

10 Days Coordinator's Manual: 2017 Version

This Coordinator's Manual is designed to be a resource to Coordinators, Catalysts, and anyone who wants to see their city "stop everything" for 10 Days each fall to seek the Face of God.

It's designed to be read in total or skimmed for ideas according to the needs of the reader. We'll be updating this manual in years to come, so we'd love to have your ideas or feedback on it at 10daysinfo@gmail.com.

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This is a step-by-step guide to organizing 10 Days. Each Section contains helpful principles, a story that illustrates them in action, and a summary section. Feel free to read in depth or skim for the most helpful content!

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What is 10 Days?

- **A set-apart season to seek God’s face with *mourning, fasting, and repentance***

A set-apart season to seek God’s face: What would it look like if you gave 10 entire days over to seeking God? How would it look if your family, your local church, your neighborhood, your city did the same. 10 Days is consecrated time, holy time, set-apart time, Sabbath time. It’s time for human beings to commune with God and discover one another in the light of His face. Simply put, life looks different when Jesus is at the center of everything.

Mourning is a rich biblical word. It’s best not to understand it in an overly literalistic way (as in a funeral) but as a time of *humbling ourselves*, and aligning our hearts with God’s ways, and reckoning with the glories of Jesus Christ and the brokenness of this present age. This concept which is central to 10 Days is discussed more at length in “Three Kinds of Mourning”, available for download at 10days.net.

Fasting can involve many different kinds of fasts, but we recommend a significant fast from both food (a Daniel, Juice, or Water fast) and entertainment and media.

Repentance has to do not only with confessing and acknowledging sin, but also with turning away from it and changing our minds so that we not only *turn from* sin but also *turn toward* righteousness and the Kingdom of God. Often, we need repentance in places that are hidden from our own eyes. 10 Days is a time to be cleansed of our faults, those that are visible to us, and those that are hidden from our limited vision.

- **The Setting: Fall Feasts**

10 Days is framed by the Biblical festivals of *Rosh HaShannah* and *Yom Kippur*. This 10 Day period from the “Day of Trumpets” to the “Day of Atonement” is called the “Days of Awe.” 10 Days begins in the evening of the first day listed, *so includes parts of 11 calendar days*, but lasts a total of 10-24 hour periods.

These feasts are an important part of our Biblical tradition—as Colossians says, they are “shadows of things to come” and Christ is their fulfillment. They also provide a powerful connection to the Jewish roots of our faith. Prophetically, the fall feasts in particular speak of the second coming of Christ even as the spring feasts spoke to His first coming.

- **An Annual Rhythm**

Not a once-off event, the vision of 10 Days is to establish an annual rhythm of gathering and seeking the face of God.

- **Many Locations Simultaneously**

In 2016 there were over 30 cities doing 10 Days. Our vision is to see it happening globally in thousands of cities.

- **Decentralized Organization Connected Relationally**

Each city that does 10 Days has its own locally grown leadership that's responsible for that city. Each one has their own team, determines their own structure, and handles any organizational needs. We have an international team that's shares and spreads the vision, serves and resources city-wide efforts, and maintains connection and communication within the movement.

- **Organized by Geography**

It's not primarily for local congregations to do on their own; rather, it's an annual opportunity for the entire Church in a given region to come together. 10 Days can be organized at a neighborhood, town, city, county, state, or national level. It is meant to be "software" that runs on the "hardware" of existing movements of unity that are connecting the Body of Christ for prayer, service, evangelism, transformation, and revival.

- **For "City-Wide" Churches**

"City-wide" is our short-hand for saying that it's meant to unite geographical regions. There's a specific focus on bringing together the church in a given city (all followers of Jesus in a region) but it can also expand beyond that to impact unbelievers, government, and systems as well

- **The Big Idea: "A City That Stops"**

The original vision of 10 Days in 2004 was of a city that had "stopped everything for 10 Days", with no work, school, or entertainment, but rather an entire city that was wholly focused on seeking the face of God in prayer, worship, repentance, fasting, and humility.

One Biblical example of this is the disciples in the "upper room", where 120 waited on God's promise for 10 Days, followed by an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Another example is the city of Ninevah that suspended normal life for a season of prayer and heart-felt repentance at the preaching of Jonah. 10 Days meant to be both a coming together in the "upper room" and ultimately a call to repentance that will bring many modern "Ninevahs" to stop and seek the mercy of God.

This big-picture vision of thousands of cities "stopping everything" for 10 Days is what would seem to be an unattainable goal; and yet, it's something that we're moving toward with God's help every year!

- **Driven by John 17: “Let them be one as we are one.”**

We believe that “Jesus gets what He prays for.” His prayer for those who would believe in Him to be “one” just as He is one with the Father will receive an answer. That’s not some unfounded hope in an impossible future, rather, it’s an acknowledgement that where “the impossible” meets the word of God, God’s word wins every time!

10 Days has elements of both horizontal intercession (with people) and vertical intercession (with God). In other words, we’re doing our best to come together and remove obstacles to John 17 unity while also looking to God to supply the supernatural grace we need to see it occur. We reach out to our brothers and sisters, while lifting our hands up to God at the same time.

- **A Flexible Framework**

Within the overall framework set out above, it’s possible to include a large variety of activities within 10 Days—it’s a flexible form, a blank canvas that can be filled in many different ways. It’s up to the leaders of each city to “master plan” what 10 Days will look like in their area.

10 Days is something that loves to merge and blend with other gatherings, initiatives, and projects. Major gatherings, worship events, service initiatives, evangelism, and many other elements can be easily adopted and added to 10 Days.

- **A Strategy or “Tool” for Transformation**

10 Days is a God-given strategy to see city-wide transformation. It meets the criteria of 2 Chronicles 7:14, including all four elements of “Humbling ourselves, prayer, seeking God’s face, and turning from wicked ways.” It’s designed to create a spiritual “low pressure system” over a city that irresistibly attracts the grace of God, for “He opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble!”

- **A Prayer Meeting**

At the heart, 10 Days is simple. It’s a 10 Day prayer meeting and the whole city is invited.

We often quote the prophetic words of Zechariah 8: 21: “The inhabitants of one city will go to another city and say, ‘Let us go at once to...seek the LORD Almighty. I myself am going.’” It’s that simple: We are going to seek the Lord in our city—won’t you join us?

Why Do 10 Days?

The more sacrifice involved in any activity, the harder something is, the higher and greater the purpose must be in order to keep our hearts engaged. Below are seven major reasons for engaging in 10 Days.

1) Obedience: It's God's idea

People often ask me “why are you doing this 10 Day thing?” I always immediately gravitate to something very simple: “That’s what the Lord told me to do.” By that, I mean because of my calling experience in 2004, *I have to do this*. It’s a similar what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9:16: “Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel”. There’s a compulsion of obedience laid on me (in particular).

My call to other believers would be to say “yes” for the same reason. If you believe that this is something God is calling His Body, the Church to in this season of history, then say “yes” because it’s His idea. Honestly, I’m not sure what harm will come of the church coming together to humble ourselves and seek to align with God’s heart. If it’s a deception of the devil, it’s pretty well disguised!

If you’re not one for people hearing from God, there’s plenty of *Biblical* material to draw our obedience from, starting with the well-known passage 2 Chronicles 7:14. As the people of God, He calls us to “humble ourselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from evil ways.” Maybe finding a way to all do that together as a city-wide church (responding to His prayer for unity in John 17) would be a way to tangibly obey that scriptural directive. Let’s do it for obedience’s sake: It’s His idea!

