

SAPPHIRE LEADERSHIP GROUP

Noble Subjects of the Great King

August 10, 2011 Newsletter

Spiritual Barrenness

George Barna tells us that about a million people a year have left the institutional church since the turn of the century.

Some left their faith while others simply privatized it.

Many others became what I call "Sergeants" in the Kingdom. They have developed a skill set flowing from their design and are busy implementing it in the culture, without the benefit of an organization over or around them.

They have a modest group of people who are voluntarily following them without a formalized protocol or hierarchy.

Many of these people felt compelled to leave the institutional church because they were blocked from any kind of meaningful work – work that flowed from their design and that produced good spiritual fruit.

The transition from a structured community to a freeform community involved time, grief, healing, developing many new paradigms, and learning how to step into Kingdom work without directives or affirmation from your community of faith.

But, at the end of the day, they made the transition and life is flowing from the King, through them, to the community once again.

There is a large pool of people, however, who are still not able to bear spiritual fruit. They have gone through basically the same transition as the others except for the final step. Being fulfilled in fruitfulness is as far beyond their reach now as it was before they made the change.

It is this dynamic that we will be exploring in the Sacramento seminar on August 20th. When someone has gifts and skills and a heart to be life giving, but it eludes them, there is often a spiritual root, not an environmental issue.

In the last six months we have come across some fascinating new tools to diagnose whether the blockage is internal or external, and if internal, how to resolve it.

This tool will obviously be of interest to clinicians, but it is being presented with an eye to helping any individual address this step in their personal journey.

As with the material on trauma bonds to time, I will be modeling both the diagnostics and the intervention with people from the audience in Sacramento so you leave with a good grasp of the process.

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)



Seminaries generally do not have courses on how a pastor can interface effectively with intercessors. Thus, a great many pastors have a love/hate relationship with the intercessors in their midst.

I remember visiting with an apostle who bragged publicly that he had 400 intercessory groups under his covering. In private he complained bitterly that working with them was like herding cats.

So pastors commonly either develop the policy manual from hell to control the intercessors, or they marginalize them. Either way, the free flowing dynamic of an energetic group of people who love God and hear from Him is lost.

Over the years I have run the gamut from being “one of them” to trying my hand at leading “them” to limiting my prayer requests to an ultra-elite inner circle.

Last week I reached out to the whole Sapphire family with a simple prayer request. The results were pretty predictable.

- 1) We made great progress.**
- 2) It was spectacularly messy.**

The results were so significant, that I would really like to do this again from time to time.

Let me frame it in terms of the labor pool. In the 1990s, intercessory networks were primarily famous for size. I have talked to leaders who claimed to have 100,000 intercessors in their networks. Admittedly, that is impressive and should make a dent in almost any enemy stronghold.

But our effectiveness in the Sapphire family is not due to size alone. We do have thousands of people who read the newsletter and the blog (we do check the stats!), but we are more than simply numbers.

First, we have a huge number of people with a call to land. This makes our tribe quite unusual when compared to any other intercessory network. Never mind the number of people in our group. Let's talk about the hundreds of thousands of hours our people have spent with boots on the ground, doing myriad different acts of cleansing land. That is a formidable pool of corporate authority on land issues.

Second, our people know their God! While there is something to be said for an individual who understands the demonic realm in its intricacies, the greater power is in the hands of the people who know their God. **Our capacity for awe and reverence of our Great King exponentially expands our spiritual authority in the heavenlies.**

Third, there are so many sub-specialties of earned authority within the whole group. There are parents of special kids, people with authority over the head waters of rivers, individuals who know the essential oils, people who have repaired almost any imaginable brokenness in their lives, people with a motion anointing, a cleansing anointing, a governmental anointing, a sound anointing, and the list goes on and on. We are astoundingly wealthy in highly developed specialty giftings.

All of this makes our team a force to be reckoned with when it is time for penetrating a resistant stronghold.

What about the downside?

Well, I think we can do better.

Here are three action points.

First of all, when I sound the battle cry, intercessors need to follow instructions. I remember an afterglow I attended back in the 80s when afterglows were the cool thing for hot intercessors to do.

Someone shared a pain point and several intercessors in the group began to coach her on how to live her life. The facilitator eventually intervened and said, "I believe the instruction in Galatians 6 was for us to bear one another's burdens, not analyze them."

Similarly, my request here was for us to ask God to share what He wanted us to know. Hundreds of people took it upon themselves to also share what they thought I needed to know, but in the end, God did reveal two key things directly to the intercessors on the ground, exactly as (some of us) asked Him to.

So in the future, please actually read what I wrote and bring maximum pressure to bear on that specific point.

Second, be careful of presuppositions. As I read the volumes of comments and personal e-mails, so many conclusions were based on faulty starting points. I gave very little information, intentionally, because I was not asking you to solve a riddle. When you tried without having accurate data, many ended up hugely adamant and wildly off track.

Third, be aware of your propensity for silver bullets. This is one of the weak links of intercessors. Some have a particular tool that has worked so well for them. And when your only tool is a hammer, everything looks like a nail even when it is not.

