

What is spiritual mapping?

The term “spiritual mapping” was first coined by George Otis, Jr. in 1990. He defined it as “superimposing our understanding of forces and events in the spiritual domain onto places and circumstances in the material world”. It is an attempt to see the world around us as it really is, not as it appears to be.

Different people define spiritual mapping differently but all of which reinforce and complement the others.

I will define spiritual mapping as a prayer assignment which entails of gathering of information, seeking the Lord for His battle plan, translate the plan into action with the purpose of accomplishing His will.

A spiritual mapping exercise that is directed and instructed by the Lord will accomplish the following:

A God given spiritual warfare plan:

- Which reveals the spiritual condition of that particular place
- Spells out the spiritual battle strategies to uproot the stronghold or strongman or forces of darkness that controls that particular place or keeping it in bondage
- Is to be carried out obediently and diligently according to His time schedule
- With the purpose of setting that place free for spiritual harvest, healing, restoration, renewal or transformation

Spiritual mapping can be done for a community, an ethnic group, city, state, region, nation, cluster of nations or continent, as the Lord leads.

How to do spiritual mapping?

There are guidelines as how to do it but remember, these are just guidelines, so it's very important you rely on the Holy Spirit to give you revelations. The list is neither complete nor final. You may want to do more or less, depending on the task you are undertaking.

The first step is to gather information. It's like surveying the land like what the Israelites did. Always be in a prayerful attitude, pray, seek, wait and listen for directions and instructions all the time.

After gathering the information, it's very important to spend time praying, seeking, waiting and listen for the strategies. Ask the Lord to reveal the actual spiritual condition of the place, what are the strongholds or strongman, the spiritual roots that need to be dealt with, what are the actions that need to be taken etc. The battle belongs to the Lord

(2Chron 20:15, 1Sam 17:47), He is the Master Strategist, so only He will have the strategies. Each mapping task may be different, so are the strategies and tactics or mechanics.

The third step is to carry out the instructions laid down in the plan. This has to be done obediently and diligently according to His time schedule. Be prepared for long term commitment, persistence, steadfastness and dedication to intercessory prayers to see through the plan being carried out. This is especially so for cities and nations.

Summary of the three steps:

1. Explore the land : Gather information and get hold of the map
2. Pray, seek, wait and listen to the Lord for His battle plan
3. Implement the plan obediently and diligently according to His time schedule

Spiritual mapping is NOT a quick fix to a spiritual problem. It is not an end in itself. It is an on-going war with a series of battles. We are assured of victory but we must persevere. (2Cor 10:4, Deut 20:4, 1John 5:4)

Equip yourselves with knowledge of spiritual warfare, the principles of binding forces of darkness particularly on territorial strongholds. We have to be cautious when it comes to confronting territorial strongholds. Understand that not everyone is called to the frontline in spiritual warfare. Those on the frontlines need those who stay behind and those who stay behind need those on the frontlines. Those who are called to the frontlines are not more spiritual or more favoured than those who stay behind. Those who stay behind should not criticize those at the frontlines. All of us form one army, not two armies or three armies, but just one army. We must work together as ONE, supporting one another. Therefore you need to know your role. (Romans 12:3-6a, 1Cor 12:1-27)

Spiritual mapping is not the only tool used in spiritual warfare but it's a very effective tool, a powerful tool in strategic level of spiritual warfare. With God given strategies, you will hit the target, you will pull down strongholds of the enemy. I liken it to the laser guided missile used by the military. You mark the target you want to hit, shoot the missile, it will go straight and destroy the target.

SPIRITUAL MAPPING GUIDELINES

Important notes:

Please read these notes before embarking on a spiritual mapping task:

