

Preparing Your Congregation for the Healing the Heart of Your Church Process

When was the last time you saw your doctor for a checkup? Do you remember preparing yourself for the visit? You might have lost a few pounds in anticipation of stepping on the office scale. You may have prepared questions about a bodily quirk. You likely reflected on illnesses of close relatives to give an accurate account of your family health history. If you were wise, you did not show up unprepared. You made the most of the opportunity to assess your health.

By signing up for the Healing the Heart of Your Church Process, you've made an appointment for your church with the Great Physician. Jesus' ability to diagnose and heal your ministry surpasses that of any human doctor. How much more important, therefore, to prepare for the appointment? The more your ministry prepares, the more clearly you will hear Jesus' diagnosis.

We suggest you begin pursuing the following activities one to two months prior to the Healing the Heart of Your Church Seminar (the first stage in the Healing the Heart process):

1. **PRAYER:** Enough cannot be said about prayerfully preparing your ministry for what lay ahead. The main way to do this involves creating a movement of prayer prior to the half day seminar, and before the historical retreat.
 - a. **Personal Prayer:** The Healing the Heart of Your Church process impacts participants personally as well as corporately. Pray that God would prepare your heart for what He might say to you during the process. Encourage personal prayer for insight and teach-ability among your people.
 - b. **Corporate Prayer:** Set aside time for prayer in board and staff meetings to petition the Lord about the upcoming events. Ask God to speak clearly to your church. Pray that participants are sensitive and responsive to the Holy Spirit's leading and direction. Ask Him to grant your church a new spirit and revived ministry!
 - c. **Sunday Morning Prayer:** Expose your entire church to the Healing the Heart of Your Church process by asking a different leader to pray each Sunday for the upcoming meetings as a part of your morning worship services.
 - d. **Fast:** Take the process seriously enough to fast and pray. You can decide what to fast (Food, Social Media, TV, whatever) as long as it results in a concentrated effort in seeking the Lord.
2. **PREACHING:** You can further prepare your church by preaching a series related to forgiveness and/or reconciliation prior to the Healing the Heart process. Another possibility: preach on the Seven Letters to the Churches in Revelation 2-3. If you take this route, order a copy of *The Eighth Letter* by Mark Barnard and Kenneth Quick (Amazon.com or www.churchsmart.com). It can also prepare you for writing the letter from Jesus to your ministry (an exercise later in the Healing the Heart process).
3. **READ:** Order sufficient copies of *Healing the Heart of Your Church* by Dr. Kenneth Quick. These can be purchased on Amazon.com or at www.churchsmart.com. Be sure to order enough for all your leaders

and spouses to read the book, and anyone else who wants one. The more people exposed to the principles of corporate healing, the quicker the process will resonate with participants.

4. **WRITTEN AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION:** Be sure to announce the upcoming seminar and subsequent retreat in communication with your congregation (Bulletin, newsletters, Facebook, website, blog etc.). It should be open to everyone who wants to participate.
5. **RECRUIT:** Begin thinking and praying about who should be on your Historical Research Team. These folks will play a crucial role in exploring your ministry's history in anticipation of the Historical Retreat. Recruit enough so that the load can be divided up among those who would like to function as church historians or "History Detectives." The more people you involve the better. Consider recruiting a small team for each of the identifiable eras in your church's history.
6. **BE CREATIVE:** Pray about creative ways to engage your congregation in preparation for the process. Consider inviting representatives from a ministry nearby that has gone through the process to share their experience. Download testimonial quotes or a video resource from www.blessingpoint.org. Use the creative people God has placed in your congregation to help you.