2) Love: An extravagant gift to God

While 10 Days is certainly a tool that’s designed to increase the presence of God in a region, leading to revival, awakening, and transformation, there’s actually another reason that’s much more important. As I’ve discovered the hard way, getting our motivations out of order in the pursuit of revival can have devastating results. At its root, 10 Days is meant to be an extravagant love offering to our incredibly worthy God. Think Mary with the perfume. Think David dancing before the Ark. Think Jesus in the temple, consumed by zeal for God’s dwelling place.

It’s a heart of love for God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that motivates us to do 10 Days.

In 2005, less than one year after receiving the vision for 10 Days, I went through an incredibly painful burnout. I had travelled the entire nation, sharing this vision with incredible faith that God would bring revival to America. At the end of that amazing five month journey, I crashed and crashed hard. I told God that “I quit”. Truth be told, I felt He had let me down and I hated the church, the very people I had been called to serve.

For months, I was oppressed in my mind. It was like I couldn't remember anything good or anything that God had ever done. The only thought that kept me from losing my faith entirely was that I hated who I had become, and vowed not to make any major decisions from this place of extreme anger, resentment, despair, and constant mental torment.

After moving across to Massachusetts to attend seminary, God began to restore me through months of fresh revelation on the love of God. Now a year later in 2006, I was preparing to do 10 Days for the second time. As these preparations moved forward, I found it more and more difficult to suppress my fear. I was terrified. My soul was squirming around inside. I felt like a child who knows he's in big trouble. Explaining my fear, I told God: "Last time I did 10 Days, it took me nine months to recover—I'm afraid that will happen again!"

In this state, the Lord spoke to me very clearly:

"Last time you did it[10 Days] because you wanted something. This time do it because you love me."

It was true, the first time I attempted 10 Days, I wanted desperately to see unprecedented *revival in America*. I was willing to sacrifice everything that I had (and more) in faith to God in order to see that vision for sweeping revival fulfilled. However, when I offered all I had and God didn't respond as I hoped, I became embittered.

Subtly, I was engaging in a kind of *quid pro quo* dealing with God. However, God was looking for a free-will offering with no strings attached, the kind that He offers to us.

As I heard in my spirit, "This time, do it because you love me," an incredible sweetness washed over me. I saw (in my mind) a gazelle leaping quickly over the mountains, coming towards me. A peculiar image to some, for certain. However, immediately I know what God was saying to me through this peculiar, leaping stag. It was a reference to the Song of Songs.

In the writings of Jonathan Edwards, he interprets the "gazelle on the mountains" in the Song of Songs to mean that when we begin to seek the Lord, revival will quickly come. So, I understood that if I would seek Him in the way of love, he would also bring the desired revival, and bring it quickly.

So, why should we do 10 Days? We expect that there will be good results, but if we're focused on the results rather than the Father's love, we open ourselves up to disappointment, accusation, and even losing our faith. By reorienting our mindset to be "I am doing this because I love Him" and leaving the results in God's hands, we position ourselves to walk in both zeal for the Lord and also wisdom from the Lord. We position ourselves to burn with fire for the rest of our lives, not just for a few short months or years.

In the years since then, I've seen many who are zealous for God as I was crash and burn, just as I did. I can't over-emphasize how dangerous this can be if we do not pursue God

with the right heart motives. Let's do this because we love Him, because He's worthy, and because He first loved us—He won't fail to pour out His Spirit on hearts who seek Him in this way.

3) God's Outlandish Promises

For the sake of argument, let's say God has some outlandish plans revealed in Scripture.

Just to take it a little further (for the sake of argument), what if his chosen means to achieve those outlandish plans, plans that are literally above and beyond what we can ask, think, or even imagine, are the faith-filled prayers and actions of His people? In other words, what if the obedient Church is at the center of His plan to fulfill His promises? I don't know about you, but I'd want to get serious about figuring out what He is planning and then aligning my entire life to fulfill those eternal purposes.

God's dealings in history are always dependent on divine grace working through human faith. We see this clearly in Salvation ("by grace you have been saved, through faith"), but it's really a pattern for every good work that God does. God loves to partner—he loves to work with flesh and blood human beings in collaboration to bring about His goals. The entire Scripture is the story of this collaboration, culminating in the Son of God actually becoming a human being in order to break down every barrier between us and God.

And what is our assignment in this partnership? Has He given us any idea as to these outlandishly great and good plans for us, for humanity, for the earth?

"Pray like this...Your Kingdom Come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven..."

This prayer functions like a summary statement of all of God's good plans for us. Our assignment is to see His Kingdom grow and expand until the realm of earth is under His kind and generous authority just as the realm of heaven already is.

As Sons and Daughters of this great King, it's no wonder that we have an important role to play in the bringing about of this plan and it all begins in the place of prayer. As the cry of God's heart begins to penetrate our hearts, the Spirit of God begins to cultivate faith in us, allowing us to receive more and more of God's grace, leading to us becoming the answers to our own prayers.

There are four very specific areas of unfulfilled, Scriptural promise that 10 Days is meant to address. I've listed them below with Biblical Support—let's lay hold of these promises together!

The Big Four: Major Yet-to-be-Fulfilled Promises

1) The Gospel will go to every nation and ethnic group

Matt. 24:14—“The Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole earth, as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

- a. Prayer for God to raise up Missionaries in all nations/languages
- b. Prayer for God’s blessing on the declaration of the gospel. Prayer for ministry to the poor and oppressed
- c. Prayer for this scripture to be fulfilled “in our generation”

2) There will be unprecedented , supernatural unity in the Church as the Father answers Jesus’ final prayer

John 17:20-26—“let them be one as we are one...that the world may know that you sent me and have loved them even just as you love me.”

- a. Praying Jesus’ prayer with faith that “Jesus gets what He asks for”
- b. Asking for the breaking down of historic enmities and barriers within the broader Christian community
- c. Actively practicing reconciliation during the 10 Days. Practicing “horizontal intercession”

3) There will be a global outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Joel 2:28-30—“I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh...Before the great and awesome day of the LORD.”

- a. That the outpouring of the Spirit that began on Pentecost would continue and be increased in our day.
- b. That God would release “the best wine, saved for last” (John 2) in our lifetimes
- c. Acts 4:29-30: That God’s servants would be enabled to “speak your word with great boldness” and that God would stretch out his hand to “heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

4) There will be Wide-Spread Salvation among the Jewish People

Rom. 11:15: “For if their [Israel, the Jewish people] rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?”

- a. Romans 10:1 “My heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.”
- b. Rom. 9:3 “I could wish that I myself were...cut off from Christ for the sake of...the people of Israel.”
- c. Rom. 11:12 “If their loss means riches for the Nations, how much greater riches will their fullness bring!

4) City Transformation

In the early 2000's, many in the west began to hear mind-boggling stories of God's work in Asia, Africa, and South America. Not limited to conversions, healings, or other characteristics typically associated with revival, these new stories shared of a miraculous and holistic transformation of entire towns, villages, and cities. Often the transformational impact would literally affect the land (earth), including plants, animals, fresh water and oceans.

Two key scriptures inform the transformational aspect of 10 Days. First of all, the famous 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will heal their land." As we've learned time and again from practitioners in non-western contexts, the "healing of the land" does not just apply to the people, laws, or customs of a nation, but goes deeply into the very healing of the soil, the ocean, the fish, the wildlife, the plants, the water, and the people as well.

The Lord's prayer also informs our beliefs on transformation. Jesus taught us to pray for the Kingdom of God to come "on earth as it is in heaven". Clearly, the Kingdom of God coming on earth will impact and affect every area of life, starting in our hearts and flowing outward to our families, other relationships, governments, and relationships with plants, animals, and the earth.

