

Fill Our Cups, Lord

I added a parttime job to my plate in March of this year: interim teaching pastor at my home church. Our pastor of 14 years has taken a new church, and I will fill in until we find a new senior pastor.

When I knew in mid-January that I was going to start preaching in March, I began praying in earnest about the series I should preach first. The Lord led me to the theme of hunger and thirst for Him—personal revival.

As part of my five-week series, the elders and I decided to have our people read and pray through the devotional prayer initiative *Thirsty: A 31-Day Journey to Personal Revival* by Jamie Morgan.

In God's wonderful providence, my wife JoLyn and I were totally re-charged at the Asbury Revival a few weeks prior to starting my role. Our pastor asked me to share on our impressions of Asbury two weeks prior to March, and as a result God put a fresh hunger for Jesus in our people.

I planned on 60 copies of *Thirsty* to pass out to a congregation of 70–90 adults on an average Sunday. That was not enough as almost everyone purchased a copy. Every week until Easter when we ended, I brought more copies as people purchased for their friends and other small groups outside the church. I was still getting calls for more copies in mid-May, a month after we finished the series! Ultimately, I sold close to 125 copies of *Thirsty*.

Instead of experiencing the typical doldrums a church feels when a beloved pastor leaves, we have a spiritual excitement among the congregation. People are thirsty for Jesus. Our weekly prayer meeting has more than doubled in size! On Easter Sunday we had our largest attendance since pre-COVID days.

While I give full credit to Jesus for this blessing, He certainly used a prayer guide to get an entire congregation longing for more of Him.

Prayer Will Turn on the Tap

I recently said to a pastor friend, “In my 25-plus years of working with churches to help grow prayer, I know of no better way to get the most people praying the quickest than to do a prayer initiative for 21, 30, or 40 days. It will take the prayer life of your congregation to a new level!”

If you want to see more prayer in your church, get your people praying together using a devotional prayer guide. God used *Thirsty* to fire up our church. He can use a unified prayer initiative to enliven your group as well.

Besides *Thirsty*, our ministry produces 16 devotional prayer guides for churches. We just released three new guides that I recommend to you. *Reclaim a Generation Volume 2* will rally your people to pray for your neighborhood schools. *Do It Again, Lord!* will put a passion in your people to pray for revival and awakening in the Church and nation. And *The 21 Most Effective Prayers in the Bible* will open more people up to the blessing of prayer.

Try an all-church prayer initiative and see how God uses it in your church!

—Jonathan Graf is the president of Church Prayer Leaders Network and the publisher of *Prayer Connect* magazine.