

WORLD TRUMPET MISSION – PRAYER TEACHINGS

SERIES – COMBAT IN THE HEAVENLIES

3 - “Family Altars”

We have seen how Abraham started building altars, and generally what the prayer altar means in this context. You cannot tell others about prayer when you don't practice it. You cannot lead others where you have not been. We need to cultivate our hearts as the first prayer altars (Romans 12.1-2). As we pray to God He will make us effective in the land. In that, we can be effective in leading others in the same position we are in because we won't just be giving them head knowledge but a life that we are living.

We read in Hosea 10¹² –

Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, till he comes and rains righteousness on you.

God needs ploughed ground in order to come and soak in His anointing so that you may be people who will accomplish the purposes of God in your nation. How do you attract the pillar of His presence into your life so that it goes through the firmament and you have open heavens at all times? You have to keep your fellowship and relationship with God unbroken.¹

Today we continue to examine more closely, the family (or corporate) altar. After cultivating your heart so that it becomes an altar, you have legal ground for God to affect the land. Before revival can take over a nation, it has to start in your heart. As each person yields their heart to God they become a praying, moving altar. Wherever you are, you have fellowship with God; that unceasing prayer bubbling out of your heart thus fulfilling the scripture “pray without ceasing”.

Hebrews 5¹⁴:

Solid food is for those who are mature who have trained themselves to recognize what is right and wrong and then do what is right.

As we work out our salvation, we can train ourselves to be in constant worship and prayer so that even when we are interacting with other people, our spirit is in constant bubbling deep within like a running motor. When a situation arises which requires prayer action, we immediately counter it without having to be “warmed up.” Can you imagine what happens if a number of people with this kind of heart attitude toward prayer come together in fellowship? The scripture will indeed show results that say, “*Where two or three are gathered in my name, I will be in the midst of them. Whatsoever they bind on earth it shall be bound in heaven. Whatsoever they loose on earth it shall be loosed in heaven.*”

When you lead such a prayer lifestyle, people who interact with you will notice the difference, at your place of work or at home. In every situation you get involved, things start to change. In your family, you must bring change. It is not just a coming together to say some short routine prayer and read a psalm or two or praying with the children when they go to sleep. We need to cultivate a real prayer atmosphere in the home. This is very vital. People around us, must experience the presence of the living God. We shall see how this is effected as we study the **Importance of the Family Altar**.

God wants us to create family altars. Families come together for meals or to watch TV, but when it is prayer time, God wants us united more than ever. As you come together the presence is not only upon your life, it comes on the whole family. The pillar of fire covers up your entire household and it can even affect the neighbors. In this, even spiritual warfare becomes easy because you have a bigger area of influence compared to when you are praying individually.

The church and the nation start with the family. In one congregation, you can be from different families however under that church umbrella you are also one big family. The family, as God intended i.e. one husband, one wife and their offspring (if God has blessed them with any) is a very fundamental unit for two great entities – The nation and the church of Christ. That is why the devil is busy destroying God's definition of the family. If he can destroy the family, he can destroy the church and then destroy the nation –that is his agenda; to steal, kill and then destroy.

¹ *Effective Fervent Prayer* © Michael Kimuli – Published by New Wine Press 2003

The strong family foundations have influenced Strong and successful society set-ups. Deterioration and breakdown of society has been traced to dysfunctional or broken family foundations.

When there is no effective fervent prayer in the family, you have lost the church of the next generation. The church is only one generation away from destruction. When you do not do your part to raise up the next church generation in your family, you are part of the destruction of the church in the next generation.

Many people are busy trying to give their lives to God but they leave their children and families behind. Moses said to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 6:6-9

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes, and thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Proverbs 22.6

Train up your child in the way that he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Ephesians 6.4

*And ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath: **but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord***

God wants us to fellowship and pray corporately as a family. Your children are the pastors of tomorrow, the prophets of tomorrow, the presidents of tomorrow. They are the ministers of tomorrow, and the national and spiritual leaders of tomorrow and the policy makers of tomorrow. The devil has blinded us and we have not trained them in *the admonition of the Lord*, thinking that, when they grow up they will decide for themselves. Meanwhile, the devil is having a hey day with the children today.

We can go to church today and it is okay, but where is the church of tomorrow? When we travel to different nations in the world, we cry a lot for the church there. Most of them have cultivated nothing for their children in spiritual things. When you go to church you find all people are old. When you go to a church you wonder, "Where is the future church?"

With the information age, leaders and policy makers are getting increasingly younger and younger. Information is power and the youth are at the cutting edge of acquiring it. They increasingly advise and direct affairs of today in every aspect.

