
G O A L



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**A Prayer Strategy for Spiritual Breakthrough in
Panama for the Chinese**

A partnership with our sponsoring churches

Partnership Coordinators:
(to be arranged)

Chinese Panama Coordinators:
John Mark and Cheryl Hansen

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Introduction

The Country of Panama and its 300,000 Chinese people now constitute the largest Chinese population in the world. Considering the fact that only .17% of the Chinese who live in Panama are evangelical Christians, it is easy to understand the urgency to reach such a place with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In order to accomplish such a task, the International Mission Board has assigned to us the coordination of Christian work among this unreached people group.

Given the approximate population of 300,000, our desire is to plant **one house church for every fifteen hundred people**. I realize that all our human plans and efforts combined are not enough to accomplish such an enormous task. Therefore, this prayer strategy was designed: **Goal 200**. Parallel strategies are being developed to involve missionaries and national church planters, and to devise specific plans of action. But, we strongly believe that this strategy is the key foundation for spiritual breakthrough and victory in our country. The enemy has used years of religious and cultural traditions to blind the eyes of the Chinese people and has placed them in such spiritual bondage that they are unable to see the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). In order for our human efforts to succeed, we need divine intervention.

If you believe with me that God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us (Ephesians 3:20-21), I invite you to join us in using **Goal 200** and become part of our Chinese Panama Church Planting Team. It is not God's will for anyone to perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). He also desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:3-4). It is in this knowledge of God's will that we can ask with confidence.

In Panama, we are living where the enemy dwells (Revelation 2:13). Please help us engage in spiritual warfare for a significant breakthrough that will impact not only this country but all Latin America.

Asking and Working for **Goal 200!**

Cheryl and John Mark Hansen
 IMB Church Planter Strategists,
 Chinese Panama Team Leaders

Project Description

Goal 200 is a plan designed to strategically and intentionally pray and engage in spiritual warfare among the Chinese in Panama. Our chief request: 200 house churches (one house church for each one thousand five hundred inhabitants). Each one of the principle Panama cities will be targeted for the duration of a month. The total duration of the project will be twelve months. The participation of the entire church body should be encouraged.

Elements of the Strategy

1. Knowing
2. Engaging
3. Seeing
4. Evaluating
5. Celebrating

Knowing

A description of each city will be provided by the Chinese Panama Team coordinators. You will receive information about the population, education, government leaders, traditional and house churches in the area, etc.

Engaging

The following ideas are suggested to involve the churches in prayer for each city of Panama. Prayer requests will be provided by the Chinese Panama Coordinator. The church will be responsible to produce their own materials as they see necessary.

- Daily Prayer Guides for those individuals who make such commitment to pray.
- Weekly Prayer for the church body as it gathers for worship.
- Monthly Prayer Emphasis: 200 minutes of prayer (3 hours and 20 minutes) for a special church-wide prayer meeting during the year.
- 24 hour prayer chains

Seeing

A monthly on-site prayer walk in the city targeted for prayer. Because of logistics and safety, we are unable to host more than five volunteers at a time. The volunteer team can be made up of members of our sponsoring churches or from several churches in your area. The International Mission Board has great resources and training for effective prayerwalking (www.imb.org). A suggested schedule follows.

Friday:
 Arrive in Panama
 Orientation and Welcome Dinner

Saturday:

Visit to the Chinese Temple
Prayer walk

Sunday:
Visit Churches in the area
Prayer walk

Monday:
Tour of the city
Debriefing

Tuesday:
Return to the US

Estimated cost per person: \$300.00 + airfare

The volunteer teams will also serve as advocates for us before their churches. They will report about their experiences, answered prayers and specific prayer concerns.

Evaluation

It is important to have a time to evaluate what has been done and the results achieved. This evaluation should be done by the leaders in charge of the project in each church. A final report should be given to the church(es).

Celebration

This should be a time to celebrate as a church (or churches) the victories won.

Other Ideas to Consider

Sponsored Volunteer

Sponsor a volunteer to live in Panama City for a period of time up to one year. This person could be prepared to coordinate the volunteer teams, work on logistics, report to the churches on answers to prayer, take pictures to post on the website, produce videos of each of the 12 cities to show in the churches, participate in our house churches, etc. (I could write a more specific job description when we knew for what length of time they could commit. For example, a short term volunteer might only have time to produce a video.)

Website Management

The Chinese Panama Team has a website <http://www.messiah-project.org/latin-chinese.htm>. If you have someone in your church who knows about website management, we could include a page in our website dedicated to the Goal 200 Strategy. This could be a place to post information about the 12 cities of Panama, prayer requests, answers to prayers, pictures, videos, feature one of your churches participating in Goal 200 and how they are engaging in prayer, etc.

Virtual Tour Video

Sponsor a volunteer to come to Panama for the purpose of creating a video that would take church members on a virtual prayer walk of the twelve cities of Panama, highlighting important points of spiritual and cultural interest in each one. This could be used in churches in lieu of a physical trip to Panama for those who are unable for whatever reason.

Promotional Materials

Posters, bulletin inserts, buttons, banners and other promotional tools could be developed by the church(es).

Prayer Coordinator

My suggestion is that each church or association appoints a Prayer Coordinator. The following is a sample of the Job Description for a Church Prayer Coordinator. This is a general sample; you will have to adapt it as you consider it fit.

Job Description for Church Prayer Coordinators

This job description is adapted from the Bold Mission Prayer Thrust (BMPT) Manual by the current BMPT interagency representatives. Please adapt it as needed for your congregation and project.

FUNCTION

- To raise awareness of the need for a comprehensive Great Commission Prayer strategy in every class, program and ministry of the church.
- To help individuals reclaim or renew a personal passion to pray unceasingly (1 Thess. 5:17),
- To help reclaim or renew the congregation as a house of prayer with a passion for the lost (Matt. 21:13, Luke 19:10).
- To link believers in prayer for evangelism and awakening (Matt: 28:16-20, 2 Chron. 7:14).
- To facilitate training opportunities to help them accomplish these four goals.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Be identified as called of God to the ministry of prayer
- Understand biblical prayer and be able to communicate it
- Recognize that God makes a difference through prayer in lives, situations, and nations.
- Be able to work cooperatively with church leadership
- Be committed to the total church program and be a member of the On Mission Team

- Have skills in planning, organizing, and delegating with a servant leadership style
- Be willing to attend Prayer Coordinator training.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- To God first
- Then the Pastor
- Then the church, especially the prayer coordinators in each class, program and ministry area.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Pray and lead others to pray.
- Work closely with the pastor and other church leadership to develop a Great Commission Prayer strategy.
- Set up and manage prayer activities, events, small prayer groups, and a prayer room.
- Build a prayer team ministry with other associations, state conventions, NAMB, WMU, IMB and Lifeway
- Create and maintain a relationship with the associational prayer coordinator and church prayer coordinators in other churches.
- Enlist and train prayer coordinators in every class, program and ministry.
- Participate in the church newsletter to share prayer requests and answers to prayer, promote awareness, and communicate kingdom needs.
- Stay current on state, national and international prayer needs and opportunities through NAMB (1 800-554-PRAY) and IMB (1 800 395-PRAY) prayerlines.