

## Introduction- why corporate (joint) prayer.

There is something special about joint prayer. In the spiritual realm, there is much more power when 10 people join to pray together, as when these same 10 people pray in isolation apart from each other. There are many examples of this in the Word of God:

- When Pentecost came the disciples (and others) were united in prayer (of one accord) (Acts 2)
- When Peter was supernaturally freed from prison, the believers were together praying at the house of Mary. (Acts 12)
- Charles Spurgeon writes: "*The prayer-meeting is an institution which ought to be very precious to us, and to be cherished by us as a Church, for to it we owe everything. When our comparatively little chapel was all but empty, was it not a well-known fact that the prayer-meeting was always full! It is in the spirit of prayer that our strength lies; and if we lose this, the hair will be cut off from Samson's head, and God's Holy Church will become weak as water*"

Social media made it easy (perhaps too easy) for us to send out prayer requests within seconds to large numbers of people. Often, we assume separate prayers as individuals have the same power as joint prayer in a group. I strongly believe this not to be the case. If a matter is serious enough to be passed on as a prayer request, it is serious enough to be prayed over at a joint prayer group. All the effort we made on April 22, 2017 when we came together in Bloemfontein for prayer would have been in vain. We could just as well have prayed at our own homes, each on his own at the specified time, not so? No - the scriptures and church history agree - powerful answers to prayer and nationwide revival happens when believers unite to spend progressively more time in joint prayer!

Perhaps there is someone who asks - Is there then any sense in sending prayer requests at all? Of course, the Scripture commands us to bear each other's burdens in prayer. There is nothing wrong with individuals interceding for prayer requests, as the Holy Spirit leads. But, although individual prayers complement joint / corporate prayer meetings, it should never be used as a replacement for corporate prayer, which remains critically important.

Blessings.

Moreleta Park Congregation Prayer Ministry.