A Year of Incarnated

Prayer



AN INTRODUCTION

In 2025, 24-7 Prayer Ireland is calling individuals, communities, and churches across the nation to continue the call to pray and put their feet in the places where they want to see the Kingdom come, carrying the presence of God into the world. As we stand in our towns and cities, we will pray for blessing, for hope, and for the flourishing of all people.

There are many ways this can look and we want each community or group to feel the freedom to discern and create an initiative that feels right for their context. Some initiatives will involve a built-in expression of mission and justice, while others may be designed for individuals to engage in strategic intercession as a starting point. Regardless of the initiative(s) chosen, these outward prayers will help move us all in love and compassion toward our neighbours.

As a movement, we believe that mission and justice are birthed from the place of prayer. In this next season, it is time for us to begin to seek the Lord for direction and a heart for our neighbourhoods and communities, so that we may become an answer to our own prayers.

This Resource Kit includes case studies of initiatives that have taken place or are currently in motion here in Ireland, or in other nations. All are led by 24-7 Prayer teams, partners, or friends of the movement. Let these examples inspire you to create an initiative of incarnated prayer where you live in 2025. We look forward to hearing your stories! We spent the last year inhaling in prayer; we'll spend the next year exhaling in prayer

We spent the last year gathering in prayer; we'll spend the next year scattering in prayer

We spent the last year praying in rooms; we'll spend the next year praying in the street

We spent the last year praying with our mouths; we'll spend the next year praying with our feet (hands, eyes, ears)

What has incarnated prayer looked like in your context?

Case Studies from around the globe..

CASE STUDY: Prayer Hubs Bridgetown Church: Portland, OR

Story:

Desiring to pray on-site for their city, Bridgetown Church hosted Prayer Hubs in neighbourhoods across Portland for three months in the fall of 2022. During this time, church and community members gathered together to pray each morning. The Prayer Hub locations were chosen for their historical significance as places where pain or generational trauma was caused by an incident, system, or common practice that took place in that area. As members prayed together, they remembered the stories, lamented over what transpired, and interceded for healing and reconciliation to come so that a different story could be written.

Initiative Description:

Help individuals and small groups engage in outward prayer for the city. Find areas that hold a part of your city's history and pray on-site to allow your prayers to be focused and intentional. Participants will learn to pray in agreement as they lament over historic points of pain and/or enter into celebration of past moves of God. In both places, ask God to heal the land and move again among the people.

How to implement in your community:

Do some research of your city to decide the best place(s) to meet Establish a time frame and dates for the Prayer Hub initiative Choose leaders who can help facilitate the time of prayer with wisdom and maturity You may want to hold an orientation for leaders before beginning Introduce the initiative to your church a few weeks in advance so that people can choose their location and make changes needed to their schedules Chose a framework for the prayer time such as a common scripture or format

For more information check out Prayer Hubs on Bridgetown's website

CASE STUDY: Nothing Impossible Pray for the City: Ballymena

Story:

Moved with a heart of compassion, a group of believers from different denominations began prayer walking. Each week they would mark out a route in their region that they would prayer walk at dawn. The group that started small began to grow as more churches jumped on board the idea of prayer walking together in unity. As they continued prayer walking, what was cultivated was an increased sense of unity and friendship amongst the churches of the city, and a recognition of their shared vision and mission to see God's Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. No matter the weather, they prayer walked here week after week, putting their feet and faith to the ground.

The group intentionally covered areas in the city riddled with drug crime and poverty. They would walk regularly a route that passed a river that often individuals would have used in attempt of suicide. After pounding the pavements in prayers they noticed that the levels of suicide in this area within a year had completely dropped. The police also becoming aware of the power of prayer would contact the group informing them of prayer needs in the city.

Motivated by hope in Jesus that nothing is impossible, and that where there is unity God commands a blessing the team began to create community prayer spaces that would be open to the public to explore.

The prayer walks continue as this group commits to God and each other and all that God wants to do and is doing in their city.

Initiative Description:

Consider what it would look like for God to show up where you live. What would happen if people began to prayer-walk the area, asking God to move on behalf of the people? Could your prayers help bring change to the dark corners of your city? Could prayer be what unites the local Churches in your community?

How to implement in your community:

- 1. Identify the churches in your community, do you know them, could you befriend them and invite individuals from each to gather together to pray.
- 2. Look at a map of your area and break it down week by week considering key places/ routes that have been named hopeless.
- 3. Research the activity and history of this place to be able to pray with insight.
- 4. Organise a group who will commit to praying together each week encouraging friendship as part to the mission of uniting together as The Church.
- 5. Decide on a time to meet and begin to prayer walk the area.

Find tips for prayer walking <u>here</u>.

