

# Grand Marais Prayer Initiative

---

Pressing on toward the goal of  
completeness in God's sight

February 14, 2021

Slide 1



## Today's Agenda

- Provide Overview of Prayer Initiative
  - Confirm Its Need & Relevance
  - Examine Its Mission & Vision
  - Identify Its Program Elements
- Discuss December 2020 Beta Test by Pastor & Elders
- Outline Implementation Process, Schedule and Availability of Resources

Slide 2



# Words No Church Wants to Hear

---

...I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.

*Jesus' warning to the church in Sardis in Revelation 3:1-2*

Slide 3 

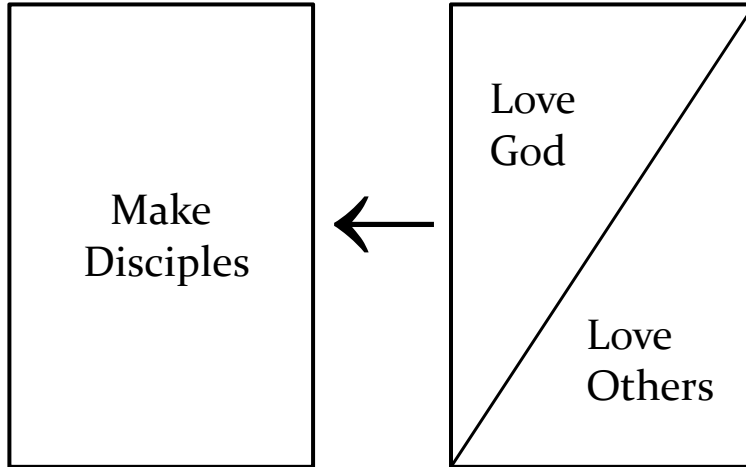
# Thesis

---

A church making disciples is one whose works are complete in the sight of God

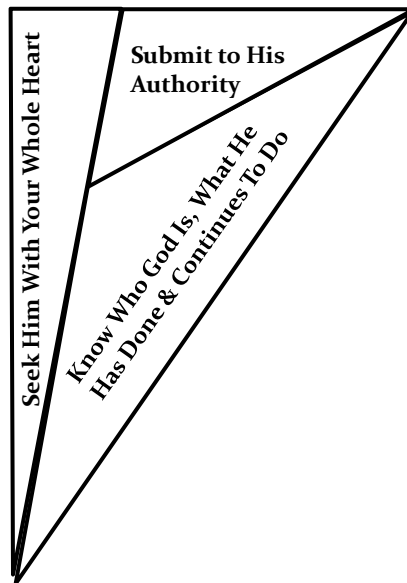
Slide 4 

## So, What Does It Take to Make Disciples?



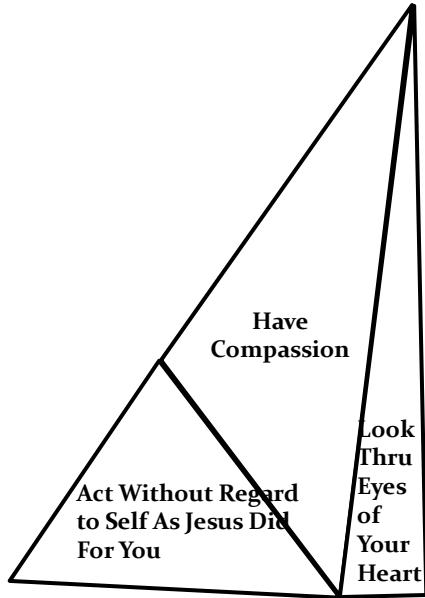
Slide 5 

## Then What Does It Take to Love God?



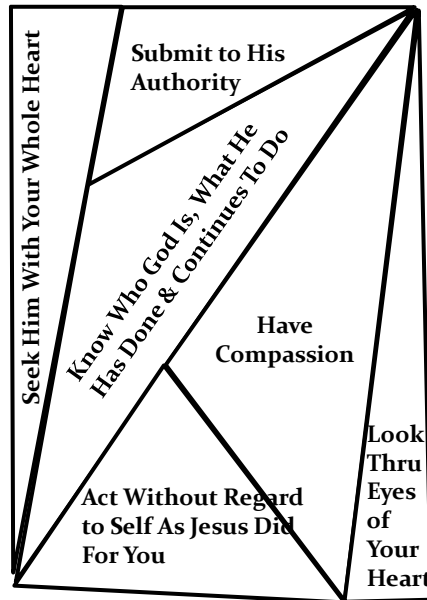
Slide 6 

## And What Does It Take to Love Others?



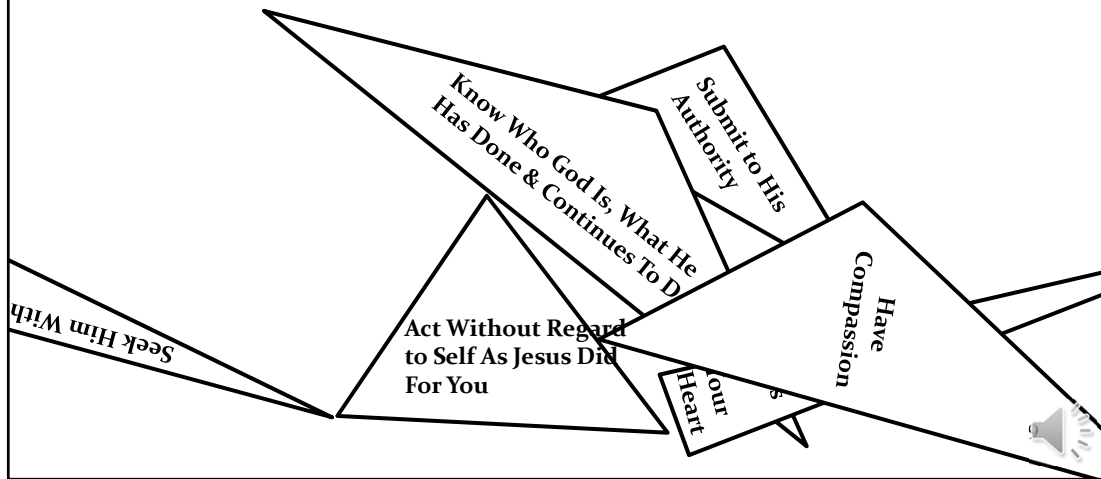
Slide 7 