1. Before beginning actual spiritual warfare for the city, equip yourselves with knowledge of spiritual warfare, the principles of binding forces of darkness particularly on territorial strongholds.
2. We have to be cautious when it comes to confronting territorial strongholds. Understand that not everyone is called to the frontline in spiritual warfare. Those on the frontlines need those who stay behind and those who stay behind need those on the frontlines. Those who are called to the frontlines are not more spiritual or more favoured than those who stay behind. Those who stay behind should not criticize those at the frontlines. All of us form one army, not two armies or three armies, but just one army. We must work together as ONE, supporting one another. Therefore you need to know your role. (Romans 12:3-6a, 1Cor 12:1-27)
3. Each mapping task may be different, so are the strategies and tactics or mechanics.
4. Spiritual mapping is NOT a quick fix to a spiritual problem. It is not an end in itself. Most time it is an on-going war with a series of battles. We are assured of victory but we must persevere. (2Cor 10:4, Deut 20:4, 1John 5:4)
5. Always be in a prayerful attitude, pray, seek, wait and listen for directions and instructions all the time, throughout the three steps outlined in the following pages.
6. There is no one way to do spiritual mapping but guidelines are helpful. There are guidelines as how to do it but remember, these are just guidelines, so it's very important you rely on the Holy Spirit to give you revelations. The list is neither complete nor final. You may want to do more or less, depending on the task you are undertaking.
7. There are many levels of spiritual mapping. It can be done for a particular section of a town, a community, an ethnic group, city, state, region, nation, cluster of nations or continent, as the Lord leads.
8. For the sake of simplicity, the questions listed in the following pages are based on the assumption that a city is mapped. But the same questions can be applied to other geographical areas.

STEP ONE: GATHERING OF INFORMATION*

(A) HISTORICAL RESEARCH

I. THE HISTORY OF THE CITY

A. The founding of the city

1. Who were the people who founded the city?
2. What was their personal or corporate reason for founding the city? What were their belief and philosophies? What was their vision for the future of the city?
3. What is the significance of the original name of the city?
 - Has the name been changed?
 - Are there other names or popular designations for the city?
 - Do these names have meanings? Are they linked to religion of any sort? Are they demonic or occultic names? Do they signify blessing? Curse? Do they highlight the city's redemptive gift? Do they reflect the character of the people of the city?

B. The Later History of the City

1. What role has the city played in the life and character of the nation as a whole?
2. As prominent leaders have emerged in the city, what was their vision for the city?
3. Have any radical changes taken place in the government or political leadership of the city?
4. Have there been significant or sudden changes in the economic life of the city? Famine? Depression? Technology? Industry? Discovery of natural resources?
5. What significant immigration has occurred? Was there ever an imposition of a new language or culture on the city as a whole?
6. How have the immigrants or minorities been treated? How have races or ethnic groups related to one another? Have city laws legitimized racism of any kind?
7. Have city leaders broken any treaties, contracts or covenants?
8. Have any wars directly affected the city? Were any battles fought in the city? Was there bloodshed?
9. How has the city treated the poor and oppressed? Has greed characterized city leaders? Is there evidence of corruption among political, economic or religious leaders and institutions?
10. What natural disasters have affected the city?
11. Does the city have a motto or slogan? What is its meaning?
12. What kinds of music do the people listen to? What is the message they receive from that music?
13. What five words would most people in the city use to characterize the positive features of their city today? What five words would they use for the negative features?

II. HISTORY OF RELIGION IN THE CITY

A. Non-Christian Religion

1. What were the religious views and practices of the people who inhabited the area before the city was founded?
2. Were religious considerations important in the founding of the city?
3. Have any non-Christian religion entered the city in significant proportions?
4. What secret orders (such as Freemasonry) have been present in the city?
5. What witches' covens, satanist groups or other such cults have operated in the city?

B. Christianity

1. When, if ever, did Christianity enter the city? Under what circumstances?
2. Have any of the early or later Christian leaders been Freemasons?
3. What role has the Christian community played in the life of the city as a whole? Have there been changes in this?
4. Is Christianity in the city growing, plateaued or declining?

C. Relationships

1. Has there been conflict between religions in the city?
2. Has there been conflict between Christians?
3. What is the history of the church splits in the city?

(B) PHYSICAL RESEARCH

1. Locate different maps of the city, especially the older ones. What changes have taken place in the physical characteristics of the city?
2. Who were the city planners who designed the city? Were any Freemasons?
3. Are there any significant discernible designs or symbols imbedded in the original plan or layout of the city?
4. Is there any significance in the architecture, location or positional relationship of the central buildings, especially those representing the political, economic, educational or religious powers in the city? Did the Freemasons lay any of the cornerstones?
5. Has there been any historical significance in the particular plot of land upon which one or more of these buildings are located? Who originally owned this land?
6. What is the background of the city's parks and plazas? Who commissioned and funded them? What significance might their names have?
7. What is the background and possible significance of the statues and monuments of the city? Do any reflect demonic characteristics or glorify the creature than the Creator?
8. What other artwork is featured in the city, especially on or in public buildings, museums or theaters? Look especially for sensual or demonic art.
9. Are there prominent archaeological sites in the city? What meaning might they have?

