

Manual for Preparing a Prayer Guide for a city

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- I Purpose:** To develop a prayer tool for the transformation of a city with the demonstration of the love of Christ through the gospel proclamation.
- II Goal:** To develop a user-friendly prayer tool that could be used by the Christian families, fellowship, prayer groups and churches that brings transformation in a city.
- III Format:** The book would contain major topics distributed into 30 sections - one for each day in a month of concerns of prayers. Each section would have five or more divisions. So that the major sections can be focus of prayer on corporate prayer meetings like churches and prayer groups, family and individual prayers. An idea of the 30 major topics is given at the end of this manual.
- IV Information:** The major topics would have a brief write up. It could be around 100-120 words providing the importance of the topic, rational for reaching them and the significance of reaching them. Preferably statistics, current information and other relevant information should be provided.
- V How to collect information or tips for research:**
- *General information:* Generation information is available in the web site or other publications like tourist guides. Pin code or Zip code information is available with the postal department. Municipal corporation would have information on wards, industrial development, homes, streets, and other amenities. Slum clearance board would have the list of slums and their population. Census data would provide statistics on population, literacy rate, age wise statistics etc.
 - *Church Information:* The church information could be obtained from the pastors of various churches. There could be exaggeration, double membership statistics that should be filtered and right numbers determined.
 - *Youth Information:* The number of schools, colleges, professional institutions and vocational training institutes could be obtained from directory of educational institutions and also from telephone directory.
 - *Medical Information:* The number of clinics and hospitals could be obtained through the help of telephone directory.
 - *Professionals:* Each city has professional associations for businesspersons, chartered accountants, architects, doctors, nurses, lawyers etc.
 - *People groups:* People group information could be obtained through library research or through political leaders.
 - *Linguistic and ethnic groups:* There are association of ethnic and linguistic groups in each city, who could give this information.
 - *Crime information:* This is available in the police department
 - *Slums:* This could be obtained from Slum Clearance Board

- *Social and other issues:* Newspapers have city special editions at least once a week. This has vital information for each city. An interview with Non-governmental Organizations
- *Interview with pastors:* Senior pastors who are serving in the city would have insights about the city. This could be an added information for prayer.

VI Model for a Day

Day 12

Verse for the day:

"Do not mistreat an alien or oppress him, for you were aliens in Egypt". Exodus 22:21

The Topic for the day: Migrants

Migrants are the people who come new into the city. There are several kinds of migrants. Poor and rural people come into the city seeking employment and better future. Students from rural areas come to city for education. Women who get married to men working in the city also migrate into the cities. Educated youngsters of the smaller cities come to bigger cities for better prospectus. Migrants are open to the gospel in their initial period of time.

1. Pray for the poor, uneducated, unskilled and landless rural people who come into Chennai everyday seeking employment. They generally settle down in slums and look for employment.
2. Pray for the students who come for education in the city. They may be doing their education in Arts or professional colleges. Some may study in private institutions like Hotel management institutions.
3. Pray for the skilled labourers like tailors, welders, carpenters, plumbers who come into the city seeking future hope in the city. They settle in lower middle class areas which are slightly better than the slums.
4. Pray for women who come into the city. A majority of them come because of their marriage. Women are more religious and they can lead the whole family to Christ. There are other run away girls who come to Chennai with the hope of becoming movie star or become big. They end up as sex slaves.
5. Educated and employed in smaller cities come to Chennai because of better job prospectus, promotion, career growth, higher education opportunities...etc. They are young professionals and couples. They get into posh areas of the city. They like to be the part of the middle class culture.

6. The Church in Chennai may be alert about the tremendous opportunity that is open to preach the gospel to these migrants. Churches should formulate strategies to make bridges into this community of migrants and plant churches among them.

VII Proposed list of topics:

1 Civil Authorities

- Mayor
- Police Commissioner
- District Magistrate
- Elected representatives like Member of legislative Assembly, Parliament, Municipal Council
- Prominent citizens
- Non-Government Organizations
- Political parties
- Cultural Organizations

2 Civil Authorities (Cont'd)

- Sheriff
- Social welfare director
- Slum board director
- And other govt officers

3 Civil Works

- City planners
- Roads
- Water
- Telephones
- Street lighting
- Transport
- City cleaning, waste management
- Leaders with vision to project for needs atleast 2 decades into the future

4 Christian-

- Churches - Roman Catholic, Episcopal denominations, Charismatic churches, Holiness movements and Independent churches
- Pastors, Associate pastors, Worship leaders, counselors
- Missionaries, Mission leaders, evangelists
- Teachers in Bible Colleges

5 Christian continued

- Christians in Art
- Christians in business - business people, professionals
- Christians in Media - Journalists, editors, writers, columnists
- Christians in Education - teachers, principals, professors, academicians, educationists
- Christians in Government - Political leaders, bureaucrats, Judicial officers