10 Days is a Transformational Strategy—if a city can stop for 10 Days, it's never going to be the same. If we want to transform our cities, we need to consider that what we've tried to date has not worked. However, if we will humble ourselves, we can guarantee that grace will be poured out from heaven. Likewise, if we will walk in unity with other believers, not seeking our own interests, but preferring one another in honor and following Jesus' example when as the Messiah, He washed the feet of His disciples, the world will acknowledge that Jesus is God's son (John 17:23).

5) It's Personal

In the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, there are 10 young women who are attendants at a wedding feast. Five of them bring extra oil—five do not. All ten of them fall asleep. All ten have burning lamps and all ten run out of oil. However, five have reserve stores and are able to enter in when the voice of the bridegroom is heard.

Tragically, the other five are excluded due to their lack of oil.

Consider this—all 10 were pure (virgins). All 10 fell asleep. All 10 ran out of oil in the waiting. So far, all 10 virgins are totally equal and the same. However, only five of them had reserve stores of oil at the ready. This oil was not something that could be shared or transferred from person to person—the foolish virgins had to go and get their own.

Oil is one of many images in Scripture that describes the Holy Spirit. In particular, oil speaks of the intimate, personal knowledge of God that comes through communion with

the Holy Spirit. This is something that every believer has—but, as we’re warned in this parable, it’s not enough to have oil for today—we need to have oil at the ready for when the bridegroom comes.

10 Days is a time to experience breakthrough in terms of our communion with the Holy Spirit. It’s also a time to store up, to “buy oil”. It’s through times of consecration like this that we develop the kind of intimacy with God that is spoken of through the parable of the virgins.

No one else can get this oil for you. The “prayer people” can’t bring you this oil. You have to get it yourself. 10 Days is a time to begin to store up oil in preparation for the wedding feast that is coming. In light of this parable, we understand that there is both an opportunity here to store oil, but also a dire warning to not be caught off-guard.

6) Beautifying the Bride

It’s incredible how highly Scripture regards the church, especially in light of how messy the reality is on the ground. The overarching message of Scripture, from Genesis 1-Revelation 22 is about a wedding that’s coming between the son of God, the Second Adam, and His wife, the Church.

Needless to say, the Bride is going to look great for the wedding. Consider the following Scripture:

Ephesians 5:25-32 “Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for her that He might sanctify her and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing but that she should be holy and without blemish...”

No doubt about what we’re reading here—before the Son of God returns for this wedding, we’ll be seeing a morally and spiritually pure church washed clean by the word of God, completely rid of any deformity, and without blemish. That’s a pretty high standard—but it’s the standard God has committed himself to in the Word.

Much of our church life is lived, perhaps unconsciously, with the assumption that this will never happen. Or, that if it does happen it will be completely independent of our agency and partnership.

10 Days is a strategy to move the church from where it is today into this reality—it’s 10 Days to be “washed in the word” to be “sanctified” and cleansed. And as we know from all of our experience with God’s people and with ourselves, there’s a lot of washing to do!

Revelation 19:7 describes the wedding and the bride this way: “Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His Bride has made

herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”

Once again, the climax of history is centered on the coming of the God-man and servant-king to marry a Bride who has “made herself ready”. We have a responsibility to make ourselves ready.

These last two points, “Getting oil” and “beautifying the Bride”, are both parts an even greater reality, a reality that is perhaps the most important reason of all to do 10 Days...

7) Return: Jesus is coming!

The story of history is speeding towards a climax—the return of Jesus Christ to rule, reign, and make all things new. As has already been stated, it’s the story of a wedding—the Kingly husband is coming to marry His bride: “And He shall reign forever and ever!”

Scripture has a wonderful name for the people of God: we are called “those who love the day of His appearing”. We’re those who are watching and waiting, longing and mourning for His coming. I feel this longing acutely in my spirit, my soul, even my body.

Recently, as I was driving to work, a worship song began to sing about the hope of Christ’s coming, and I found myself quite undone in the car, wiping away tears so that I could see the road. I feel like a stranger in this current era of human history; I’m longing for the coming of the rightful King. However, I’m convinced that personally, I’ve only scratched the surface of this reality. I only occasionally allow myself to acknowledge the weight of His absence.

Before the first coming of the Christ, there were people like Anna, a widow who spent all her time in fasting and prayer, and Simeon, a prophetic man who heard from the Lord that he would see the Messiah. They were longing for the coming of Messiah, devoted to watching and waiting for Him and they’re types of how we should position our own hearts in these days.

10 Days is a strategy of prayer, fasting, and *longing* focused on the Return of Jesus. It’s a time to acknowledge that while we have received “grace upon grace” through the Holy Spirit, we’re experiencing the physical absence of the most important person in our lives. It’s a way of acknowledging through a powerful act: humility that is unified, fervent, extended, that the only solution to the problems of this world lies in our Messiah King who is currently seated at the right hand of God, but is coming soon to judge the living and the dead. It’s a way of saying “half-measures” and man-centered/man-made solutions will not do. 10 Days is a way of longing for the return of Jesus Christ that expresses His great worth and our great need for a savior.

How: Planning 10 Days in your city

Step 1: Listen

- Step 2: Step Out
- Step 3: Step Back
- Step 4: Get a Plan
- Step 5: Share with your city
- Step 6: Do 10 Days
- Step 7: Follow Up

Step 1: Listen

As you read the flow of Scripture, you'll see a familiar pattern repeat itself over and over: God speaks to someone, they respond in faith, and after some significant trials and tribulations, something amazing happens. Like many readers of Scripture, I noticed that pattern in the lives of Biblical characters even though I hadn't experienced it personally. Now, having done 10 Days now for over a decade, I've lived those experiences over and over, and seen them happen in the lives of friends and fellow coordinators more often than I can remember.

You can expect a similar story to follow the planning of any 10 Days event (yes, even through you!), but it all starts with hearing His voice. And don't worry, you don't have to be "good at it" (or think you're good at it). It's part of your birthright as a believer. As Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice." Don't worry—he's a good shepherd!

If there's a stirring in your heart regarding 10 Days that may be an initial form of hearing His voice. If you are going to coordinate a major initiative in your area, that will call hundreds or thousands to a place of prayer and consecration, it's a good idea to take time to discern that it's God's idea.

Honestly, why would we want to embark on any major endeavor in life if it isn't springing out of His heart? We don't have time to waste. So let's hear Him!

How to Listen:

We can hear from God at any time—in fact, often he speaks when we least expect it. These are a few ideas on how to move forward in listening to Him regarding 10 Days.

- 1) Listen to the 10 Days Vision: This may seem obvious, but a first step in discernment of "is this God's timing for our city" is definitely hearing and understanding the vision for yourself
- 2) Take Time: Clear time to pray and wait on Him either alone or with others.
- 3) State your intentions: It's always good to make it clear what you're seeking from the Lord. If you're in a group setting, take some time to get on the same page
- 4) Experience His presence: If you want to hear His voice, prioritize experiencing His presence
- 5) Enjoy Him: Let your prayer be worship, adoration, and listening, not so much talking. Worship music is something that often facilitates hearing His voice for me. Seek His face and delight in Him!

- 6) Pray on-site: If you're considering a location, there's a special way that God can speak when you set foot on the land
- 7) Ask Good Questions—often listening to God opens up a track to dialogue with Him—make sure that you ask questions and get His response.
- 8) Write it down: It's great to keep track of what you believe God is speaking
- 9) Share with others: Through the testimony of two or three witnesses, a matter will be established. That's not to say that everyone you share with will be enthusiastic about it (there'll probably be some opposed, some indifferent). However, look for confirmation from other believers!
- 10) Watch for confirmations: God delights in confirming His word—as you respond and step out, He'll confirm that you're on the right track!

