

YAG RETREAT

Theme: Unanswered Prayer

Venue: Hyatt Regency (JB)

Date: 31 May- 2 June 2007

Session #1

Thursday, 31 May 2007

INTRODUCTION

1. Studying the Subject of Prayer

- a) A special approach must be adopted
- b) Prayer is ultimately going to be highly personal
- c) Participants would be at different levels:-
 - i) Of understanding
 - ii) Of spiritual maturity
 - iii) Of practice in prayer
 - iv) Of different dispositions with reference to prayer and its application
 - v) Different sets of circumstances in life

2. A suggested approach

- a) Personal evaluation to be done honestly
- b) Lessons on prayer to be personally evaluated
- c) Problems must be addressed in depth
- d) Application greatly encouraged
- e) Post Retreat monitoring to be carefully done
- f) Evaluation and Refinement

AN ESSENTIAL APPROACH

Hebrews 4:16

*“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,
That we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”*

1. Throne of Grace (Cf. Revelation 4, 5)
2. Key words
 - a) Mercy
 - b) Grace
3. In time of need
4. Boldness = Confidence (parresian)

SPECIAL AND URGENT REASONS FOR THE STUDY OF THIS THEME **“UNANSWERED PRAYER”**

1. INDIVIDUALLY

- a) The sheer task of living drives us to seek to deepen our prayer life
- b) The uncertain future again drives us to seek God in prayer
- c) The needs of close friends drive us to seek to pray more meaningfully
- d) Personal circumstances of life

2. AS A CHURCH

- a) The needs of the Church are multiplied
- b) Many Individuals express need for prayer support in their hour of crisis
- c) Many ministries in Church require powerful prayer support
- d) The need for spiritual power
- e) The desire to see the Lord’s blessings outpoured

3. THE “END-TIMES CHURCH”

- a) Perilous times 1 Timothy 4

b) Special problems created by the Devil 2 Timothy 3;
2 Thessalonians 2

c) Spiritual warfare Revelation 12-13; Ephesians 6; 1 Peter 5

4. PASTORAL CONCERN

- a) Prayerlessness
- b) Weakness
- c) Helplessness
- d) Powerlessness
- e) Reliance on human wisdom and strength

GOALS OF THE RETREAT

1. A deeper understanding of Prayer
2. A greater sense of motivation to cultivate a more meaningful Prayer-life
3. Commitment to improve personal prayer-life
4. Cultivation of a Ministry of Prayer
5. Breaking bad habits of prayer
6. Refreshing of the soul
7. Appreciating afresh the privilege of being able to pray to God