This time, I only edited out about five of the comments. I posted the rest, even though I found many comments fundamentally flawed. Next time, I ask you to be very sure that the suggestion you make is customized to this situation.

On my side of the table, I will edit much more heavily and simply not post the comments that are patently off target.

These are not major course corrections. If we can tighten up on these three things, I think the immense treasure of wisdom and spiritual authority we have can be strategically harnessed for many other projects down the road.

I was shocked by the unprecedented immense response. We have never had anything like this before. I am grateful to all of you who leaned into this on short notice, and of course we are thrilled to be out of our stuck place.

Thank you all for investing in someone else's battle.



Mercy Season Strategy

Unique Application

On the local level, there were two big revelations that are unique to that project. The first was the discovery of a major covenant with an Egyptian heresy bite to it that allowed the enemy to intrude.

We have been mystified as we watched this people group fight and win this same battle repeatedly over the centuries. Why did this problem keep reoccurring when they won the battle so conclusively each time?

Mystery solved through revelation in the field, as a result of your prayers. Good stuff.

Second, a piece of information surfaced indicating that there is a major door of entry attached to a body of water there. For various reasons, our attention had been drawn to the land, the boundary violations, and one particular social sector. Those are still hot spots, but the silent killer is apparently in the water.

This information also came through God surfacing data in the community that I did not have access to before, and it will allow us to redirect some of our resources.

General Course Corrections

On a broader level, God started this whole process by reminding me that a slave seeks for liquid assets and finished products, while a son receives raw materials to solve the problem.

I obviously began looking around for unused raw materials that I already had in hand and found some significant ones.

- You! I had available to me a huge resource that I had not used before in this way. I deployed you. Good results.
- Dreams. I grew up with nightmares and ended up doing what most people do in that situation which was to shut down my dreaming so that I could get a good night's sleep. God convicted me of the error of my ways, so I went to a friend who coached me on how to sanctify and awaken my ability to receive godly, meaningful dreams. I did, and God has spoken some nights since then.
- Drumming. I have a First Nation brother who does warfare drumming, knows land work, is an artisan with fragrances, and has been used repeatedly by God at the headwaters of rivers around the world. He had offered to war on my behalf in the past, and I had never used that resource.

I contacted him, and he pulled together his group on very short notice. Twelve brothers and sisters from five nations gathered on Sunday morning. I watched as they did an amazing job of third level synchronization.

I did not share with them much more than you know, but I watched the Spirit lead them into point after point that was salient to our battle. At the end, they gave me a bottle of water that was a mixture from five rivers in Africa, plus lotus oil.

And the next morning I found out about the water dynamic in the land we were working in. I believe they brought about that breakthrough.

- Angels. I have seen angels a few times and been the beneficiary of their work hundreds of times, but I rarely deploy them. I realized it was a reaction to the fact that most people who deploy angels often are so arrogant and dishonoring that I had over-reacted, dropped that as a resource, and simply allowed God to do what He wanted.

As I went back to the Word to try to develop a legitimate framework for when I should initiate and when I should wait for God, some new insights came to the front. On my Monday morning call, I applied those principles and asked for certain movement and activity by the territorial angels.

Mercy Season Specifics

We began this project with the assumption that the problem we were facing might be a uniquely Mercy season problem, and we needed to learn a new strategy that would be portable to all territorial battles in this season.

Early in our seven days, I received a phone call from a highly trusted man I had not talked to for about three years. He shared that he had a dream that was about a new way to do warfare. He had my undivided attention.

The short version was that we needed to embrace a “both/and” posture and to pair some things that don’t naturally seem to fit together well. The message was quite detailed and forceful in the punch line but not too helpful in terms of the specific application.

I spent a lot of time exploring a long list of tools we use, wondering what I could pair up in a novel configuration. I came up with a short list of exotic possibilities, but nothing sparked.

Suddenly I was drawn to the issue of the female/male dynamics of receiving and giving. When a territory is pinned down, we tend to send in the cavalry and allow them to receive until such a time as they can get back on their feet and give back.

It seems to me that in all of our Mercy season strategies, we need to identify the ways in which the one “in need” can pull his weight and give into the situation from the beginning, at the same time they are receiving, whether this is an individual deliverance or a territorial battle.

I tried that on Sunday with the Native drumming. On the surface, this was configured as a time when they could give to me and to the team on the ground. However, although I received disproportionately, I found some ways to speak into the team quite lightly, so that I could fulfill the dynamic of also giving.

That afternoon the leader wrote me and commented that the whole team was in a better place based on how we walked out that situation.

At this point, my soul is protesting that this shift is far too small a step to be treated like a major step forward in warfare strategy. My spirit is content and certain that we have tapped into something huge, and my soul will figure out how to use it someday.

Conclusion

For our rookie outing, I think we did great. And I think we can improve.

We are far from out of the woods with this project, but we now have a crack in the seamless wall and are excited about taking some ground.

Thanks for being learners with me.

Arthur Burk
Airborne over Texas, outbound