In conclusion: We were made for communion and partnership with God. Stepping out in faith is always a challenge, always risky, alternately thrilling and heart-breaking, and it's never boring. The first step and biggest key to doing 10 Days in your city is simple: Listen to His voice!

An Example:

In 2015, Michael Thornton hosted an incredible 10 Days under the “Jesus Tent” near a major sports stadium in Wilmington, North Carolina. Thousands of people came over the course of 10 Days and it seemed everyone who stepped under that tent was touched by God, from the mayor of the city to the homeless poor.

It's easy to look back on that moment and see how powerful it was, but when Michael first had the vision it was far from a sure thing. It required a sensitive ear to the Lord's leading and a heart of faith to step out. As you'll read, it also required perseverance in faith and hearing the Lord along the way.

Michael and I met in early November of 2014, and I had shared vision for 10 Days, planting a seed, but Michael needed to hear God for himself. In general, he is a wonderful model of someone who listens to God and then moves in response to His leading. Here's just a little of that journey in his own words, taken from his website www.fireinthecarolinas.org.

During December 2014, God began to stir my heart again for Wilmington. While in prayer the Lord said, “*I want you to put the tent up in Wilmington for 10 days of 24/7 prayer & worship.*” Having connected with some friends from the 10 days movement in Massachusetts, I knew the Lord wanted us to merge the DNA of the 10 days gatherings in New England with the 24/7 Ignite gatherings we have been doing in the Carolinas...Pressing deeper into prayer, the voice of Jesus began to fill my heart with piercing words. This is what I heard:

“I want to move here in Wilmington....Now, in 2015 I want you to RE-OPEN the port so that I can walk in! For 10 days & nights I want you to gather leaders and people to worship me! To seek my face! Over those 10 days, I will break the cycles of sin and spiritual slavery over Wilmington....Through this gathering I will redeem Wilmington in 3 ways: I will redeem her people, land, and destiny.”

While *praying for confirmation* of this one afternoon, my phone rang. It was a young lady who has never called me before and I only met once in my life...She told me, "Don't think I am crazy, but God told me to call you and give you a message." She went on to say that while she was praying several days prior, God gave her a vision of the **footprint of Jesus over the entire city of Wilmington**. He spoke to her and said, "**He was going to move in Wilmington in 2015. That this was the year of the city's Restoration.**" He also told her that there are idols in the city that must come down, and that He (Jesus) needed to be placed in authority to do so. After this, God burned my face into her mind and said, "tell this to Michael Thornton he will know what to do."

Amazingly, **WHILE** I am praying for confirmation to set up tent here, this call comes!"

Michael's Testimony continues...

Knowing God was breathing on this, I began to ask Jesus where He wanted to set the tent up.

The next day, a young doctor contacted me through our website. He said he had a vision of Wilmington while driving to work. We had never met before, but I just knew Jesus was stirring this. After our meeting, he shared with me a vision he saw around Legion Stadium in Wilmington. He said he saw worship team after worship team come and lift up Jesus. People with campers were pulling in and camping out. And through explosive worship, miracles, salvations, and healings were breaking loose. Jesus so filled the atmosphere, people were getting touched everywhere!

Immediately, I tracked down the director of Legion Stadium to see if we could use it to set up the tent. Because the field had just received new grass, he wouldn't let us it. "However," he said, "the Armory building is right next-door." So we went next-door. The Sergeant welcomed us and consented to letting use their property (which is right in front of the stadium) to set the tent up. All we had to do is sign a contract with his Gunnery Sgt. in Fayetteville (2 hrs away).

After 2 months of trying to make contact with Gunny Sgt. in Fayetteville, I received no response. I was getting a little discouraged. Then one morning while passing the Amory building, Jesus urged me to pull over and go inside. Sure enough the first person I see is the Gunny Sgt. from Fayetteville, NC who *just happened* to be visiting the Wilmington Armory that morning. Both he and I were overwhelmed and could feel the presence of Jesus. He turned to the younger Sgt. and said "give them whatever they need." So that day I walked out of there with a signed contract in which they did not charge us a dime to use the property for the 10 days!

Michael's story is miraculous and amazing. He hears the vision but then asks God if he should move and how to move. He also asks God for confirmation and for specifics, like the location he should use. Finally, he perseveres through the delay and difficulty with the location into yet another miracle where the location is provided for free. If you listen and then respond to the voice of God, you'll likely have a story like Michael's at the end. He's the God of Faith, and Faith comes by hearing!

Listen: In Summary

- The leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit is key to doing 10 Days in your city—He’s our guide and our counselor, so it’s no use attempting this without His leadership
- It can be helpful to write down words, impressions, dreams, and key insights you receive, especially in the early planning process
- Hearing from God is for every believer, not just the “experts”...His sheep all hear His voice!
- He will lead you step-by-step
- Often, God’s vision will be larger than your and will stretch you beyond what you consider to be your capacity
- God delights in Confirmation! Look for confirmation of what God is speaking. These confirmations will also be a sign to others that God is with you!

Step 2: Do...Something!

As you listen to God, you’ll discover an increasing conviction that this is something that God wants to do through you and in your city. You may even start to feel antsy, as though there’s something burning inside of you and longing to get out. As this seed grows inside of you, there comes a point where it needs to come out of the hidden soil of your heart and become visible. You can’t just sit there anymore—you’ve got to move beyond prayer to action!

Do Something: Share with others

I think that almost everything I’ve ever done with God has started by sharing with my wife, then other close friends. Start sharing with close relationships, then work your way out. Don’t initially move to public communication like social media. Share with your husband or wife, a trusted friend, a spiritual mentor. Putting words to this desire stirring in you helps to make it real. Don’t be too concerned if someone close to you doesn’t get it right away, or is skeptical.

As you move out from that inner circle, write the vision down. It doesn’t have to be long, but articulate what you want to do in your own words and on paper. Begin sharing with some ministers or city-wide church leaders who you feel are important in your city.

It takes a city to do a city-wide prayer event, so you’ll need people to help and partner in various ways. Of course, you’ll need to trust God to do a work in their heart. Don’t try to force it! Trying to manipulate or twist people’s arms to be involved is often unbelief masquerading as prophetic zeal. That doesn’t mean that we aren’t passionate or forceful in sharing vision, just that we allow the Holy Spirit to do His work of calling people to be a part of it. Please note: this does not mean that you need every major city-church leader on board to move forward. Often, it’s a coalition of the willing at the beginning!

Form a Coordination Team

As you begin to step-out, you'll need to form a team to coordinate 10 Days throughout your city. These will be the people who will work together and pull most of the weight in terms of networking and organizing 10 Days. This team can be large or small, but you need to have someone who's taking responsibility for the implementation of the vision.

A house will not build itself. You need workers to assemble the house and a foreman keeping everyone on task and coordinating all the various workers and materials.

City Coordinator/Catalyst: We refer to the point person for each city as either the 10 Days Coordinator or Catalyst. These are the “foremen” who are overseeing the building and organization of 10 Days. City Coordinators are responsible for three major things:

- * Setting up the Coordination Team
- * Discerning direction for the city
- * Connecting to the broader 10 Days movement.