10. What is the location of highly visible centers of sin such as abortion clinics, pornographic bookstores or theaters, areas of prostitution, gambling, taverns, homosexual activities, etc?
11. Where are areas that concentrate greed, exploitation, poverty, discrimination, violence, disease or frequent accidents?
12. Where are locations of past or present bloodshed through massacre, war or murder?
13. Does the position of trees, hills, stones or rivers form any apparent significant pattern?
14. Do certain landmarks of the city have names that would not glorify God?
15. What is the highest geographical point in the city and what is built or located there? This can be a statement of authority.
16. Which zones or sectors or neighbourhoods of your city seem to have characteristics of their own? Attempt to discern areas of the city that seem to have different spiritual environments.

(C) SPIRITUAL RESEARCH

A. Non-Christian

1. What are the names of the principal deities or territorial spirits associated with the city past and present?
2. What are the locations of high places, altars, temples, monuments or buildings associated with witchcraft, occult, fortune-telling, satanism, Freemasonry, Mormonism, Eastern religions, Jehovah's Witnesses and the like. Do these form any patterns when plotted on a map?
3. What are the sites of pagan worship from the past, even before the city was founded?
4. What are the different cultural centers that might contain art or artifacts connected with pagan worship?
5. Has any city leader knowingly dedicated himself or herself to a pagan god or a principality?
6. Were any known curses placed by the original inhabitants on the land or people who founded the city?

B. Christian

1. How have God's messengers been received by the city?
2. Has evangelism been easy or hard?
3. Where are the churches located? Which of them would you see as "life giving" churches?
4. What is the health of the churches in the city?
5. Who are the Christian leaders considered as "elders of the city"?
6. Is it easy to pray in all areas of the city?
7. What is the status of unity among Christian leaders across ethnic and denominational lines?
8. What is the view of city leaders toward Christian morality?

C. Revelational

1. Who are the recognized, matured intercessors hearing from God concerning the city?
2. What is the identity of the ranking principalities seemingly in control of the city as a whole or certain areas of the city's life or territory?

*Source: Summary: Mapping Your Community – C. Peter Wagner
Chapter Nine, *Breaking Strongholds in Your City*, edited by C. Peter Wagner

STEP TWO: SPEND TIME PRAYING, SEEKING, WAITING AND LISTEN FOR BATTLE PLAN STRATEGIES.

The battle belongs to the Lord (2Chron 20:15, 1Sam 17:47), He is the Master Strategist, so only He will have the strategies. It is very important to pray and seek the Lord for the details of the battle plan strategies which can and may include the following:

- 1) The spiritual condition, spiritual roots of the city
- 2) The stronghold or strongman or territorial spirits which controls the city or keeping it in bondage
- 3) Mechanics and/or tactics as how, where and when to carry out the plan
- 4) Only the Lord is able to reveal the right spiritual weapons. Use the weapons which are instructed by Him. Some of the spiritual weapons employed are: (This list is neither complete nor final)
 - Identificational repentance and reconciliation
 - Repentance : i) individual
 - ii) corporately as a church/Body of Christ in the city
 - iii) corporately as a city/nation
 - Unity in the Body of Christ
 - Prophetic acts
 - Prophetic words/visions
 - Prophetic intercession
 - Prayer drive or prayer walk
 - Fervent united prayers

STEP THREE: IMPLEMENT THE PLAN

1. Carry out the specific instructions laid down in the plan
2. This has to be done obediently and diligently according to His time schedule
3. Be prepared for long term commitment, persistence, steadfastness and dedication to intercessory prayers to see through the plan being carried out. This is especially so for cities and nations
4. Once the forces of darkness is being lifted, (this could be done in stages or progressively over a period of time as the Lord leads), it is important to maintain the spiritual health of the city at all times

ADDITIONAL NOTES (1)

There are some general rules for ministering to a city through strategic-level spiritual warfare:

Rule 1 : The Area

Select a manageable geographical area with discernible spiritual boundaries

Rule 2: The Pastors

Secure the unity of the pastors and other Christian leaders in the area and begin to pray together on a regular basis

Rule 3 : The Body Of Christ

Project a clear image that the effort is not an activity simply of Pentecostals and charismatics, but of the whole Body of Christ

Rule 4 : The Spiritual Preparation

Assure the spiritual preparation of participating leaders and other Christians through repentance, humility and holiness