## Expectations Absent Holy Spirit's Direction/Influence??



Slide 8 

## Church Fails to Make Disciples & Results in Incomplete Work in God's Sight

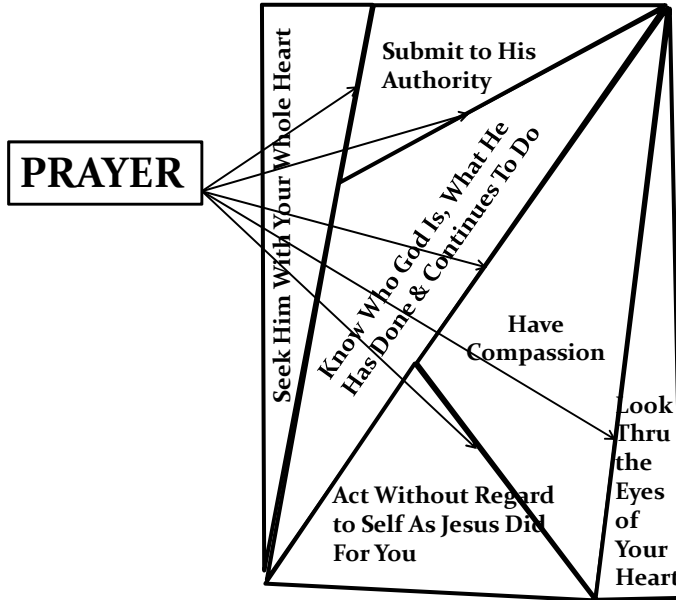


## Corollary

---

**Unified prayer, consecrated, directed,  
and empowered by the Holy Spirit  
Is needed to make disciples**

## Spirit-Led Prayer is the 'Glue' Keeping the Critical Blocks Together!




Slide 11 

## Thesis & Corollary Underscore Primary Question

---

**Are church members currently satisfied with their prayer life?**

Slide 12 

## **Survey Designed to Probe GMEFC Members' Prayer Life Distributed**

- Results
  - 100% of the people responding to this question believed their prayer life could be strengthened
  - Most respondents felt distractions hindered their focus during prayer time
  - Overwhelming majority wanted to improve their prayer life
  - Most respondents thought accountability groups and/or prayer partners would be beneficial
- Grand Marais Prayer Initiative Designed to Meet These Needs & Others Related to Works Being Deemed Complete in God's Sight