- Youth Workers – counselors, re-habitation workers
- Childrens Ministry – Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Bible Club,
- Women's ministry

6 Counselling Ministries

- Suicide prevention centres
- Place / counselling for unwed mothers
- Drug / alcohol addiction –
- Family Counselling

7 Children and Youth

- Children – pre school
- Child beggars
- Street children
- Abused children
- Child labour
- Children magazines
- Children TV programmes
- Teenagers
- Students in Colleges
- Unemployed youths

8 Women

- Educated
- Young girls
- Girls living in slums
- Working women
- Servant maids

9 Elders

- Aged destitutes
- Pensioners
- Parents of diaspora Indians

10 Marginalized

- AIDS victims
- Lepers
- Handicapped – Visually handicapped, Disabled, Deaf and dumb, and Mentally retarded
- Eunuchs
- Commercial sex workers
- Drug Addicts
- Rag pickers

11 Marginalized - Slums

- Number of slums

- Issues faced in slums
- Pavement dwellers

12 Migrants

- Migrants from surrounding villages for jobs
- Migrants from nearby towns and cities
- Students who migrate for education
- Patients who migrate for long-term treatment
- Women who migrate due to marriage
- Runaway boys and girls aspiring for better life
- Displaced people from other parts of the country

13 Cross-Cultural Migrants and International Migrants

- International Migrants – Students, diplomats, business people
- Maldives
- Tibetans
- Sri Lankans
- Burmese
- Nepalese
- Students
 - International students
 - Students from other states
- Refugees

14 Media

- Journalists, reporters and editors
- Publications in the city – Newspapers, journals, magazines
- Cable operators
- Script writers, directors, composers
- Music directors, serials/film directors, choreographers
- FM radio
- Cyber Cafes

15 Arts

- Writers
- Musicians
- Artists
- Performing artists – Dancers
- Handicrafts
- Dance
- literature
- Interior decorators
- Sports

16 Business

- Christians in Business
- Chamber of commerce
- Trade Associations
- Chain of super markets
- Whole scale business people
- Retailers
- Small vendors

17 Family:

- Divorce rates
- Parenting skills
- Family relationships
- Extra-marital sex, adultery

18 Education Services:

- Schools
- Colleges
- Professional Institutions
- Vocational institutes
- Computer institutes
- Tutorials

19 Medical Services

- Doctors
- Nurses
- Abortion clinics
- Government Hospitals
- Super specialty hospitals

20 People Groups

- Ethnic groups
- Linguistic groups
- Religious groups

21 Professional groups – White collared

- IT Professionals
- Doctors
- Engineer
- Lawyers
- Chartered Accountants, Bankers
- Management professionals
- Sports professionals
- Government servants

22 Professional groups – Blue Collared

- Bus, truck, auto rickshaw (tri-cycle) drivers
- Tailors
- Masons, carpenters
- Industrial workers
- Uniformed personnel
- Private lenders

23 Semi-skilled and unskilled workers:

- Casual labourers
- Rickshaw pullers
- Porters
- Sweepers, gardeners
- Gorka (night watchmen)

24 Social Associations

- Lions club
- Rotary Club
- YMCA

25 Hot Spots:

- Wine shops
- Bars
- New Age places
- Other religions worship places
- Pilgrimage centers and shrines
- Festivals and melas (both religious and cultural)
- Horse Racing
- Gambling dens
- Places of negative historical significance like Jallian Wala Bagh

26 Gateways to city:

- State / National Highways
- Ports
- Airports
- Bus terminals
- Train stations

27 Industries

- Entrepreneurs
- Knowledge Workers
- Skilled labourers
- Markets

28 Social Evils

- Gay and Lesbians
- Adultery
- Alcoholism
- Riots

29 Neighbourhoods

- Prominent Neighbour hoods
- Prominent Apartments
- Business area
- Industrial area

30 Environment concerns

- Pollution
- Noise, air, water
- Water Scarcity

31 Entertainment:

- Theatres
- Amusement parks
- Hang outs for young people
- Bars and Clubs

VIII Publication of City Prayer Diary:

A prayer book containing 36 or 72 pages could be published. Photos of prominent city landmarks, a detailed city map and other interesting photographs could be included in the design.

It is possible to print 1000 copies by requesting four individuals or churches or organizations to sponsor the publication. Then the books could be sold at cost price and the money raised could be used for future editions.

VIII Updating information

Each city leaders should form a e-mail group and send prayer information regularly. This information could be later compiled for next version of the prayer diary.

IX Consultancy:

For a short training and consultancy, please contact the author: J.N. Manokaran through e-mail: jnmanokaran@yahoo.com