Love Your City

PUBLISHER'S **note**

When my wife and I moved to Indiana 15 years ago, we settled in a rural area between Terre Haute (a fair-sized city of 70,000) and Brazil (a small town of 6,000). Our workplace was in Terre Haute, and our heart was in Brazil.

Even though we left a major city to move here, our hearts quickly developed a fondness, then a love, for Brazil. We settled in a church there and started frequenting the businesses and restaurants in Brazil, even though they were often more expensive than chain stores in Terre Haute.

We took to heart Jeremiah's charge: "Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper" (29:7). Though we weren't in exile, we began praying for the community and supported it however we could. Beyond our church, my wife and I have also developed a relationship with a ministry in town, which we try to bless physically and financially as we can.

God loves cities! Jesus wept over Jerusalem. And there is a spiritual dynamic that defines each community. Often intercessors who spend time praying for their communities will research the history to discern that spiritual dynamic.

God's City Prayer Movement Plan

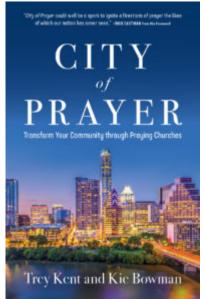
Recently I have been fascinated by what appears to be a growing move of God as He raises up citywide prayer movements across the country. In multiple locations, communities of

varying size—often without any knowledge of God's similar move-ment in other communities—are starting to see the same things happen. Churches are starting to pray together for their cities: Bellingham, WA; Altoona, PA; Nashville, TN; and Austin, TX, are a few places where unique city prayer movements are either stirring or in full swing.

A few years ago I had the privilege to attend a gathering of national prayer leaders in Austin, and we participated in a monthly all-city prayer meeting. More than 1,000 people showed up that night for a highly focused, dynamic, prayer meeting where people cried out for revival in Austin churches and a spiritual awakening in their city. I saw tremendous unity, humility, and love displayed among Baptist, Pentecostal, and other pastors from various streams of the Church.

It inspired me so much that I soon started pursuing two leaders, Trey Kent and Kie Bowman, to write a book that would both tell about the ten-year journey of the Austin movement and show pastors how this could happen in any city.

Your city! Maybe Brazil, Indiana!



The resulting book is *City of Prayer: Transform Your Community through Praying Churches.* We are releasing the book this month and praying God uses it to fuel the hearts of pastors and prayer leaders across this nation.

Be sure to get a copy through prayershop.org. Or get two and share one with your pastor!

Let's love our communities through prayer.

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