CASE STUDY: Cups of Prayer Experience Church: San Francisco, CA

Story

Every Sunday morning Experience Church in San Francisco starts their day both in prayer and in serving their houseless neighbours. Having a building in the heart of the Mission District makes it hard to ignore the needs right outside of their door. From the earliest days in this building, Experience Church members longed to make Jesus known on the streets. As one team spends time praying in the building before their service begins, another takes coffee, food, and other necessities to those living outside in their neighborhood. Through a consistent presence, relationships have formed, and lifegiving conversations and prayer are now commonplace.

In February 2024, Experience Church and Pray the Bay were met by an unexpected move of God. After two weeks of spontaneous non-stop prayer and worship, teams took invitations to their houseless neighbours and anyone on the streets to invite them to a special Tuesday night service to meet Jesus. The presence of God was evident to those who came in and many experienced healing, deliverance, and salvations. Experience Church now continues to send teams onto the streets and works with other organisations to serve those in need.

Initiative Description:

Take your church to the streets in your community! By providing a simple, consistent presence in the places where those who may not feel welcomed in a church building are living or are gathering, the healing and freedom of Jesus can be made known.

- **1. Consider** areas in your community that have an evident need, or gathering spaces of people groups who may not feel safe or welcome in a church building.
- 2. Speak to faith-based and secular organisations that may already be serving these populations to learn as much as you can. Ask if there are ways people in your church or small group (or you as an individual) could help volunteer with what is already happening. Ask them to give you 2-3 things you can pray for on a regular basis.
- 3. If your church is located in an area with high felt needs, consider practical ways you can offer hospitality and friendship in your neighbourhood.
- 4. With a team, develop a plan to begin addressing these needs and establish a regular prayer meeting. You may want to have a prayer meeting at the same time an outreach is happening so that one group can be praying while others are serving.
- 5. Continue to pray for the people you meet as you walk the streets and build authentic relationships.

CASE STUDY: Adopt a School Claim Your Campus: Middle and High Schools, USA

Story:

Claim Your Campus is helping students pray on location for their peers all over the United States. In the autumn, a campaign was launched to see every Middle and High School in the USA covered in prayer. Groups of all sizes are walking around local schools to pray for students, teachers, and staff. As they do so, relationships are forming and churches are adopting schools to help with practical needs - from beautifying the grounds to tutoring students who struggle academically.

Initiative Description:

Adopt a school near you to pray for students and to see God move among young people. Build relationships with school staff to see how you can help meet the felt needs of a community near you. Set times to prayer walk the school each week. Declare grace, peace, justice, and mercy over every school you pray around.

How to implement in your community:

- 1. Identify schools in your local area.
- 2. Decide on a regular time and meeting location to prayer-walk a particular school.
- 3. Invite your friends to join you! Use the prayer guide from CYC to help you pray.
- 4. Visit the school office to ask for a contact to talk about ways your church might be able to help with practical needs.
- 5. Contact our Prayer Spaces in Schools Team to find our more, receive training and bring prayer into your 'adopted' school.

For more information about how to pray for schools, check out the <u>prayer guide</u> from Claim Your Campus.

CASE STUDY: Map the City in Prayer 24-7 Prayer NZ: Auckland, New Zealand

Story:

In partnership with the Auckland Church Network, 24-7 Prayer New Zealand, and Holy Ground, churches, small groups, and individuals are mapping the city and suburbs of Auckland in prayer. This initiative helps believers get into the community and intercede for their neighbors. They are asking for an increase of God's presence and flourishing, blessing, hope, knowledge, and salvation for the people.

Prayerwalking allows us to be close to the human needs we are praying for. By opening our eyes and ears to all that is around us, we are able to pray with greater insight and compassion. In New Zealand, hundreds of believers will be walking the streets this fall using the Holy Ground Prayer Walking app, marking the places prayers have been spoken. As hearts are broken for the things that break God's heart and moved with compassion, people will continue in prayer and be led to actions that meet the needs of their communities. Watch the <u>Auckland Prayer Festival</u> website to hear stories after these hours of prayer in the streets.

Initiative Description:

What could happen if every street of every town and city was covered in prayer? Join together with other local churches and commit to prayer walking in the places where you live, work, minister, or play. As you walk, bless the homes, businesses, schools, and other places you see, and ask God to move in the lives of the people around you.

How to implement in your community:

- 1. Choose dates for your prayer walking initiative. It helps to have a set time frame to encourage many to join in the prayers.
- 2. Provide an orientation or some teaching on prayer walking to help participants feel more comfortable if they have never done this before.
- 3. Encourage everyone to download the <u>Holy Ground</u> prayer walking app to track the prayers in your area. It is available on both Apple and Android phones.
- 4. Begin prayer walking and collect stories.

More information about Holy Ground can be found here.

