

PRAYER WATCHES - ORGANIZING

The key to a successful Prayer Watch is organization and unified vision. Some suggestions are:

- Decide the hours and duration of the watch, as well as how long should be the time slots for those who sign up. Fifteen minute slots are quite manageable for most people (Those who are so inclined can commit to multiple slots).
- Encourage couples to pray together and singles to find a prayer partner of the same gender, if possible.
- An in-house prayer letter or bulletin that contains general, on-going prayer requests as well as specific updated prayer needs can keep the participants focused, united, and inspired.
- It is good (but not essential) to have a room (usually in the church) set aside for prayer, with prayer resources to support those who come. But unless your church is a commune as was Herrnhut, it is also important to be flexible and to allow people to pray in their homes or wherever it works best for them during their assigned time slot(s).
- Weekly or monthly corporate prayer gatherings will encourage those who are on the watch. (If these meetings include more than two dozen people, the Concert of Prayer format may be advantageous) As the watch members pray together they will find renewed passion for on-going prayer.
- Remember that the goal of the watch is not simply to keep people praying, but to keep them praying together with a united vision and with godly conviction.

Helpful Suggestions

- Ask the pastor to preach a sermon (or sermon series) on prayer.
- Before or during the preaching of the sermon, locate a leadership team to build and guide the prayer watch. A typical team might include:
 - The Pastor or a person appointed by him to lead the watch,
 - A person to organize and update the prayer roster (the list of those on the watch), and
 - A person to handle the newsletter, communications and publicity.
- Plan the date to begin publicizing the watch:
- Develop a simple brochure or bulletin insert that outlines the vision, purpose, and procedure for the prayer watch.
- Find a central location for the roster and encourage people to sign up for time

slots.

- Launch the watch.