All marketing is geared to the younger generation. What kind of policies and decisions are they making today? Are they building Godly foundations? Today the unadulterated Bible truths are being twisted and bent diluted and simply ignored to fit into the way of today's thinking; whether in animistic or humanistic direction. However our God who in times past redeemed the family and society, is able to do it again in our generation.

This journey will prepare your generation and the generation to come. When you pray you are helping children who come after you to find the work easier. We need to pray in our family. God wants to visit your family. A Christian who comes to church on Sunday uses only an average of two hours in the 168 hours of the week. If the pastor takes some extra time, he gets tired, walks out. He spends another 166 hours waiting for the next 2-hour dose of spiritual sustenance. If he is diligent he makes a little two or five minute snatches of prayer and worship or attend a midweek cell group meeting. How will he be effective in the land? How can he work with God in such a lifestyle? God wants to meet you where you spend a big chunk of your time.

After a good church service we say we have been in the presence of God. God is asking you "In whose presence are you at home or at your place of work?" Many people don't really think about it that way. The minute they leave the church door they think the presence of God is left behind.

Matthew 18:19-20

"Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them"

God is looking for unity. Many families live together but inside they are divorced. They are not in unity. They don't draw the fellowship and relationship with God in their house. Today we are increasingly hearing the call for the church to come in unity, but unless it starts in the family, how will the church be united?

Some think the church is the remedy. Some come to church after fighting at home and say, "Let me come to church and sing and praise God, because that is where the presence is," but God wants to come to your family. "A family that prays together stays together".

As children come in His presence their calling and gifting are cultivated at an early stage however, today most Christian children, are the ones who bring trouble in their nations. Brothers and sister go back and start family altars.

When we started the family altars in Uganda, we saw many breakthroughs coming in our nation. God was telling us "every Christian home is a prayer altar". Two years ago, we have around 7 million who were born again Christians. How much more powerful would the effect of such a large mass be, if all their families come before God every evening and/or every morning and call on the name of the living God, on behalf of themselves and their communities? There would be chaos in the kingdom of darkness!

God is calling us also to start cell group altars. These in turn come together in a church altar, which consists of different families coming together. From every level of society that we come, we enter greater levels of authority in the spiritual realm. There are certain demon gods you can contend with as a family, especially those that come against you from your family lineage. However as a single-family unit, you cannot come against a spirit ruling over a village territory unless you are united in a cell group with other families or members of the neighborhood. Once we come together, there comes upon us a corporate anointing to reach a greater level of authority.

Today, the devil will fight two things. The first is prayer. Many churches have program from Monday to Sunday except prevailing prayer. Even when church comes together on Sunday service, people can praise for one hour but when it comes to prayer, they do it for two minutes and then they go to the next thing on the agenda.

The second thing is the Word of God. Today people don't want to hear long sermons. Within two hours most congregations will have 15 or 20 minutes of God's Word, unless the speaker is giving them a message that will tickle their itchy ears!

Many people will argue, "Do we have to pray only? Is that all that we need to do?" No it is not. As I said earlier, everything we see in the physical is a manifestation of what has happened in the spiritual realm. If immorality and demonic activity and kingdom of darkness is overcoming in the physical realm around you, it tells you who is prevailing in the spiritual realm over the land. All things begin in the spirit before they are manifested in the physical. The destiny of your family, your nation is in your hands and it must be won in the heavenlies first before it begins to be manifested. Prayer is the only communication way of communicating from the physical realm into the spiritual realm. (Ref. God's Watching Priesthood – Michael Kimuli)

After prayer has broken through, then people will have opening to push for other physical agendas in the nation. Otherwise, the world is full of physical strategies and many of the nations from where these strategies are emerging are moving further and further away from God and His purposes. If you don't pray, God will have nothing to do in your nation. The destiny of the nation is in your hands. You can let it to go or take it and pray through.

Prayer sustained the early church in Acts of the Apostles. The Bible says, in Acts 2⁴²⁻⁴⁷ everyday these people came together and prayed. They broke bread in every house. And as they did that God added to them those who got saved. Moreover they came to church or temple everyday. In Acts 3 it says, as it was the 9th hour John and Peter were going to temple for that was the time of prayer when the lame man was healed. This is not something new, it sustains revival.

As the family altars are set up and the network of prayer began to take shape, villages started receiving transformation. One of our missionaries, David gives the following testimony:

Our town is 17 miles from Kampala. As you enter the town, there are two mosques on each end that act like entrances to the town. These people would wake up every morning and call their demon gods. They

did that every day until one day, we got spiritual anger and said, "This will not happen when we are here". So when we came to church altar, I told my brothers and sisters what I had in my heart. I said, "We have to come against this spirit. We will wake up at 5 am and call upon our God and call on Jesus Christ in our families and He bring turbulence so that when they call on their god, they find that the firmament is messed up.