Rule 5 : The Research

Research the historical background of the city in order to reveal spiritual forces shaping the city. (This was covered in the first step of gathering of information)

Rule 6 : The Intercessors

Work with intercessors especially gifted and called to strategic-level spiritual warfare, seeking God's revelation of : (a) the redemptive gift or gifts of the city (b) Satan's strongholds in the city (c) territorial spirits assigned to the city (d) corporate sin past and present that needs to be dealt with (e) God's plan of attack and timing

Source: Extracted from the book *Warfare Prayer* by C. Peter Wagner

ADDITIONAL NOTES (2)

Six principles for spiritual mapping:

1. We must base our ministry on God's Word and His revelation
2. We must be certain we are living in holiness before we go forth
3. We must be sent by God in His time and with His authority
4. We must conduct our research according to the instructions we have received
5. We must report our information without personal or prejudicial opinions
6. We must keep an attitude of faith in the power of God

Source : Evangelising a City Dedicated to Darkness – Victor Lorenzo,
Chapter Seven, *Breaking Strongholds in Your City*, Edited by C. Peter Wagner

Developing Ministry Skills:
PRAYERWALKING

A. DEFINITION:

B. HOW

1. _____

2. _____

Matt 26:41

When you _____ you see things, things that you normally do not see before.

This will lead you to _____

3. _____

C. PREPARATION:

1. **D** _____
Eph 6:

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

2. **B** _____

We needto believe what the Bible says

It takes to believe that God will do so

1 Sam 17:45

3. **M** _____

How????

a) Ps 88:9.....

b)
Ps 119:105

Rom 10:17

c)
Is 58:6

4 **U** _____

Eph 6:12

5. **P** _____

D. HOW DOES PRAYERWALKING HELP?

1. **T** _____

2. **S** _____

Dan 10:12-13

2 Tim 1:7 We overcome _____

3. **D** _____

4. **D** _____
- a) _____ is GOOD!
- b) _____ is GOOD!

E. DON'Ts IN PRAYERWALKING

- 1.
- 2.

F. Realms to PRAYER WALK and bring in the PRESENCE of God:

1. **COMMERCE**
2. **COMMUNICATIONS**
3. **EDUCATION**
4. **GOVERNMENT**
5. **RELIGIOUS PLACES**

CONCLUSION

Phil 2:9-10

Jesus defeated the devil

- a)
- b)
- c)

When we go into the community/land/nation to pray, we go with **VICTORY**, victory is ours. **PROCLAIM VICTORY!**

Souls are not going to come to CHURCH we have to GO OUT (PRAYER WALK) and BRING THEM IN!!

Spiritual Reseach – How

STEPS	SCRIPTURE	LESSON
1 Respond	Joshua 1:2-3 Nehemiah 1	Take responsibility for the area given to us by : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Claiming our inheritance ▶ Knowing our authority in Christ ▶ Identifying with people of the area
2 Spy	Joshua 2:1 Nehemiah 2:11-16	Find out about the community by : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Historical research ▶ Physical research ▶ Spiritual research
3 Strategise	Joshua 6:2-5 Nehemiah 3	Get God's strategy by : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Praying in unity ▶ Listening to God speak ▶ Getting confirmation by others
4 Go	Joshua 5 Nehemiah 4:17-23	Prepare yourself by : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Confessing your sins ▶ Putting on the armor of God ▶ Going in unity
5 Assess	Nehemiah 13	Do assessment by : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Persisting in what God says until changes come. ▶ Observing changes in the community with prayers made. ▶ Asking God for fresh understanding regularly.

Basics of Spiritual Mapping

Section A: Overview of Spiritual Mapping

1. Definition of Spiritual Mapping

- a. It is a means whereby we can see what is beneath the surface of the material world
...George Otis, Jr.
- b. It is a means to discern how Satan has kept the community in bondage and to implement prayer and evangelism strategies to overcome the enemy and fulfill God's redemptive purpose for the community.

2. Role of Spiritual Mapping

- a. It plays the same important role that intelligence and espionage play during war.
- b. It reveals the conditions behind enemy lines.
- c. It is a spiritual, strategic and sophisticated tool, which is powerful in God to assist in pulling down the strongholds of the enemy.

3. Purpose of Spiritual Mapping

- a. Map a community and discern its spiritual condition.
- b. Formulate a prayer and evangelism strategy so the church can engage in effective intercession and evangelism in that community.