Example: Stepping Out

In 2004, before I received the vision for 10 Days, I was struggling with stepping out to obey God regarding another vision for city-wide prayer. I had been a philosophy major in college and while God had called me into a ministry of prayer and unity, I had no models in my life of what this looked like. I was shy and much more comfortable in a classroom than a church. The bottom line was this: I was afraid to step out! Thankfully, I had a good friend who gave me a firm kick in the pants, helping me overcome my crippling initial fears that threatened to keep me from obeying God. His advice: Stop complaining and go talk to pastors about your vision. He said, “You probably already know where to start.”

Those words exploded in my heart. I knew there was a local church that had a weekly city-wide pastor's prayer meeting and the Holy Spirit had already highlighted that church as the place to start. Fear had blinded me to my first step; my friends' words and tough love opened my eyes. Overcoming my fears, I walked into the church that I somehow knew was where I was to begin. I was ushered in to speak to the assistant pastor. As I entered his office, I was so afraid I could barely speak. I was muttering words like “prayer” and “unity” but I'm fairly sure it was mostly incoherent.

Thankfully, I had come to the right place. The pastor, inexplicably to me, said, “Sounds like you've been hearing from the Lord, Son.” I felt like a tidal wave of relief and love washed over me. In hindsight, only a spiritually sensitive person could have drawn that conclusion because outwardly, I was a mess.

He made me feel welcome and introduced me to the other city leaders that would be key to success of the initiative. Holy Spirit, always a great leader, had led me to the one place in town where I would be warmly received and plugged into key relationships and partnerships to raise up prayer in the city.

With this initial success and the help of the pastor's group where I began attending regularly, I was emboldened to visit 49 churches in that city, some of whom were indifferent, suspicious, or outrightly hostile. However, many were also receptive. All told, 39 of those congregations agreed to participate in the prayer initiative. However, none of that would have happened if I had obeyed my very strong fears and not stepped out.

In Summary:

- Start Sharing with those closer to you first, then branch out
- Write down your specific vision so you can share it easily (you can also use materials from 10days.net)
- Form a Coordination Team
- You need a “Coordinator/Catalyst” who is taking responsibility for moving this forward
- The Coordinator sets direction for the city, forms the coordination team, and connects with the broader 10 Days movement
- Most importantly, step out!

Step (Back) 3: Recognizing Key People and Groups for 10 Days in Your City

Step 3 is more of a strategic “step back” in order to think about organizing 10 Days.

While 10 Days can be organized in many ways (retreat, small group, local church) it is primarily intended to for city-wide churches. A city-wide church refers to all of the Christ followers in your city. Visibly, it's made up of many congregations, parachurch ministries, and other expressions of the church. In short, the city-wide church is the church Jesus sees when he looks at your city¹.

Learning to see and think City-wide

If I asked you “who is the leader of your local congregation?” you'd know right away. If I asked you about the leader of your denomination or network, you may or may not know, but you could figure it out fairly easily, perhaps by visiting their website.

What if I asked you about the leader of your city-wide church? Who is it? Which person or group leads the church in your city?

It's interesting that much of our New Testament is addressed to city-wide Churches. The Epistles are primarily letters to city-churches. The book of Revelation is directed to seven

¹ This concept of city-wide church is used as short hand. Churches can also be viewed by nation, state, region, town, neighborhood, etc. What's important is the sense of connection to the earth, and to a particular place and the government there. It's very similar to how governments on earth work (city, state, national governments).

different “city” churches. We know from the early church fathers like Ignatius of Antioch that this city-wide organization continued in the years after the apostles died. For that reason, we can safely refer to the city-wide church as “the Church that God sees” when He looks at your city.

If God wanted to send a letter to the church in your city, who would he send it to? What’s the address for the city-wide church?

Historic divisions have split us into many different organizational structures (denominations, networks, movements), so the answer is usually not immediately obvious. However, if you have eyes to see, you’ll likely notice that God is already at work rebuilding an expression of the city-wide church right where you live. I’ve travelled to many dozens of cities in America and around the world and city-wide movements of unity in the church are happening in almost every place I’ve visited. Some are very mature and well established, others are just beginning to emerge. However, it’s interesting that this same pattern has developed in so many places. Often times, people are totally unaware that other places are doing the exact same things they’re doing!

When Jesus looks at your city, he sees a city-wide church. 10 Days is intended to help mobilize this church. Like any group of people, a city-wide church has leaders who contribute their gifts to the good of others. However, because city-wide church expressions are emerging in the midst of historic divisions, don’t expect the leaders of these movements to be sitting in cushy corner offices with name-plaques saying who they are. To spot people who are leaders in the city-wide church and critical to the success of 10 Days, it’s important to have discerning eyes and to look at function (what they’re doing), not title.

City-Wide Churches: Two Key Types of People

There are two kinds of unique “gifts” in the Body of Christ that are key to making 10 Days work. Both of these gifts can function as a Coordinator for 10 Days, or in supporting roles. It’s ideal if both of these gifts are working together side-by-side.

This understanding about these two key roles came out of something the Lord spoke to me in 2012, right before 10 Days started expanding to different cities, it’s been an invaluable help to me in thinking about how to organize 10 Days. I’ll summarize the word below, expanding on it for clarity:

1) “Bishops”: Leaders of city-wide church movements

“Bishops” are usually (not always) pastors of local congregations who have a city-wide calling and influence. Often, they’ll be involved extensively outside their local congregations and be something of a “pastor to other pastors”. They’ll often have influence beyond the church with the city government, business leaders, or other “secular” parts of the community. Bishops in this sense may or may not actually be called a “bishop”. The title isn’t important, it’s the function that counts, in this case, providing

shepherding and servant-leadership to a city and other church leaders and having a convening function in a given region.

A smaller town may just have one person in this kind of role; a larger city will have several. Bishops can sometimes fill the coordinator role. Often, they'll play more of a supporting or "gatekeeper" role in terms of opening doors for 10 Days due to their often busy schedule. In summary, here are some of the characteristics of a bishop:

- Usually a pastor of a local church
- Often (but definitely not always) their church is larger
- They're a "pastor to other pastors" in the city, often convening groups of pastors
- Self-aware of a "city-wide" calling
- Favor and calling beyond the church sphere in secular parts of the city

2) Unity Catalysts: Sent to Fulfill John 17

When God wants to accomplish something, he calls people to do it.

Think about the calling of a missionary. A missionary is someone who is called to God's great commission, to "go into all the world and make disciples of all nations." Consider that taking the gospel to the nations, while essential, is not the only thing the Father has sent us to do!

The Father is also totally committed to Jesus receiving the answer to His prayer in John 17: "Let them be one as we are one." Should it be any surprise then that God would call people to trumpet this reality as well, "until we all attain to the unity of the faith" as Paul prophesied in Ephesians 4:13.

Just as a missionary has a Matthew 28:18-20 calling, a "unity catalyst" or "unity apostle" is someone who God has called with a "John 17" type calling. This is one of the new things that God is doing in our time, when His eyes are focused on bringing about a fulfillment to Jesus' prayer.

Here's something I felt I believe I heard from the Holy Spirit about this gift/role in the fall of 2012:

"There is also the new breed...They have been called forth to establish John 17. They belong to the prayer movement. They belong to the whole church. Their love and faith that I will accomplish my prayer will cause them to endure to the end...This isn't a movement of pastors, but of apostles of unity, sent to cities to establish my will and kingdom. They will be humble, be peacemakers, be joyful, be tenacious, and persevere in hope for every brother in Christ. They are not afraid, and not afraid to fail."

