

Walls of prayer

The following is an 'interview' with Phil Bennett, the person through whom *Prayer Walls* started and an excerpt from his book *Watchmen of the Lord*. (It was written by Phil Bennett and Dick Eastman, and published by *Every Home for Christ* in 2008.)

How did it all start?

In 1997 while praying in my prayer room, God prompted me to pray for a specific nation, England. I complained that I did not know how to pray for an entire nation. The Lord began to show me, in a gentle way, the specific things I was to pray for regarding England. After several months, the Lord spelled an unfamiliar word (to me) in my mind: Leicester. He explained that it was a city in England for which I was to pray. I began to pray for that city, claimed it for Christ and prayed for lost souls. He revealed to me that there was a small group praying in Leicester. He called me to join them in prayer, even from a place so distant, across the Atlantic. God soon pressed me to contact these people. I simply wrote a letter and asked someone for a list of all the churches in the area and got into contact with a group with the name 'Christ for Leicester'. Soon after I had contacted them, I received a unique vision that was to begin my personal journey in establishing *Walls of Prayer*. I was shown by the Holy Spirit that the city of Leicester had a dark cloud over it and the only way to break through this cloud was through prayer. I had no idea how to do it. I inquired around and discovered a ministry called the *Watchman's Prayer Ministry* designed by Larry Thompson. It was a simple system whereby people prayed in one-hour segments and when all 168 hours in a week were covered specifically, unceasing prayer would be established. I discovered a church doing it and knew this was possible in Leicester as well. I went to Leicester to cast the 'watchmen' vision and invited dedicated intercessors to pray on a wall of prayer for the city. There were several meetings and within a week we had built almost an entire wall. The watchmen prayer ministry was launched and more watchmen were added.

Is this concept of *Walls of Prayer* limited to Leicester?

I thought my work was finished in England. But soon a second vision came, this one concerning four cities around Leicester. That together with the Leicester wall would make up a network of prayer for advancing Christ's Kingdom throughout the Midlands. The cities were Northampton, Peterborough, Birmingham and Nottingham. A prayer wall was soon established in each of those areas. I started to realise that God builds on strategies one layer at a time. He does not build one thing, then abandon it and go on to something unrelated. He starts and then builds upon a vision or strategy continually. He adds new things that ultimately tie or link up in His kingdom plans.

Isn't this a good concept to promote globally?

After building walls in England, the Lord called me by invitation to an eastern gate: Hong Kong. That city is a clear gate into China, the largest harvest field in the world. Several *Watchmen Walls* were established there and again a team engaged in spiritual warfare praying over, as always, very specific sites. It was in these days that God gave me a picture of the Great Wall of China becoming a *Great Wall of Prayer*. Today plans are underway to see walls of continuous prayer mobilised in every province of China, and ultimately in every major city and town in China – some 2,700 areas. (Since the writing of this booklet, many *Prayer Walls* have been established in China through the involvement of especially *Every Home for Christ*). God led me to other countries, including Mexico. God somehow revealed to me that Mexico is a gateway into North and South America. It was here, I sensed, that He wanted to build a national Wall, not just one with local intercessors praying on the walls in individual cities. That wall was soon established with 800 watchmen from throughout the country, from the north to the south. After this, it started to spread to other nations.

How does a wall of prayer function?

A call to the wall involves asking people if they are willing to pray one hour a week for their city or nation. They are asked to pray at least one specific hour each week (although people are free to take more than one hour a week). When all 168 hour-long periods in a week are filled, there will be continuous prayer, 24-7. A simple roster could be used where people fill in their names. In city-wide walls some form of a monthly prayer guide is necessary. This prayer guide should be changed monthly with non-controversial needs with which all Christians can be comfortable praying for.