4. How do we use spiritual mapping?

- a. Gives the people an awareness of the community.
- b. Confirms supernatural revelation, research or observation.
- c. Helps identify strongholds and understand how the evil one has kept the people in bondage.
- d. Plan a prayer & evangelism strategy to redeem the area and set the people free.

5. Overview of the Spiritual Mapping process

- 5 basic steps: S.P.I.E.S.

6. The 5 basic steps in Spiritual Mapping

- SURVEY
 - PRAY
 - INVESTIGATE
 - EVALUATE
 - SEIZE
- a. The key in SURVEY is walking the land, praying and observing, and discerning the times. Use 2 skills: prayerwalking and mapping.
 - b. The key in PRAY is identifying strongholds and understanding the use of prophetic actions.
 - c. The key in INVESTIGATE is research and interviews.
 - d. The key in EVALUATE is seeking God for a prayer and evangelism strategy.
 - e. The key in SEIZE is mobilization and implementation of the prayer and evangelism strategy.

Together these 5 steps form the basis of spiritual mapping.

7. The 4 key objectives in Spiritual Mapping

- a. Know your community. What is wrong with our community?
- b. Identify strongholds. How did our community get that way?
- c. Identify redemptive giftings. How does God see our community?
- d. Formulate a prayer and evangelism strategy. What can we do about it?

8. The 3 basic principles in Spiritual Mapping

- a. Leadership involvement is crucial.
- b. It must be done in absolute dependence upon God and the Holy Spirit for discernment, insight and understanding.
- c. It must result in either a prayer or evangelism strategy for the harvest of souls.

9. Overview of Spiritual Mapping

- a. Spiritual Mapping is a PROCESS, not just a technique.
- b. It is cyclical, not linear.
- c. It is not just research, or just maps.
- d. It is a strategic, spiritual tool and includes supernatural revelation.
- e. It is DISCERNING the times, tearing down strongholds and setting captives free.
- f. It has many levels and many layers.

Section B: Understanding the 5 basic steps in Spiritual Mapping

A. SURVEY

1. Ask: What is there in our community?
 - a. 2 skills: prayerwalking and mapping.
2. 3 kinds of insights
 - a. Responsive: observation
 - b. Revealed: supernatural revelation
 - c. Researched: confirms the physical observations and supernatural revelations.
3. How do I get started?

- a. Inform and involve your leaders. Num 13:1, 13:3; Jos 18:4
- b. Select a target area. Num 13:7, Jos 18:4,5

The target area can be:

- A new neighbourhood where there are no cell groups and you want to plant cells.
- A neighbourhood where there are existing cell groups but cells are not growing or have died.
- A neighbourhood where there are growing cell groups, ready for further expansion of territory.

- c. Define your objectives. Num 13:18ff, Jos 18:8.

Example:

- Find out the state of the Church in this community?
- Find out who lives in this community. Are they rich? Poor & needy?
- Find out what is the most prevalent form of suffering in this community. Why? Where are the hurts in the community?

- d. Determine a time frame. Num 13:25, Jos 18:6

Example

- 4 days, 24 hour survey
- 2 days, 8 hour survey
- Weekend

- e. Record and report your findings. Num 13:26, Jos 18:9

Example

- Write down observations and revelations.
- Have a reporting time with the leadership after the survey.

B. PRAY

1. Ask: What is wrong with our community?
2. As part of the spiritual mapping process, we need to seek the Lord for revelation in discerning what are the strongholds holding the people in captivity and the right weapons to use to tear down these strongholds.
 - a. What are the strongholds?
 - b. How did they get there?
 - c. What prophetic action to use?
3. Definition of a stronghold

Old Testament: A stronghold was a fortified dwelling used as a means of protection from the enemy. 1 Sam 23:14,19.
4. Where are these strongholds located today?
 - a. They exist in the thought-patterns and ideas that govern individuals and churches, as well as communities and nations.
 - b. It is an entrenched pattern of thought, an ideology, value, or behavior that is contrary to the word and will of God. ...Tom White.
 - c. The battlefield is our minds! 2 Cor 10:3-4
5. Different kinds of strongholds
 - a. Strongholds of the heart and mind.
 - thoughts
 - feelings
 - attitudes
 - behavior pattern
 - habits of sin
 - i. These concern worldview and belief systems and are potentially able to affect whole cultures.
 - ii. It is not the random thoughts or occasional sins.
 - iii. It is a demonically induced and deeply entrenched pattern of thought, attitude and opinion that are so hidden within us that we do not recognize or identify them as evil.
 - b. Occult strongholds

These include witchcraft, animism, satanism, & religions that invite spirit guides to operate.
 - c. Social strongholds

Arises when social injustice, racism, poverty cause people to believe God does not care.

d. Strongholds of iniquities

These are generation sins that produce iniquities or weaknesses toward certain types of sin in the succeeding generations.