Slide 13 

## **Statements Directing Focus of Prayer Initiative**

- Guiding Principles Founded in Scripture
- Mission
  - Cultivate an urgency for unified prayer through its committed/disciplined practice
- Vision
  - Holy Spirit-led prayer movement makes disciples & transforms the community by radiating Christ-like character

Slide 14 

## Dissecting Mission Statement

- Cultivate
  - Spiritual muscle is only built with disciplined exercise
- Committed/Disciplined Practice
  - Participants commit to praying each day for a specified time of their choosing; to documenting their *actual* daily prayer time; and to seeking out accountability partners to help keep focus on their prayer commitments
  - Fasting and/or other prayer sharpening enhancements are encouraged
- Urgency
  - Participants are convicted by the Holy Spirit to spend time of their choice each day focused solely on prayer; become mindful of its power; and, overtime, increasingly desire to exercise that power to the glory of God
- Unified Prayer
  - Focused, Spirit-led prayer on the part of a multitude of God's people has Biblical support as to its power

Slide 15 

## Dissecting Vision Statement

- Holy Spirit-Led
  - God is glorified through the Holy Spirit's intervention
- Prayer Movement
  - Prayer time, unified focus of prayers, pray-ers, and the power of God displayed through their service grow to an extent that is only attributable to God
- Makes Disciples
  - Unified prayer keeps the church's mission from becoming stagnant and its works complete in God's sight
- Transforms the Community
  - Christ-like character radiates love that attracts others

Slide 16 



## Prayer Initiative: Program Elements

- **Written Commitments of Participants (Personal)**
  - Time to be spent each day in focused prayer
  - Maintain records of focused prayer
- **Personal & Corporate Accountability**
  - Being held accountable helps develop discipline
  - Over time records provide an assessment of personal and corporate growth
- **Unified Prayer Guides (aka Prayer Maps)**
  - Unified focus in prayer is required to help eliminate distractions that could otherwise hinder growth
  - Created monthly to focus prayers of participants
- **Monthly Meeting**
  - Discuss experiences and provide input for following month's prayer guide
- **Prayer Sharpening Enhancements**
  - Small group studies, pastoral teaching, mentoring, & fasting, among others

Slide 17



## Beta Test Experience: Pastor & Elders

- **Goal**
  - Determine whether Prayer Initiative proves beneficial in addressing personal shortcomings in prayer life
- **Started December 2020**
- **Results**
  - Personal commitment to daily, unified prayer proved useful in focusing pray-ers attention during the period of time of their choosing
  - Time commitment was generally met or exceeded
  - Journaling proved challenging for some, productive for others
  - Accountability to others helped motivate daily participation
  - Concept of using monthly prayer guides to help focus daily prayers became evident as time progressed
- **Consensus**
  - Prayer lives of GMEFC faith community will benefit from participation in Prayer Initiative
  - Prayer Initiative will support Church's responsibility in making disciples

Slide 18



## Implementation Process & Schedule

- Implementation Process
  - Provide guiding Biblical principles and other background information supporting the Prayer Initiative on GMEFC's website
  - Provide 'tools' on the website to facilitate the Initiative's program accountability elements
  - Conduct informational meetings during 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> weeks in February to support the Initiative's implementation
- Schedule
  - Distribute unified prayer guide for March on or before February 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Initiate program of unified prayer on March 1<sup>st</sup>

Slide 19 

## Some Final Comments Today

- No intention of dismantling existing prayer groups
- Commitments required are personal choices and will likely be different for each participant
- Accountability partners are not mandatory, but suggested to help participants achieve the goal of growing in prayer to the glory of God
- Prayer Initiative is not a rigid program; it is meant to evolve and grow as the Holy Spirit directs its participants
- Informational meetings in February will provide added detail about the Initiative; an opportunity to ask questions; and aid in identifying persons interested in serving on a team generating monthly prayer guides
- The Initiative has mid and long term goals that have not been addressed in today's presentation

Slide 20 

# Thank You For Your Attention

---

Return the sign up sheet on the church website to Deb Veit (freechurch@boreal.org) to express interest in attending an informational Zoom meeting of your choice to ask questions (see today's bulletin and Monday's worship service announcements). Alternatively for those attending the worship service in person, return your sheet to Bob Evans as you leave the sanctuary.

Worship Service Presentation February 14, 2021

Slide 21 