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Pastor's Pen

The booklet you are about to read outlines our vision, values and practices for 40 Hours of Prayer.

I trust you will catch the vision of prayer and commit to connecting with God our Father and this part of His family by praying for one hour or more to see breakthrough in your personal life and our corporate life as Shore Elim, in this local community, our city and nation.

This booklet provides you with the principles and practices for this foundational ministry of our church. Whether you are new to our church family or have been with us from the beginning, I encourage you to participate and through the power of prayer, see God's Kingdom come as a reality in our midst.

Every blessing

Mazhar
(Pastor)

The Vision and Values of 40 Hours

Simply stated, the vision of 40 Hours of Prayer is to mobilise our church family to a period of continuous prayer to see God's kingdom power & reality breakthrough into our personal and corporate life...

...bringing renewed relationship with Him, people to be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, healed relationships within family, physical healing, spiritual freedom, financial provision for needs, for seekers to come into personal relationship with Jesus Christ, for prodigals to return home to the Father, for our community to be awakened to the reality of God's love for them and the church to experience a revival that impacts our communities and nation.

We encourage you to take time out to stand in the gap through prayer for your family, friends, our church, community and country.

We value prayer for the following Biblical reasons :

(Read the passages for their full impact & value)

Prayer is our hearts connection to the Father – *Psalm 5/Matthew 6:9ff*

“In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice...”

“Our Father in heaven...”

Prayer is the heart drawing near to God in the fullness of faith, expecting Him to respond as He has promised to in His Word – *Psalm 5, Jeremiah 29:11-13, Hebrews 11:1-6*

“...I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation...” (Psalm 5)

“...you will call upon me and come and pray to me...and find me when you seek me with all your heart...” (Jeremiah 29)

“...without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Hebrews 6)

Prayer brings healing to our land – *2 Chronicles 7:11-22*

“...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and will heal their land...” (v14)

God’s House is to be a house of prayer – *Isaiah 56:7, Mark 11:17*

“...for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations...”

Jesus challenged His followers to watch & pray for one hour – *Matthew 26:36-46*

“...Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?...watch and pray...” (Verse 40-41)

Prayer is to be the churches priority – *1 Timothy 2:1ff*

“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone...”

Prayer is likened in Scripture to ‘incense’ that rises to God in heaven and can then result in heaven impacting earth – *Revelation 5:8 and 8:1-5*

“...and they were holding bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints...”

Prayer seeks the Father’s highest honour and brings heaven to earth through the power of his kingdom and will – *Matthew 6:9ff*

“...your kingdom come...your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...”

The History of 40 Hours of Prayer

The practice of 40 Hours of Prayer began for Shore Elim in 2007. The previous year the church conducted 21 Days of Daniel Prayer & Fasting as we went through a period of change and transition. During those 21 days we held three prayer meetings a day and saw God work greatly in people's lives.

At the end of that a vision was conceived to run continual prayer for 40 hours three times per year, so 2007 saw the commencement of this ongoing vision.

During 40 hours people sign up for one hour shifts to cover the time period, but many sign up for more than one. We break three times over the 40 hours to gather corporately for a Breakthrough Prayer Service; for men to gather for a prayer breakfast and for the ladies to gather for a prayer afternoon tea.

Since we have been conducting these prayer times we have seen God answer prayer wonderfully.

People have...

...been renewed

...been set free

...been physically healed in the prayer room

...seen visions that have been relevant & confirming to the direction of our church family

...had relationships healed and restored

...seen answers to prayer during and immediately following the 40 hours

...come for an hour and stayed for two, three or more!

The Practice of 40 Hours of Prayer

We conduct 40 hours of Prayer three times per year, during the first three school terms, from a Friday afternoon through to Sunday morning. The weekend kicks off at 3pm Friday afternoon and concludes 7am Sunday morning.

On the Friday evening from 8-10pm we hold our Breakthrough Prayer Service which is a time to worship together, pray together, pray for one another, share communion and be inspired and instructed about prayer.

Saturday morning (7.30-9am) sees the men gather for a prayer breakfast – for inspiration and the opportunity for men to pray for each other and our church family.

Kids' prayers are powerful too – from 10am – 11am the Sparkz and Powerzone children get together for a fun and creative time of prayer followed by a special morning tea to celebrate God's goodness.

Saturday afternoon (2-4pm) the ladies gather to be inspired and pray together.

During our Sunday Celebration (9.30am) we celebrate the conclusion of the 40 hours and honour the Lord for His work in and through us.

The Prayer Room

We set up a designated prayer room / area creatively with...

- A prayer wall for specific prayer requests
- Prayer stations for such ministries as – missions / our community / children / youth / special focus issues...etc
- A station for communion
- The prayer room provides a focused area to meet with God and others

What Happens During the Hour of Prayer?

While we provide vision and an environment for prayer we do not dictate what you do during this hour. We encourage you read the booklet 'How to Pray for One Hour' that is provided free during each 40 hours, for ideas and inspiration.

During the hour people spend time...

...in silence waiting on the Lord

...reconnecting their heart & lives with God as the push pause and pray

...reading and reflecting on God's Word

...praying over the requests on the prayer wall

...praying over the prayer stations

...praying in the various rooms of our facility for our children's ministry

...taking communion

...worshipping the Lord

...praying with others (*see note below)

...creatively expressing prayer through artwork

(*Note: during the hour of prayer we encourage people to negotiate corporate praying together and to also respect that people may just want/need personal space. The primary corporate time of praying over the 40 hours is during the Friday Breakthrough Service and the men's and women's meetings)

Practical Information for 40 Hours of Prayer

All aspects of 40 Hours are held at Shore Elim at 252 Forrest Hill Rd.

During your time in the prayer room refreshments are available in the kitchen – it is self-service so please clean up after yourself.

During the week leading up to the 40 hours participants will be mailed all relevant information including a copy of the hours and events you have signed up for.

In committing to your hour or hours, please ensure you are on time, preferably arriving a few minutes early.

For security reasons the building is to be locked at all times, so those in the prayer room are responsible to keep an eye on the clock and open the door for those coming in next. Access is through the main glass doors.

On the hour changeover we encourage those finishing their hour to pray for those commencing theirs, a simple prayer of blessing is great!

Parking –

- Friday 3pm – 10pm please park at the rear of the building
- Friday 10pm to Saturday 9am you can park at the top car park in the parks opposite the shops
- Saturday 9am to 10pm please park at the rear of the building
- Saturday 10pm to Sunday 7am you can park at the top car park in the parks opposite the shops

Note: for Friday Breakthrough Service and ladies afternoon tea, please park at the rear of the building or on road. Do not park in front of the shops, thank you.