These work in cultures, nations and bring bondage. These iniquities are often concealed through traditions.

6. How are strongholds identified?

This is done both through natural observation, research and divine insights gained through hours of prayer.

- a. Learn to look beyond the obvious physical strongholds: religious, ideological, occult.
- b. Consider how gradual reinforcement of strongholds beginning in the hearts and minds of the Israelites FINALLY led to making and worship of the Golden Calf.
 - Ex 14:11-15. Stronghold of unbelief right at the exodus from Egypt. It continued throughout wilderness experience.
 - Ex 14:11, 15:24, 16:2, 17:3. Faith was based on seeing the physical and this led to complaints against the leader and against God. Root issue: unbelief and faithlessness.
 - Ex 16:20. God provided manna but there was disobedience due to unbelief.
- c. It is important it is for us to look beyond a physical idol and seek to understand how the enemy is blinding the eyes of the people through various strongholds.

7. 3 weapons to use in dealing with strongholds

- a. Purity of heart: closing holes in our own armour.
- b. Lifestyle warfare: using the opposite spirit.
- c. Prophetic prayer acts: stirring faith.

8. Understanding Prophetic Prayer Acts

- a. A prophetic prayer act is a symbolic act carried out under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- b. It serves to emphasize in a symbolic, expressive and impactful way the purpose and intent of God in a given situation.
- d. It stirs up faith in the hearts of the believers, bringing understanding of what God is doing in the spiritual realm.

9. Examples of Prophetic Actions

- Eze 4:4-6
- Jer 51:63-64

10. Not a Pattern or Formula

- a. A prophetic act not a pattern or formula to be repeated for every situation.
- b. Each situation is unique and God has to reveal what prayer act is suitable.
- c. If there is no revelation from God, don't do it.

C. INVESTIGATE

- 1. Ask: How did it get that way?
- 2. But before jumping into research, we need to:
 - a. Hear from the Lord.
 - b. Determine your target area.
 - c. Assess the strength of the enemy.
 - d. Survey the land. Neh 2:13; Num 13
- 3. The Church has been caught in strategies that WERE effective but may not be as effective today because of changes in society. We need to keep abreast of changes so that we will not be using outdated methods to try and reach a NEW generation.
- 4. Spiritual Discernment in Research
 - a. The Bible does not talk about doing research like the way we understand it to be, going to the library, reading history books. It talks about discerning the times.
 - b. God is pouring out a special prophetic anointing for the discernment of the times just like the *...men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do ...* 1 Chron 12:32
 - c. This anointing is to empower us to interpret the events that are happening in our contemporary society, to help us note the significance of these events for effective prayer strategizing and mobilization.
 - d. This anointing comes from a life that is abiding in Christ, a heart of intimacy with the Lord with complete reliance upon the Holy Spirit.
 - e. Jesus expects us to interpret the times. Lk 12:56-57
 - f. Before we can be an interpreter of the times, we need to acknowledge that God has plans for the whole world which cannot be thwarted by the schemes of man or the powers of darkness.
- 5. How to recognize the anointing for spiritual research?
 - a. Divine Anointing
 - i. Learn to tap into Holy Spirit's discernment when we are doing our reading and information gathering.

- ii. Recognize that God speaks through the information you are reading.
- iii. The Holy Spirit will reveal what information is important and what is not important. A few lines from a book here or a passage from the newspaper article will suddenly "jump out" as spiritually significant. Often, the process cannot be forced.
- iv. Recognize those on your team with this anointing and get their help in doing spiritual mapping and planning your prayer strategies. Amos 3:7

7. Characteristics of a Spiritual Researcher

- a. Right Motive: the motivating force behind all spiritual research activity is EVANGELISM.
- b. Accountability: there is no place for LONE RANGERS in spiritual research.
- c. Servant Attitude: team players whose ambition is to serve one another, the larger body of Christ, and the lost.
- d. DROP THOSE WHO ARE NOT HUMBLE AND WHO THINK THEY ARE PART OF AN EXCLUSIVE GROUP.
- e. Spiritual Balance: Satan is a known liar and deceiver and anyone who endeavors to research his kingdom needs to acknowledge the Lordship of Christ and the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- f. Be careful of those who are overly mystical!