Characteristics of Unity Catalysts:

- They Self-identify with a John 17 type, unity calling
- Engaged with the prayer movement but also connecting with the entire church

- Pioneering, Persevering, Humble, Joyful, Hope-filled
- May be confused about their calling due to a lack of known examples. It's a "new thing" God is doing, so they're trying to figure it out

City-Wide: 5 Organizations and Networks to watch for

Just as there are certain types of people that play an important role in 10 Days, there are certain kinds of groups that are key players.

1) Pastor's Networks and Associations

Any Pastor's group can be a good starting place for 10 Days

2) Leading Local Congregations

In every community, there will be certain local congregations that are taking a leading role in city-wide initiatives for service, prayer, or outreach.

3) "Kingdom Support" Organizations

These groups are essentially para-church ministries that are committed to serving the entire church in a given area. These organizations can be key helpers in helping mobilize the Church in a city

4) Marketplace Unity Movements

These are groups may be focused on prayer, justice, government, Bible-study, or career mentoring.

5) City or State wide Kingdom Networks

As I travel, there's a type of Kingdom Network that I'm beginning to see more and more in many cities, states, and nations. These Networks are built around four things that they emphasize to varying degrees: The unity of followers of Jesus (John 17), a commitment to united prayer and worship, a pursuit of revival and transformation, and passion for mission, outreach and evangelism.

These Kingdom Networks include many churches, pastors, and ministry leaders and often include leaders in other spheres of society as well.

10 Days is "software" that's meant to run on the "hardware" of these Kingdom Networks. 10 Days is meant to help these groups accomplish the purpose for which they have been formed.

Several examples of this in the New England area where I live are the New Hampshire Alliance, the New England Alliance, and Impact Connecticut. These three groups have a

commitment to 10 Days as an annual rhythm and they've been seeing increasing fruit and momentum from year to year through this strategy.

An Example:

In early 2013, 10 Days was moving from something I was organizing in one city, to something that others were mobilizing in many cities. In 2012, for the first time, we had multiple cities (3) do 10 Days. I knew that God wanted this vision to go to many more places, but I wasn't sure how that was supposed to work. As I sought the Lord for wisdom on how to bring this vision to new cities, he spoke to me about looking for "Bishops" and "Unity Catalysts" in various places where 10 Days would be planted.

At the same time, he prompted me to share the vision for 10 Days in Connecticut. Immediately on hearing this from the Lord, I thought of someone who was a "bishop" type in Connecticut, Rick McKinniss. Rick was leading an emerging state-wide network now called Impact Connecticut. However, as I prayed about it, the Holy Spirit encouraged me to reach out to someone that, at the time, I didn't know quite as well, Gregg Healey. As Gregg and I began talking, I began to realize that he was one of these "unity catalysts" that God had been speaking to me about (who knew!) Gregg, who was on the board of Rick's network, was able to present the vision to the rest of this state-wide network.

Separately, the state of Connecticut had received a word from a national prophetic voice regarding doing "40 Days of Worship". Rick, Gregg, and the Impact team decided to merge "10 Days" and the "40 Days" into one initiative that engaged hundreds of local churches and thousands of people across the entire state. Working together, the gifting of "bishop" and "unity catalyst", partnering through a state-wide Kingdom Network were able to implement a wide-ranging and powerful movement of worship, unity, and repentance.

At the end of the 40 days (that began with 10 Days), I attended a pastor's meeting in CT with about 125 pastors from across the state. As I walked into the room, I was struck by two things. First of all, there was a spirit of revival! Often, pastors come to these kinds of meetings seeking encouragement. However, at this gathering they were positively brimming over with the encouragement that had come through the 40 Days. However, more than just a spirit of revival, these pastors were aligned to move and act together as one, like an army. It was incredible to behold, like seeing something that you've longed for but never seen finally before your eyes.

God gives every gift for a reason, to be a blessing to His whole body. As I saw in Connecticut, when "bishops" and "unity catalysts" work together to unite the church according to God's blueprints, Heaven's blessing and grace will not be far behind!

In Summary:

- The city-wide church is the church that Jesus sees!

- In recognizing city-wide church leaders, look for function and calling, not title and position
- “Bishops” and “Unity Catalysts” are two key kinds of people who can help organize and advance 10 Days
- Bishops are pastors to other pastors and have a city-wide type calling and authority from God
- Unity Catalysts are people that God is calling up to champion the fulfillment of Jesus’ prayer in John 17. They love the whole church but also are part of the prayer movement
- Both of these giftings will form and participate in networks and organizations that are advancing these goals and crossing denominational and organizational lines
- 10 Days is “software” that functions on the “hardware” of regional unity networks

Step 4: Planning 10 Days as a Coordination Team

Every City needs a coordination team. This team is responsible for forming a corporate vision, a unified plan, and a strategy for calling the city-wide church together. This team will usually include at least one of the unique gifts of “bishop” or “unity catalyst” listed previously.

There’s many ways to mobilize a Coordination Team—don’t think too rigidly about it. Basically, you want a group of friends who agree to do this together (some with larger commitments than others).

1) Listening is Still Key

We began by emphasizing how important it is to listen to God and respond to His leading. While this is the starting point, it’s equally true in the middle, and true up to the end. As Romans 1:17 says, the gospel reveals “*a righteousness that is by faith from first to last*”. Simply put, “Faith comes by hearing.” So, we have to keep hearing God as we move forward.

Bring Others in: God puts grace on people’s lives in order to bless the whole Body. Discern what are the blessings and gifts (resident in individuals) that you want to unleash on your city?

Get Aligned with God and One another: Bring the team into one-accord on the vision through resources (available at 10days.net) and conversations. Keep in mind the lessons of Step 1: As the team comes together, start in worship, committing the effort to God with prayer, fellowship, and the presence of the Holy Spirit. As He begins to move, to show up then let the planning and other aspects flow out of that.

Share what you sense the Lord saying: If you lean on God (not your own understanding) he will lead you all in incredible ways! See how He confirms what He’s speaking with the others in the room as you listen together.

Money and Resources: There are ways to do 10 Days that require more money and resources, and ways that are very simple and inexpensive. Don’t treat money as a unique problem—after all, John 17 unity in your city is a much bigger, more impossible thing to seek than a few dollars. Ask God, and He’ll provide.

- In unity work, because of offense that is already present and the temptation to jealousy, remember the admonition of Paul in 2 Corinthians 11 to not let money be a stumbling block to others.
- When we do something free of charge or at our own expense with a cheerful spirit, it speaks to the fact that we are doing it for God, and at his leading.
- When God provides miraculously for His work, it causes a testimony that encourages engagement and praise to Him.
- Expect God to provide supernaturally, because He’s planning to do something supernatural in and through you!

2) “Master Plan” 10 Days in your city

Before you go out to the Church in your city and invite them into 10 Days, you want to have a “model” for what it will look like, including some specific ways for them to plug in and get involved. The model is your city-wide strategy that comes out of your times of listening and conversation as a coordination team.

Here are a few things you need to decide as a team:

What’s the Scope? What geographical area are you focusing on? What groups are you specifically hoping to engage? It’s fairly normal for this to be “mostly clear” but a little grey around the edges. If a group wants to engage but they’re a couple miles beyond your defined region, let them in!

