*Ps. 96:1 Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!*

*Eph. 5:19 ...speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord...*

*Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

## b. Singers and musicians in the tabernacle

(1) David established 4,000 full-time paid musicians, 288 singers and 4,000 gatekeepers. Thus, he financed about 10,000 full-time staff to facilitate worship. (*1 Chr.16:1,4,37, 23:5, 25:7*)

(2) Perpetuated by Hezekiah (*2 Chr.29:25-27*), Josiah (*2 Chr. 35:3-15*), Zerubbabel (*Ez. 3:10,11; Neh. 12:47*), Ezra and Nehemiah (*Neh. 12:24,45*), Jehoiada (*2 Chr. 23:16-18*), and Jehoshaphat (*2 Chr. 20:19-28*)

## 9. Warfare

*Isaiah 30:31,32 The Assyrians will be terror-stricken at the voice of the LORD, when he strikes with his rod. And every stroke of the appointed staff that the LORD lays on them will be to the sound of tambourines and lyres...*

## Worship Based 24/7 Prayer: *Cultivating a Prophetic Environment*

*2 Chr. 20:21,22 ...he appointed those who were to sing to the LORD and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say, "Give thanks to the LORD, for his steadfast love endures forever." And when they began to sing and praise, the LORD set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab... who had come against Judah... so that they were routed.*

10. Two conflicting end-time worship movements
  - a. The great conflict at the end of the age will be between two “houses of prayer” or between two global worship movements. The Holy Spirit is raising up the most powerful prayer and worship movement in history. (*Lk. 18:7,8; Rev. 5:8; 8:4; 22:17; Is. 24:14-16; 25:9; 26:8,9; 27:2-5, 13; 30:18,19; 42:10-13; 43:26; 51:11; 52:8; 62:6,7; Jer. 31:7*)
  - b. The Antichrist will raise up a state-financed, worldwide movement of false worship (*Rev. 13:4,8,12,15*)
  - c. God is raising up a counter-movement to deeply root His people in truth, confidence in His leadership and partnership with Him
  - d. In this hour, Jesus is placing prophetic music at the forefront of His end-time plan to release His justice and power culminating in His return (*Ps. 96, Ps.149, Is. 24:14-16, 42:10-17, Revelation Hymns*). Natural history as we know it culminates in two global worship movements, the true worship of the Lamb, and the false worship of Satan. Could our prophetic singers and musicians be sent as lovesick missionaries to fill and fuel houses of prayer all over the earth with intercessory worship and the high praise of God, wreaking havoc on the kingdom of darkness?

### C. Prayer

1. Positive Prayers
  - a. Keeping focus on God and His ability, as opposed to focusing on the enemy; instead of praying the darkness out or praying condemning prayers, we pray the light in and the darkness must flee
  - b. Keeps us from having long conversations with the enemy *Jude 9 - But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you."*
  - c. Speaking life, destiny and encouragement over the church, regions, groups
    - (1) Praying and declaring affirming truths about them... focus on budding virtues that have not yet come to maturity.

## Worship Based 24/7 Prayer: *Cultivating a Prophetic Environment*

(a) Encouragement puts courage in the hearts of others

*Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works... exhorting (encouraging) one another... Heb. 10:24,25*

*But encourage one another daily...that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. Heb. 3:13*

(2) Asking the Lord for insight into how He feels towards them

(3) Words can release life or death; having the power to cause faith to grow. Simply by speaking, we can help people come into agreement with God's truth about them. ***Death and life are in the power of the tongue... Prov. 18:21***

(4) One theme of the Song of Solomon is how Jesus cherishes His Bride. The Lord names us according to budding virtues that are just beginning to grow in our heart (***SOS 4:1-5***). Jesus sees the cry or longing in our spirit to be dedicated to Him long before we walk it out in a mature way.

(5) Jesus motivates His people to obedience with warnings, promises, and the power of cherishing. He cherishes His Bride as the most effective way to transform her until she walks free of compromise.

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her... that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle... and without blemish... For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. Eph. 5:25-29*

(6) Jesus gave Simon a new name, calling him Peter (***Mt. 16:18***). Peter in Greek (petros) means the rock. This name emphasized Peter's stability in leadership. Jesus gave it to him knowing that he would deny the Lord three times (***Mt. 26:75***) and yield to the fear of man in Antioch (***Gal. 2:11-14***).

2. Use of Scripture - The Bible provides us with a clear guide from which to pray according to His will as we partner with God to see heaven come to earth; it is overflowing with passages that can be turned into prayers
  - a. As if God has given His people a blank check to sign off on with a prayer of agreement (***1 John 5:14,15***). Allowing us to clearly and confidently pray His will
  - b. Encourages united prayer as we can have confidence to agree together, more so than if we just pray from our own thoughts

**Worship Based 24/7 Prayer: *Cultivating a Prophetic Environment***

- c. Apostolic Prayers - The most common Biblical prayers used in BHOP are what we call "apostolic prayers" which are simply the written prayers of the apostles of the early church.