8. Getting Started

- a. Select your target area
- b. Select a time frame
- c. Select person or a team

9. Where do I look for information?

- a. Observation of human environments and behaviour
- b. Conducting interviews & community surveys
- c. Examining print and media materials
- d. Listening to God in prayer

10. Sources of Research

- a. newspapers
- b. media
- c. library
- d. archives
- e. newsletters
- f. oral history
- g. neighbours
- h. Newspaper reports will often provide useful clues to what God is saying to the Church about the nation or community.

11. What kind of information should I look out for?

a. What is the health of the Church?

It is important to know the condition of the Church because the strategy used to reach a city depends entirely on the performance of the Church already there.

Some questions to ask:

Does there seem to be genuine bond of unity among Christian churches in the community?

Is the church seen as a relevant or outmoded institution? Who in the community see it which way?

Is this an area where the gospel has never taken root? Why?

b. Where does it hurt?

Another obvious starting point for our research is the outward evidence of spiritual darkness in the community.

4 issues of concern:

i. Conditions of pain

injustice

poverty

violence

disease

Questions to ask:

What is the most prevalent form of suffering in the community?

How widespread is the problem?

How long have they existed within the community? When did they first begin?

Is there a condition that is unique in your community (in either type or magnitude), how is this explained?

ii. Social values and structures

Is there a disintegration of stabilizing social values and structures?

Questions to ask:

What are the evidences of family unit, governmental, business, and educational disintegration in the community (eg divorce, spouse and child abuse, corruption, retrenchments, school dropout rate, major shifts in education policies or school curriculum).

iii. Destructive vices

Be alert to the nature and prevalence of destructive vices.

Questions to ask:

What is the nature and extent of drug and alcohol abuse within the community?

Is pornography rampant in the community? What forms

does it take (eg adult bookstores, clubs, child pornography)?
Is there a prostitution problem?

iv. Troubling Trends

Be future-oriented. Not just what *is*, but *where things are headed*.

Questions to ask:

Is there an approaching crisis that should become the focus of intense prayer and ministry? Eg an increase in homelessness or unemployment.

What role does the media have in promoting spiritual darkness in the community?

What is the social issue stirring the greatest community concern in your city? Eg racial tension, AIDs, taxes, crime.

Ask yourself: What do you see happening in your city/community in the next few years?

c. Potentials for Spiritual Breakthroughs

i. Which trends represent the greatest opportunity for the gospel? E.g. an influx of refugees.

ii. Have there been any dramatic political or social shifts?

iii. Is there evidence of any economic or other forms of judgments?

iv. Has the church positioned herself for action by cultivating knowledge, unity and prayer?

12. What is the relevance of these questions?

a. These questions are to help us be more aware and alert to what is going on around us.

b. When we have a working knowledge of the city, we are able to receive revelation from God about a specific strategy for ongoing evangelism and discipleship.

13. Purpose of research

a. Helps confirm what is discerned in the spiritual realm through intercession or revelation.

b. Helps provide valuable insights into your community.

c. Helps provide knowledge of the enemy's schemes 2 Cor 2:11, "we are not ignorant of his devices."

d. Helps us pray targeted, focussed prayers.

e. Helps in planning strategies for penetration.

D. EVALUATE

1. Ask: What can we do about it?
2. How do we put all the information together to form a prayer and evangelism strategy?
 - a. Remember Ai! Do not go to battle without the Lord.
 - b. SMART Bombs! We DO NOT need to use ALL the material prepared by researchers.
 - c. Various strategies: There is no one strategy that is applicable to every situation.
3. Gather all the data from the S.P.I. Set aside time with key leaders to evaluate and pray over these data for the answers to these 4 questions.
 - a. What is wrong with our community?
 - b. How did our community get that way?
 - c. How does God see our community?
 - f. What can we do about it?
4. What is wrong with our community?
 - a. Gather the data from SURVEY: What kind of land is it? What are the people like? Are there any physical signs of strongholds of sin? E.g. ungodly and idolatrous monuments, religious sites, gang violence, brothels, gambling dens, sensuous or demonic artwork.
 - b. Pray and evaluate the revelations and observations from PRAY: What are the strongholds of the mind? Ungodly attitudes, value and belief systems, behavior patterns. Identify possible strongholds.
5. How did our community get that way?
 - a. Study the information and research from INVESTIGATE. How did the evil one first gain entry? E.g. Generation sin, injustice, trauma, bloodshed, witchcraft, occult practices.
 - b. How does the evil one maintain or perpetuate evil? E.g. through rituals, traditions, cultures and festivals.
6. How does God see our community?
 - a. Identify redemptive gifting. Look for God's Hand and Plan in the community. What are some of the areas of uniqueness of the community?
 - b. What are the unique characteristics that can be turned into a special strength for blessing?
7. What can we do about it?
 - a. Seek God for a prayer and outreach strategy so that the church can engage in smart and focussed intercession and evangelism. Ask God for a mobilization plan to involve all your people.