We went to our family altars, we repented of covenants and sacrifices made to the demon gods and when we came together as a church, we started to come against that spirit because we had legal ground to attack it. Within one week up to today, their speakers don't speak again. Another week on Sunday we saw one Maalim (teacher of Islam) coming to church. We wondered, "What has he come for? A fight? But as we welcomed the visitors we asked him to greet us. He said, "I have come here not as a visitor. I have come to stay."

We knew we have done something in the spiritual but we did not give up there. Once a week we resist that spirit and continue to pray for sustained victory. The moslems are coming to Christ, not because we have gone to preach to them, but because the strong man was overcome. With our God all things are possible. We need to win battles in the spiritual realm and the physical will manifest our success.

I encourage you today; if you have not bought the Transformations 2 videotape or DVD, please buy it. You will see how the church altar and the family altar work and how God worked in the nation of Uganda. People have come to know that "wherever God has placed me, I am an ambassador." During AfriCamp Prayer conference we hear testimonies of what God has been doing in the nation and other nations where people have been learning about prayer and community transformation.

There are some offices where the pastors have no access, but you have access because you work there. You are the pastor there. Begin to pray for your place of work and with time God will honor your work. Wherever you work, you are an ambassador. You are not there to get money or have a position. God in that place does not identify you by your job description. He identifies you by the ministry He has placed upon you in that position. If he has called you as the prophetic voice in that office, or the pastor or the teacher in that place or whichever position He has for you there, it is what He looks at and wants you to be a good and faithful steward. Begin to seek God for what He wants you to be and to do in that place of work.

Genesis 19:1 And there came two angels to Sodom at even **and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom:**

Do not be like Lot in the Bible. Sitting at the gate, in the Biblical terms implied being a man of authority, in decision-making capacity. He was an elder in the city. However Lot was not known to anyone by any other description except that he was a man of influence there. When it came to matters of righteousness, he was quiet about the wickedness of the city. Even when he began to speak about judgement, everyone found him quite ridiculous.

If you are in a business or company, office, etc God has placed you as leader there. Start instituting a personal prayer altar and ask God to raise others. God wants to visit your shop or business and bring His transforming power there.

You may wonder, what happened in Uganda? Many may not recognize it but the successes that have been recorded to date started by instituting prayer where we were. Prayer is a secret activity. Only those who are praying see the signs and know what is happening in the spiritual realm. They can be confident and are not blown by every circumstance that seems to be cropping up. In 1997 something amazing happened - the president of Uganda came to AfriCamp. That was a time of repentance. Even at the time the army general was a born again Christian. He was there to repent on behalf of the army for the atrocities they did to Uganda over the past years.

That year the president did something miraculous. After speaking he got the national flag and handed it over to the intercessors. He said "I hand over this nation to you intercessors. You are the ones who can bring change. We have tried here and there, but without success. What prompted that? A network of prayer, which began in individuals and grew into families and cell groups and churches. Also in 1998, he sent the vice president to AfriCamp with a signed document for the launching of the African Missionary Initiative saying "In the name of the government of Uganda, we send missionaries all over the world. Go and be a light" and then they brought a light and handed it to missionaries. So we do not go out of our nation alone, we are here standing under a mandate released by the President and government of Uganda.

Even when he does not recognize it, the president has a kingly anointing which comes with his position, and by giving us the seal of approval, it is conferred on us. There are certain things that take effect even if the leaders are not saved. In being leaders, they already have a kingly anointing over their lives. They have an authority to open up the nation to Godly or ungodly influence.

They stand in the gap as leaders and can declare things in spiritual realm knowingly or unknowingly. We must steer their decisions and declarations through fervent prayer for them. (1 Tim 2.¹⁻²). The wife of our president is born again; moreover, on December 31 1999, as we entered 2000, the church prepared a big prayer altar so that all people from the whole nation came so we can pray together in our largest stadium. When the state house learnt about it, they said, "no, we are the ones who will sponsor all that meeting. Just announce it. People came from the south, north, east Uganda etc. Amazingly at 10pm the president of Uganda, his wife, and the whole family came and they spent the whole night there praising God and praying for the nation. They left at 5.00am.