What’s the Shape of the Gathering? At this stage in the growth of 10 Days, we’ve seen two major forms emerge:

- a. **Multi-Site** events with a focus on Evening Meetings hosted by many different groups/congregations in 10 locations
 - Multi-Site events often have an ongoing prayer element (24/7 prayer or 3 Daily Prayer Meetings, but can also stand alone with no additional prayer)
 - The emphasis usually is placed firmly on the evening gatherings
 - They’re sometimes an easier “ask” because it involves groups hosting in their own space
 - However, it can be harder to keep a city engaged for the entire 10 Days due to the logistical challenges of going from place to place

- b. **Single-site** events that bring many different groups/congregations together in one space and emphasize 24/7 or ongoing prayer
- Logistics are simplified by a single location
 - Usually accompanied by greater levels of prayer and worship
 - Can be a harder “ask” depending on the level of relationship
 - Can be more costly/more difficult organizationally than just using existing church building

Which of these two models most fits what God wants to do in your city? Or is it a hybrid or another model that no one has done yet? We encourage you to be creative in envisioning how to gather a city for 10 Days of prayer. I am convinced that the greatest breakthroughs for gathering cities as Jonah gathered Ninevah for repentance and worship are yet to come. Learn from what’s come before, but don’t be limited by these ideas.

What Partners? Who will you ask to Engage?

Think through specific groups and individuals that you may ask or invite to play a key role.

How can you honor and release the gifts of the Body?

In your region are countless and unique people that God has created to bless His body. Churches and ministries also have unique corporate gifting. Think of your role in 10 Days as being the conductor in an orchestra. You’re not playing an instrument, but your gift is to bring all the other instruments together and help them sound like a symphony. Muster the gifts of your city!

Sharing Leadership

Leadership gifts are part of what God has released in your city. But truth be told, one reason that we have a hard time with unity is that we cannot make room for one another’s leadership. When two strong leaders are in the same room, people who are used to making decisions and setting the tone, often they’ll decide to separate rather than work together.

Each leadership gift needs to be honored and have its own expression and ways to give; 10 Days is an opportunity to model leaders leading together. We do this through creating overlapping spheres of authority. Think of the church like an army. What if instead of having many generals, Colonels, Majors, and Lieutenants, sergeants, and enlisted men, an army just had a couple of generals and an undifferentiated mass of enlisted men. How would a Colonel feel to be lumped in with an enlisted man? It would be humiliating for him personally, but more importantly, an army like that would not be able to function. Likewise, in the Church and during 10 Days, we need to create various spheres for leadership according to each person’s gifts and callings.

One way that leadership is shared during 10 Days is through the multiple prayer and worship leaders. If you're doing 24/7 prayer, that's 8-24 different leaders and groups involved per day. Another area is through the evening gatherings. It's good to invite local leaders, perhaps some of the "bishops" or city-conveners to take leadership of the planning and execution of one or more of the evening meetings.

Will 10 Days have any Special Events or a Special Emphasis? 10 days is a lot of time to fill! Because there's so much time, there are many creative combinations and expressions that can come forth. 10 Days a blank slate, an empty canvas...so how will you fill it? Is there a special outreach or worship event that will be incorporated? A Solemn Assembly? Is there a special emphasis for your region based on what's happening or how God is speaking?

How will it be communicated and mobilized? It's important to decide on how to communicate, including things like website, email lists, radio or TV advertizing, social media, and the like.

3) **Who's doing what?**

Once you've decided what you're doing, it's important to decide who will do it! This will flow pretty simply out of the relationships and skills that you possess. It's good to break everything down into specific tasks, and then have one person responsible for each thing. One person can handle several areas of responsibility, and then draw on others in the coordinating team and around the city for the gifts needed to complete the work.

An Example:

2011 was our first time doing 10 Days in Boston, so we were learning many of the lessons shared here in real time as we went along. Our coordination team, which had just three people, prioritized the place of prayer and listening to God. As we began to seek Him, I was surprised by the power of His presence and the clarity of what he showed us. Since we had never organized 10 Days in a city as big as Boston, we were acutely aware of our need for God's help and guidance.

As we sought the face of God, we saw the church as a sleeping giant, who, like Gulliver, was being kept down by thousands of little ropes that represented small sins and offenses that cumulatively were holding us down. In the vision, we saw that the giant had a "white" arm and a "black" arm and that it was only by those two arms moving together that the giant could arise.

Interpreting this vision, in our master planning we prioritized engaging with both historically black and white churches in the city. We split the daytime prayer meetings between a predominantly white church and a predominantly black church, both of which were known for their gifting in prayer.

We brought a filled out schedule before the Lord, our “ideal” 10 Days schedule that had come out of our planning prayer times. Then we went to those people and invited them to lead nights of prayer and worship. We focused on inviting other “conveners” to host evening gatherings, so that they in turn would gather other congregations and ministries to lead together.

Our schedule at the end was about 80% like the schedule we had master planned at the beginning. We had engaged over 50 churches and ministries in leadership, bridging many cultures, languages styles, and denominations. While we attended all the gatherings, they were entirely led by dozens of other city leaders. The planning team took 7 minutes each night to share the vision. It was amazing to be “leading” a movement but at the same time to be mostly a participant, looking on as the church leaders of Boston led their people in prayer. And, in agreement with our vision, there was a powerful movement of the Spirit during the daytime prayer meetings in racial reconciliation between white and black Christians. While not everything went according to plan and there were some hiccups and misunderstandings, at the end of 10 Days we could rejoice in what God had done in Boston. We had moved from vision to fulfillment, leaning on His grace every step of the way!

In Summary:

- Keep Listening Together...prioritize His presence in planning!
- Make a “Master Plan” for your city
- Make sure to include many different gifts in leadership
- Decide who will do what
- Stay Flexible: There will be surprises along the way!

Step 5: Mobilizing Your City

At this point, you’ve developed a master plan and you have a team. It’s time to begin to mobilize your city for 10 Days. Every city is different, but we’ll cover a number of key insights and strategies for mobilization.

1) The Power of Invitation

There’s incredible power in personal invitation, preferably face-to-face. I get countless emails inviting me to events. I ignore most of them, unless they’re from a group that I’m invested in or leading. Likewise, I say “yes” to most invitations that I receive personally, especially if they ask me to serve in some way. As a Kingdom minded person, I want to do all I can to serve and build up the Body of Christ—often, invitations are a way that God speaks to me!

So, invite people into your city’s 10 Days, and invite them to play a role and provide leadership according to the gift that you discern in them.

God has given gifts to the Body of Christ. Each person's gift...is a gift for the sake of other people. Our gifts are not for ourselves; they only work if they're given away to one another so that we can all be built up. When we fail to honor one another, we harm ourselves by hindering the ability of others to give their gifts to us! You can only receive a gift that you're willing to honor. On the other hand, we show honor to one another when we recognize the gifts each part possess and create a platform for them to be exercised.

When we invite someone into something like 10 Days, we are literally saying to them: "I value you and your gift is essential to what God is doing in our city." Not only is this true, it also serves as a key to release the grace resident in that person for the benefit of all. Personal invitation is a powerful way for us to love and honor one another.

2) Call together the Conveners

Of course, there are probably too many people in your city to invite them all. It's important to get help in making invitations! In order to call a city together, you need the help of other conveners who will invite others.

We first stumbled onto this insight in 2011 during our times of planning prayer. God showed us that if each night were hosted by not just one, but many congregations, the impact could be multiplied and our job of inviting people could be simplified. We invited conveners of different parts of the city-wide church to lead an evening gathering, and to gather their network. God moved, and some nights we saw as many as 13 congregations hosting together. People that we didn't know personally had received a personal invitation!

3) Cast the Vision

A major threat to events involving multiple organizations is dilution of the message. Think of the game of "telephone". If you are inviting others, who in turn invite others, who then invite others, at some point people start to say "what are we doing again?" The message can easily become diluted as it gets passed from person to person.

In order to resist this natural dynamic, it's important to combine the "decentralized" strategy of relational networking with a strong "centralized" message presented by the convening team, and tapping into resources and relationships from the national network.