CASE STUDY: Gather Community Around Your Table The Table: Donegal

Story:

In Donegal Ireland some 24-7 prayer networkers have set out to build tables where everyone in their community is welcome to take a seat. Tables that are altars for renewal and restoration, tables that form the foundation of rhythms of discipleship, prayer and worship. These tables acting as a call to both strengthen and restore the church whilst creating invitation and room for those who have yet to discover home. The rhythms of these tables are laid on the foundational vision of;

Fire - intentional space for the Church to pray and worship together in unity. Forge - rhythms of formation and discipleship, committing to becoming more like Jesus Fields - practice of setting up tables in the heart of the community such as prayer Spaces - for others to engage in hope and healing and discovering Jesus. Feast - connection points to share life together and praying for one another.

These tables bypass boundaries and welcome anyone who longs for "a seat at the table." All are welcome to join and experience the warmth of friendship, food, and spiritual connection. The Table brings together people of all ages, backgrounds, and denominations, creating a rich and diverse community of believers united around Jesus.

The Table has taken a cultural heritage of hospitality and generosity along with the example of Jesus in how He lived into this as a way of life and together have creatively cultivated a space that displays incarnated prayer in their community.

Initiative Description:

Create a Table in your home or community that is both intentional and invitational in welcoming people in to the way and rhythms of life in apprenticeship to Jesus. Let your prayers move towards trusted friendships where spiritual conversation becomes a natural part of sitting at a table together, but also launches you to act in mission and justice in the area that you live.

- **1. Find a small group of people from different churches or communities who desire to pray and worship together.**
- 2. Identify those who don't engage in a church community and invite them to gather round a table and engage in scripture.
- 3. Naturally when you gather it should spark creativity of how to be Jesus in the world around us.
- 4. Pick a project to engage in locally as mission/ seeking justice. eg litter picking, supporting a food bank, running a community prayer space.
- 5. Continue to gather in unified prayer, engage in rhythms of mission and justice developing rhythms of discipleship around the table and grow together as family.

Story

In 2007, Pete Portal took part in a short-term mission trip to Cape Town in South Africa. After spending time with inmates, gang members, and those struggling with addiction, Pete felt prompted to return to a community known for high rates of crime and drug dealing to see what might happen through prayer. Committed to staying close to new friends caught up in gang life, Pete made his home in Manenberg. Living in this township has not been easy, but it has been life-altering as God has caused Pete and others in the leadership community to reexamine their beliefs, assumptions, and worldviews on many levels.

Intentionally going to the hard places, this work has now grown to include discipleship homes, faith-based recovery programs, carpentry training, and educational homes for girls. Many of the local staff who work with Pete and his wife have come out of poverty, addiction, and abuse. These men and women are now flourishing and pouring out their lives on behalf of others, so many more might also experience the same kind of hope and freedom.

If you'd like to learn more about the story of Tree of Life and their local ministries, their website is <u>here</u>.

Initiative Description:

Is God calling you to the hard places? Perhaps you are sensing it is time to move in; to incarnate these prayers for the long term. Maybe there is a place you've already been serving or a community you could join. Consider the neighbourhoods in your area that have high needs: high poverty levels, areas filled with single mothers, or a corner of the town/ city known for violence and crime. We are not asking you to put yourself in danger, but is God calling you to a place where risk becomes an act of Love?

How to implement in your community:

This case study is not one to be emulated without serious prayer and discernment. However, if God is calling you to make such a move it is good to surround yourself with wise counsellors and build a team that might go with you. Maybe it is just moving down the street. Maybe it is across the country or even to another nation. If possible, we'd love to connect you with others who can help you shape this journey. For many, this year of incarnated prayer will be the stepping stones to longer-term work. If you are already well down this path, we hope Pete's story is inspiring you to go "all-in" to the plans God has for you. CASE STUDY: Prayer Rooms Expand into Community Prayer Spaces in Schools Ireland: Bangor

Story:

It started with 1 weekend of 24/7 prayer in a church in Bangor, where a small team created a prayer room for people to come and pray. Each year this grew and grew and became 2 or 3 weeks of 24/7 prayer throughout the year. After a few years of this rhythm there was a longing from the prayer team and from the Families Pastor to encourage children and families to engage in creative prayer and to help children see how much their prayers mattered to God. In 2022 the church introduced their first kids & family prayer spaces using Prayer Spaces In Schools resources. Families were able to bring their children into this space and be guided in teaching their children how to pray, and have the opportunity to pray with them, in a way that children really enjoyed and engaged with. Seeing children and families enjoy prayer brought real life to the church community and encouraged others to get involved.

