



Upper Mississippi Region of NAB
Partnering for the sake of the world.

I. Introductions.

Kent Carlson,

- NAB Conference & Pastor, Oak Hills Community Church, Folsom, CA.
- Co-Author: *Renovation of the Church: What Happens When a Seeker Church Discovers Spiritual Formation.*

Paul Covert,

- Prayer Pastor, Central Christians Church, Mesa, AZ.
- Author: *Threshold, Transformational Prayer. Transformational Prayer Leadership.*

Question:

CAN WE REALLY BE ON MISSION WITH GOD WITHOUT A SERIOUS UNDERSTANDING AND VITAL PRACTICE OF PRAYER?

From Thom Rainer, *Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 11 Things I Learned*

"8. The church rarely prayed together. *In its last eight years, the only time of corporate prayer was a three-minute period in the Sunday worship service. Prayers were always limited to members, their friends and families, and their physical needs."*

II. The Need for a Different Approach.

- A. Carlson - church change / transformation.

B. Covert - personal journey.

Discussion:

❖ What are some prayer problems you've seen or experienced personally, or in church?

❖ What motivates us to see change?

C. Philosophies of Prayer.

❖ What key phrases would make up your philosophy of prayer?

❖ What Scriptures, or experiences have shaped that for you?

D. Mistaken Ways to Approach Prayer.

Discussion:

- ❖ What are ways you've seen prayer misunderstood, or misapplied?

Reflect and Discuss:

- ❖ What would look different if we were a prayerful people?

III. The Inward Journey.

A. Prayer and God's Word.

Discussion: How does the Word and prayer work together?

B. The tension between mission and formation.

- ❖ How do you understand the relationship between formational prayer and strategic prayer?

- ❖ Which do you do more naturally?

C. An encounter with God.

10 minute reflection.

- ❖ What are you missing in your own inward journey?

IV. Moving Toward Prayer.

Aspects of Prayer

Confession: Psalm 32:5
1 I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the
Lord,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Praise: Psalm 92:5-9
1 How great are your works, O Lord!
Your thoughts are very deep!
4 The stupid man cannot know;
the fool cannot understand this:
7 that though the wicked sprout like grass
and all evildoers flourish,
they are doomed to destruction forever;
8 but you, O Lord, are on high forever.

Thanks: Psalm 75:1
1 We give thanks to you, O God;
we give thanks, for your name is near.
We recount your wondrous deeds.

Silence: Psalm 37:7
7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for
him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in
his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!

Intercession: Psalm 61:1-3
1 Hear my cry, O God,
listen to my prayer;
4 from the end of the earth I call to you
when my heart is faint.
Lead me to the rock
that is higher than I,
6 for you have been my refuge,
a strong tower against the enemy.

**Meditation,
Listening :Psalm 49:3**
1 My mouth shall speak wisdom,
the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

Ways of Involving People in prayer:

Listen for the various kinds of praying and opportunities of praying that are mentioned and encouraged.

Table Talk:

- ❖ How would you assess the nature of prayer in your life and/or church ministry?

- ❖ In what areas of prayer would you hope to see growth? (Transformational, Strategic).

- ❖ What kinds of prayer experiences would be important to provide or encourage to move forward?

V. Taking Action.

Understanding the obstacles.

Steps I can take...

- List a couple of questions, or actions to ponder.
- Write down how you will proceed.
- With whom will you share this? When?

The world needs us to figure it out and live in it!

Our Vision

"A regional partnership of congregations who are committed to loving one another for the sake of the world's redemption."

4 Areas of Focus

- ❖ **Doctrinal and Missional Accountability.**
 - ❖ credentialing, core beliefs & values, orientation of new pastors.
- ❖ **Encouragement & Support:**
 - ❖ help & resources pastors/couples in crisis; connect through pastor clusters; provide care and attentiveness to help leaders to be spiritually and relationally vibrant
- ❖ **Direction & Equipping**
 - ❖ provide resources for congregations on mission; develop meaningful connections through focus groups; offer assessment and workshops.
- ❖ **Cooperative Ministries:**
 - ❖ develop church planting strategies with congregations; network church missions; strengthen the connection to Village Creek Bible Camp.

Ways of developing

- ❖ communicate the vision of being a regional partnership. (newsletter, RM visits, leadership visits, etc.)
- ❖ raise up teams of leaders for various areas of ministry. (church planting, encouragement & support, credentialing, etc).
- ❖ increase relational, missional and financial involvement in the region.