8. Weapons of Warfare

- a. Praise and Worship.
- b. The Word of God.
- c. Purity of heart: closing holes in our armour.
- d. Opposite spirit: exhibiting opposite spirit as weapon of warfare.
- e. Lifestyle warfare: confronting strongholds within us in order to be able to wage warfare against strongholds in the community.
- f. Walking in humility: identificational repentance and reconciliation.

9. What Prophetic Prayer Act to use?

God may reveal a prophetic prayer act to use in a situation which will contribute to the tearing down of strongholds and stir up faith.

10. What is the Prayer Strategy?

An example of how a small research information led us into a church-wide prayer mobilization strategy.

- a. Research showed the old bible belt taken over by hotels and commercial buildings.
- b. What are the strongholds that led to the death of the Church? Division, apathy, complacency, pride, idolatry within the Church.
- c. How did the evil one first gained entry into this bible belt? Church splits, power struggles.
- d. What can we do about it? Burden to prayerwalk the area.
- e. How does God see our community? What are some of the uniqueness of this area? This area was the place of revival about 60 years ago. The oldest Anglican and the oldest Chinese Methodist Church are still there.

11. The Prayer Strategy

- a. Redeem this area through prayer and release blessings of revival into the nation.
- b. Mobilize the church to walk and pray over this area to release blessings of revival.
- c. Consult and involve Senior leadership in this strategy.
- d. Print prayer prompter so every person can pray focussed, targeted prayers.

E. SEIZE

- 1. Ask: What can we do about it?
- 2. Think implementation, think mobilization.

3. Different ways of touching a community:
 - "Oikos" evangelism
 - Community evangelism
 - Servant evangelism
4. "Oikos" Evangelism
"Oikos" means household in Greek. Find man of peace, pray blessings, minister to felt needs.
5. Community Evangelism
Fishing community. Every man counts. Works like a combined harvester.
6. Servant Evangelism
High grace, low risk. Do acts of kindness and penetration programs.
7. Understanding the difference between Acts of Kindness and Penetration Programs.

Acts of Kindness are:

- Demonstrate God's love in a practical way with no strings attached.
- Things we do to change community's perception towards church.
- Touch and go.
- Momentary contact.
- Contact many people at one go.
- One-off.
- None or not much follow-up.
- More task-orientated.
- Uses element of surprise.
- We GO to the community.
- Kindness-based.
- Can be done before S.P.I.

Penetration Programs are:

- Programs designed to meet felt needs of community.
- Build relationships.
- Extended time for relating.
- Connect with same people repeatedly.
- On-going.
- Conscious effort to do follow-up.
- More people-orientated.
- Uses strength of a program.
- Invite community to COME.
- Felt-need based.
- Best done after S.P.I.

8. Redeeming the bible belt: Implementation of the Strategy
 - a. Senior Pastor decided to organise a charity walk along this old bible belt.
 - b. Mobilization of entire church.
 - c. In 1998, the route was extended and the Body of Christ came together to prayerwalk this route in a historic act of united prayer and mobilization.

- d. Result: A significant change in the spiritual climate. Faith surge and the prayer movement is gathering even greater momentum.
9. Conclusion: How do we use spiritual mapping?
- a. A tool to give the people a greater awareness of the community.
 - b. A tool to confirm supernatural revelation, research or observation.
 - c. A tool to help identify strongholds and understand how the evil one has kept the people in bondage.
 - d. A tool to help plan and implement prayer & evangelism strategies to redeem the targetted area and set the people free.
10. Spiritual mapping is a strategic, spiritual tool that helps us to be more focussed in our prayer and evangelism strategies. BUT it is not the only tool.

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