Each year this developed further and further, the kids' church began introducing monthly prayer activities into their programme, and encouraged their children to pray for each other. One week the programme was interrupted by the children audibly beginning to pray for healing for another child with a difficult diagnosis. These children began being the ones inviting their parents into the prayer room to meet with God. The Families Pastor was encouraged and inspired by what he was seeing, he and the church already had an excellent relationship with a local school and had served them for many years. He approached them about hosting a prayer space in the school for all pupils. The school loved the idea and now the church hosts a week long prayer space there each year.

initiative Description:

Helping churches to explore prayer for all ages, making it accessible and enjoyable for children and their families, by creating spaces and rhythms of prayer to guide and encourage. Then taking the opportunity to consider how this extends into the community and local schools. Serving them with the love of Jesus and giving pupils the opportunity to explore prayer.

How to implement in your community:

Ask yourself the following questions

- 1. How do we currently teach children about prayer?
- 2. What are we doing to facilitate and encourage prayer for our children and families?
- 3. Do we consider our children in the bigger picture of prayer in our church?
- 4. Gather a few people passionate about prayer and children and begin using your answers to form some ideas around how to move forward.
- 5. Use Prayer Spaces In Schools resources and create space in your context to allow children and families to explore prayer together.

To take this into your community

- 1. Build a trusted relationship with your local school.
- 2. Get in touch with the Prayer Spaces In Schools Ireland team.
- 3. Get some Prayer Spaces In Schools Training.
- 4. Serve your local school well until it feels like an appropriate time to offer to run a Prayer Space.

CASE STUDY: Pop-Up Prayer Truck Czech Republic

Story:

Every summer, teams in the Czech Republic take to the streets of their nation in a mobile prayer van or RV. Stopping at parks, festivals, and other places the Holy Spirit leads, they offer coffee, conversations, and prayer to those they meet.

The main vision for the prayer van is to share the love God has for every person and to pray with those who are willing. As they travel, team members pray for those in the communities around them. Every year amazing testimonies are brought forth as individuals are healed and many experience salvation. Others find peace and strength for the problems they are facing or to work out and heal broken relationships.

Initiative Description:

Take the prayer room to the streets! Design a prayer truck to take to a location or event where individuals can pray for a period of time using creative prayer stations inside the truck. Pray for those who stop by as hospitality is offered outside of the truck.

- **1.** Buy or Rent a van or RV that can be used for prayer.
- 2. Create a prayer space inside the vehicle.
- **3.** Determine the places you want to park the van (perhaps there is a specific festival or event in your area, or different neighbourhoods you'd like to reach)
- 4. Check with the event or council area to make sure you are allowed to park the van and invite those in the area to participate.
- 5. Once onsite, invite people in to pray quietly on their own and offer hospitality and prayer with small tables outside when you are parked.
- 6. Collect stories from people as they leave the prayer van and collect testimonies from those who you have prayed with.

CASE STUDY: Supporting Children in Schools Equipping For Life: Belfast

(EfL) https://equippingforlife.org.uk/

Story:

Equipping for Life are a Belfast faith-based charity, established in 2018 by Brother David Jardine. They equip volunteer teams to be Jesus hands and feet in their city, by offer support and prayer to children in local primary schools who need additional support. Their work focuses on those that have experienced generational underachievement, are disadvantaged or marginalised. It is a work of prayer, mission and justice.

EfL recognises that a child's ability to read is the cornerstone of a successful and rewarding life so together with their volunteers they are passionately committed to helping primary-aged children to improve this vital life skill. They work in partnership with the schools to provide the best possible service to the children the schools consider would benefit most from the work. Spending one-to-one time with the same children every week, in a safe and nurturing environment, fosters self-confidence, improves reading and allows mutual respect to flourish.

Initiative Description:

If you have some time to spare time and commit to a year of serving, are a follower of Jesus, enjoy spending time with children, you could become a EfL Volunteer Mentor. Equipping For Life would love to hear from you and walk you through the process, you can connect with the team by emailing <u>pat@equippingforlife.org.uk</u>.

- 1. Get in touch with EfL.
- 2. Commit to serve for a year as an individual or team from your local church.
- 3. Pray for the school and community you are supporting.
- 4. Pray with the children (with parental consent established through EfL)

What will incarnated prayer looked like in your context?

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO:

Ask God 'what does it look like to incarnate prayer in my area?'

Get creative

Try it out

Keep praying

Reach out to us at 24-7 Prayer Ireland – let us cheer you on along the way, equip you in prayer, share the story of prayer together, and join in with a move of prayer across the nation. Prayer changes everything

We exist to transform the world through movements and communities of Christ-centered, mission-minded prayer.

Get in touch by emailing info@24-7prayerireland.com Prayer Spaces in Schools Ireland: (South) emma@prayerspacesinschoolsireland.com Prayer Spaces in Schools Ireland: (North) emma.scott@prayerspacesinschoolsireland.com

Share your stories by email or tag us on socials

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Join our mailing list to receive updates and prayer inspiration.

https://247prayerireland.charitysuite.com/embed/addressbook/form

Thanks to 24-7 Prayer across the globe for sharing your stories with us that we can inspire and encourage more stories to be birthed in Ireland this year!