Today we have 3 Christian radio stations. But every morning at 5.00 we have pastors leading prayers. But we got those radio stations after prayers, because the national radio had refused to announce anything to do with born again Christians. So we went into prayer. We said "God do something." If you have 1 million homes putting on that radio in the morning praying for only one thing corporately, you have corporate anointing. On seeing that the government said, "please give them free airtime on Uganda TV; to preach the gospel. Even on the national radio give them free airtime.

Today as I speak, there are radio stations that don't belong to Christians but they say, "please pastors of the Christians, we are giving you free airtime. One radio belongs to an Asian who is not a Christian. He has nothing to do with Christianity. He says, "Every morning at 5.00a.m come to the radio and pray. Take the free time. Lead people in prayer." As they close their stations, the pastor is there, leading prayer.

In the Bible, corporate prayer altars brought change in the land. 1 kings 18:³⁰⁻³⁸

Then Elijah said to all the people, "come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down. 31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name." 32 Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord; and he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed. 3 And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four water pots with water and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood." 34 And he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time; and he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time. 35 So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water. 36 And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am your servant and that I have done all these things at Your word. 37 Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again." 38 And the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stone and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

This was a time where Elijah had declared 3 ½ years of drought because the people had rejected God. Jezebel the wife of Ahab had brought foreign gods in the land and people had erected altars to these gods. There were so many prophets worshipping baal. God brought a crisis in the land and Elijah stood on behalf of God to judge the nation.

After 3 ½ years ended, he came to people and asked them "For how long will you be double minded. If God is God lets us serve God but if it is baal then let us serve baal." I will more about Elijah in "Taking the Land As We Institute Prayer". Elijah asked for two bulls to be sacrificed at Mt Carmel and the God who answered by fire would be declared God. The followers of baal called on their god for many hours, to bring fire but he failed.

In V³⁰ Before Elijah could give sacrifice he first repaired the altar of the Lord. It was in ruins. That shows that these people had taken years without giving sacrifice to the living God. He first repaired the altar. God is calling us today; He is blowing the trumpet all over the nations saying "Please prepare an altar for the Lord. Prepare the altar of your heart, prepare the altar in your family, the altar in your churches, in your places of work, in your business - before God can move in the land". Before the presence of God can come down, we need to repair the broken altars of prayer. Elijah repaired the altar, for it was in ruins. He prepared the sacrifice and put it on the altar.

He prayed at the time for giving sacrifices – there are also set time² for going to the altar. Set up time for the altar. You should not say, “We will go anytime we are free”. You have failed before you start because the devil will make sure you are busy all the time. Set up a specific time for the altar. At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah came and prayed.

When we erect altars we call on the presence of God. Altars attract the presence of God. Even when people had sacrificed so much to baal, because of Elijah who was willing to standing in the gap, erect an altar and cry to the name of the Lord, the presence came down. Elijah turned the hearts of the people of Israel back to God. It was double victory.

PRIESTHOODS

In every land, there are always two priesthoods. There is a satanic priesthood and a Godly priesthood. The priesthood that stands in the gap on behalf of the land will have authority over the land. Before Elijah came, the priests of baal were rulers of the land, because they sacrificed regularly at their altars and were in constant communion with their demon gods. They had turned the heart of the people to baal. Even in our day when we refuse to put up corporate prayer altars, the satanic priesthoods will put up their altars. As you see more and more mosques, Hindu temples, buddhist shrines and witchcraft rising in the land, you know that it is a physical manifestation of the spiritual activity over your area; and it is time to stand in repentance and bet into spiritual warfare.

When people called by the name of the Lord God are spiritually slumbering, we say, “You see we are tired. We are busy.” Someone else will call on his or her demon god 5 times a day! You call church members to prayer once a week and it is a struggle; surely which priesthood shall prevail? Take heed!

We learnt that altars are places of mercy. Whenever you are stranded, and in trouble, if you have a family altar, or another corporate altar, which you attend daily, you find it easier to deal with issues rather than let them accumulate until you see the pastor! Instead of running to men to and fro, you run to the altar. It is a place of mercy.

We shall look in greater detail at the importance of praying specifically within the family thru the life of Lot in Sodom.

Cry out to the Lord, “Lord I am here, I am weak, I am nothing without You, but if You call me, I am ready for You. This is my day. I was created for a time such as this. Holy Spirit I call unto You come and help me to build a prayer altar within my life, my family, my school, my place of work, my business! Help me and give me grace and mercy.”

What is the firmament that is over the nations? What happens in the firmament when you institute prayer altars?

How can one learn how to constantly live in breakthrough state in their prayer lives?

For more information: trumpet@infocom.co.ug or info@worldtrumpetmission.org



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² Praying At The Gates of Time – *God's Watching Priesthood* – © 2005 Michael Kimuli.

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