(1) These are God-breathed, canonized prayers that can be prayed corporately for churches in different geographic regions.

(2) They reflect the desires of God's heart for people

(3) They give us an excellent model of Biblical prayer

- d. Praying Scriptural Prophetic Decrees - we also pray prophetic decrees from the Bible; asking for God's Kingdom and government to come on earth as it is in heaven as we call forth things that are not yet but have been promised in Scripture

3. Corporate Focus and Agreement

- a. We are not satisfied with our own private relationship with God but long to love Him together with other believers, thereby experiencing the fullness of the love and power of God which is only possible together. (*Jn. 17:20-26; Eph. 3:14-19*)
- b. Keeping our prayers general enough to allow others to easily agree with them in faith helps everyone to remain focused (i.e. not praying for Aunt Martha...)

4. Praying Focused Prayers

- a. Praying focused prayers on a single topic with a clear request helps others stay engaged with us
- b. When we ask the Lord for a very specific request it helps us to pray in faith
- c. Guards against the pressure of praying long-winded prayers
- d. This is also important for helping the antiphonal (responsive) singers know what theme to develop, leading the room more effectively

5. Praying for the Church

- a. The Church is the lamp/light of the world (*Rev 1:20*)

*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Mt. 5:14,15*

## Worship Based 24/7 Prayer: *Cultivating a Prophetic Environment*

*...For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light Eph. 5:8*

*...that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world... Phil. 2:15*

- b. Praying for the ongoing sanctification and transformation of believers rather than focusing prayers on politics in righteousness and justice related issues - that the Church would provoke righteousness
- c. Living out radical Christianity yourself (as an intercessor) - paving the way through your lifestyle, not just prayer... prayer of the righteous is effective (**Jas. 5:16**)

### D. Harp & Bowl Model

1. The model of prayer is never the point. The model is to serve the leaders and congregants to participate boldly together in the place of prayer.
2. At BHOP our vision is to establish a place where day and night the beauty of the Lord is declared and where the Lord's people come together in unity, agreeing together in intercession for what is on the heart of God. We've found that in order to help facilitate the vision the Lord has given us for corporate prayer, it is important to use a prayer model that encourages extended and unified prayer in a way that is easy for people to participate in together.
3. Exploring Biblical truths and themes in song and prayer together in the prayer room
4. Combining worship and prayer with music helps keep hearts and emotions engaged
5. Serves as a communication mechanism which helps create a consistent platform for the spontaneous
6. Aids in sustaining prayer hour upon hour, week upon week, year upon year
7. Guards against one person "dominating" the prayer meeting

### III. DAY AND NIGHT - 24/7

- A. We desire to see prayer and worship established here around the clock 365 days a year, offering adoration and intercession before Him continually

## Worship Based 24/7 Prayer: *Cultivating a Prophetic Environment*

*I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. Is. 62:6-7*

*...Pray without ceasing... 1 Thess. 5:17*

*The four living creatures...do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy..." Rev. 4:8*

*These are the singers...who lodged in the chambers, and were free from other duties; for they were employed in that work day and night. 1 Chr. 9:33*

*Fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it shall not go out. Lev. 6:13*

- B. Because of the age we live in, scheduling time to spend in this kind of atmosphere becomes very difficult when the time and place for this is limited to only one or two short spots in the day. With all hours available daily, people can come in and out as their schedule permits.

### IV. HINTS FOR KEEPING YOUR OWN HEART ENGAGED WHILE IN THE PRAYER ROOM

- A. Ask regularly for the Holy Spirit to give you revelation (living understanding) of the Word
1. The Holy Spirit was sent to glorify and exalt Jesus by guiding us into all truth about Him (*Jn. 16:13-15*)
  2. Go beyond “reading the menu” and just getting the information, feast on Biblical reality; take it in; encounter God in the Word

**"...the activity of calling to mind, and thinking over, and dwelling on, and applying to oneself, the various things that one knows about the works and ways and purposes and promises of God. It is an activity of holy thought, consciously performed in the presence of God, under the eye of God, by the help of God; as a means of communion with God." - JI Packer, Knowing God**

3. A-R-K

A= Affectionate Agreement - "Jesus, Your leadership is perfect in my life"

R= Revelation "Jesus, reveal Yourself to me as the perfect leader"

K= Keep/Apply - personal application "Jesus/Holy Spirit, help me, I will stand for the truth, to trust Your leadership..."