

THE FIRST PHASE: BEGIN WITH PRAYER AND CONTINUE IN PRAYER.

It has been said, "If you are going to pray, why worry? If you are going to worry, why pray?" In your daily prayer life, always seek the Kingdom of God first and watch God take care of the other issues as He knows your needs. Do not get off track in what the main purpose is, the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Psalm 127:1 Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.

STEP 1 – You must answer two questions. The first question is, "Is God calling you to start or launch a new work that will focus on ministering to ex-offenders and their families?"

Only through constant prayer and spending time in the Scriptures can you discern this calling. Visit with people that you respect and trust in their walk with Jesus about what Christ is doing in your life. Remember it is the Lord who calls people. There will be opposition against you for the devil does not want another church started.

The second question is, "Is God calling me to have this new work to be separate or independent from a local church or not?" This is a good question as you have to decide through prayer if God is calling your new work to be part of a local church or be autonomous. There are strengths and weaknesses to each point. Only God and you can make this decision.

STEP 2 – Pray that God would begin to prepare the hearts of those who will be part of your new work. Pray that God would be tendering their heart as to be receptive to joining this new work.

Write down the names of ex-offenders and their families that you currently know that can be impacted by this new work. Contact and have them to join you in prayer about starting this new work. Ask for prayer request. Later, (not while you are with them) write down their prayer request in a journal and begin to pray for them and their request.

STEP 3 – Pray that God would begin to raise up leaders that will assist you in this new work. Pray that God would be shaping them so that they can be used by Him to reach and minister to others. Pray that God would use some of these workers and would raise up new ones to start more new works.

Matthew 9:37-38 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. **Ask the Lord of the harvest**, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

STEP 4 – Pray that the Lord would reveal to you the best location and time in which to meet. You need to meet on a weekly basis.

STEP 5 – Pray that the Lord would continue to give you wisdom and discernment as you lead your new work. Keep your guard up. Pray that the Lord would protect you from evil and from good distractions that can cause you not to focus on what is best.