Resources for speaking a common message:

- Each city should have its own web address—either a website, facebook event page, or something similar (we have pages available for your city at 10days.net)
- Posters, event postcards, or other kinds of flyers can be helpful
- Different cities have used radio, billboards, online videos, and other forms of notification to broadcast a common message

- Have an email list and/or use social media as a way to communicate regularly with everyone who's involved. You may want to have one list for leaders and another for "anyone interested"

Strategies for uniting leaders and sharing with your city

One of the most important things you can do is gather city-leadership together in order to hear the vision for 10 Days, understand the purpose, and align their hearts together. It's a great idea to host a lunch or dinner for pastors/leaders, allow them to be together in the same room, and then present clearly the vision and also the logistics that are involved.

Your presentation should include:

- The vision of 10 Days: Cities stopping everything to seek God together
- Teaching around this vision that lays out the purpose and reasons
- Testimonies
- Prophetic direction specific to your city
- How to get involved/information on logistics

4) Create Positions of Service

As Moses was leading the people of Israel to the promised land, he encountered a problem that jeopardized the entire Exodus. The people were coming to Moses to judge between all of their disputes, pushing his abundant patience to its absolute limit. Thankfully, Jethro presented an ingenious solution: dividing the people into 10's, 100's, and 1,000's so that most disputes could be handled at lower levels. By creating positions of leadership and service within the Israelite multitude, Moses was able to divide up the work. Not only that, this created ways for countless other Israelites to use their gifts in service of the whole community.

10 Days is similar: People need to have doors of service, and it's up to the Coordination Team to help people know how to plug in. Think through what will be needed for your 10 Days and also be ready to "say yes" as people come to you with creative ideas on how to serve.

5) Scheduling Prayer and Evening Gatherings

Prayer and Worship are central to 10 Days, so you'll need to schedule people to lead prayer and worship for each segment. As we've discussed, depending on how God leads you, this can look very different.

- 24/7 worship and prayer: It works well to mobilize 24/7 in 1, 2, or even 3 hour segments. Create a spreadsheet with times, and allow people to sign up.
- 3-times a day prayer: This strategy, rooted in Scriptural patterns of prayer, involves a morning, afternoon, and evening time of gathering together to seek

God. This is great if you want to emphasize the relational aspect of the time, as it allows everyone to be praying at the same time.

- **Evening Gatherings:** Evening Gatherings are often the time when more people are present. We like to always include 3 elements in the evening meetings:
 - **Worship:** The gatherings should be Christ exulting times of worship
 - **Prayer:** Seeking God’s face in prayer and repentance should be central
 - **Communion:** The Lord’s Table, or *Eucharist* was given to us as a sign of our union with Christ and with one another. As we’re seeking city-wide unity in the Body of Christ, it only makes sense to celebrate it together as much as possible. Some groups practice a closed communion table, and it’s important to respect whatever limitations a host group puts on the table. If the host practices closed communion, skip that element rather than have half the people come to the table and the other half go without.

6) Beware the Pitfall of Offense

Invariably, as you step out and begin to mobilize for 10 Days, you will likely face some major disappointments.

- People that you think are “perfect for this” will not want to be involved
- Your calls, emails, and invitations will sometimes be ignored
- At times, you’ll feel as though you’ve been rejected (sometimes because you have been!)
- You’ll face spiritual opposition from the enemy who does not want the church in your city to be united
- You may encounter people who want to control or otherwise redirect this movement away from God’s purposes
- You will face different kinds of roadblocks and challenges along the way—don’t be surprised!

The key in the midst of this is to guard love in your heart for the people of God and the people of your city. Withstand the temptation to be offended with the people of God. Even when they might be fighting against you, you need to be fighting for them! They’re the bride and they’re beloved of God. And you have the privilege of serving them (even if sometimes they don’t want to be served).

You have a heart of love for the people of God. Your heart will be tested in mobilizing 10 Days—so guard your heart and keep “short accounts” with the saints of God!

Example: The Bridgeport Story (2016)

There was truly an amazing move of God in Bridgeport, CT during 10 Days in 2016 as about 40 congregations in the city made an intentional effort to host the presence of God in their city together. Here are some of the highlights from Bridgeport:

- They sustained 24-7 prayer in a central tent for 10 Days and had evening meetings with evangelistic preaching. They averaged around 500 attendees per night.
- Around 40 local congregations were committed to the entire vision, not just to hosting one night
- Many made professions of faith in Jesus Christ and were baptized
- Local congregations canceled regular activities in order to pray together as a city
- A spirit of prayer, repentance, and conviction was evident
- Relationships between pastors in the city were transformed
- Some secular city leaders took notice of the significant prayer and unity among Christians in Bridgeport

I think Bridgeport is a great model for different cities to build on, so I want to highlight three key things I noticed that contributed to seeing this powerful move of God in their city.

Key 1: Big Vision: Vacation Days for God

Pastor Luis Burgos, who was the catalyst for 10 Days in Bridgeport, first heard about 10 Days in June of 2016 at an Impact CT meeting. I shared the vision in 10 minute form, including the aspect of the original 10 Days vision where a city “stopped everything” for 10 Days to seek God.

Luis sensed God calling him to do this in Bridgeport, to call the city to “stop everything” for 10 Days and have 24/7 prayer in his church. He also sensed that God wanted him to invite his staff, whose income is made outside the church, to take vacation time. This was the aspect of the vision that challenged him the most—how could he ask his team to make that kind of sacrifice?

After sharing the basic vision with them for 10 Days of city-wide 24/7 prayer, Luis was shocked when his team volunteered, “we’re going to need to get vacation days to do this.” He saw this as a confirmation and encouragement from the Lord

The commitment to not only host a few nights of prayer, but to set-apart the entire 10 Days for seeking God, even taking time off of work, clearly was a powerful aspect of what happened in Bridgeport.

Key 2: Hearing the Vision Together

In September, Luis invited Gregg Healey and me to share vision for 10 Days with a group of about 50 pastors. We ate a delicious meal together. I was initially anticipating that I’d share for just a few minutes on 10 Days. However, Luis encouraged me to share for as long as I needed. With about an hour’s time, I was able to go into detail on the vision of 10 Days and hammer home the main points and what we could expect God to do if we humbled ourselves for 10 Days to seek Him. **It was clear that taking this extra time with the vision was helping people understand why and how to do 10 Days in a whole new way.**

A week later, Luis called me back: “Can you come back next week and do the same thing—we want to get even more pastors here!” I was moved by His faith and persistence, and of course, came back to share again. I was surprised to see even more people there the second time, including mostly new faces. All told, 110 separate pastors in Bridgeport got to hear the 10 Days vision together, at length, and over dinner.

Something happened in this exchange that helped to bring this group together on the same page.

It may sound very simple, “you need to hear the vision together to work together”, but it was actually a new experience for me and I think it’s something other cities can build on in future years.

Eating together and hearing the vision together as city-wide leaders are major keys to successful city-wide partnership.

Key 3: The God Factor—Faith-filled, Last Minute Surprises

Everything was moving forward in Bridgeport—10 Days would be hosted in a single local church with 24/7 prayer. Then, out of nowhere God brought on a faith-filled surprise to take the gathering to another level.

Gabrielle Beam and Christopher Leighton, a team of “at large” ministers who had previously helped bring Luis Palau to Bridgeport, arranged at the very last minute to set-up a large tent in a prominent, public space. They had incredible stories of God’s for the tent and vision to invite every person in the city to come. I was amazed by the level of faith on display with less than two weeks to plan these massive elements! The stories of God moving that Gabrielle shared brought an undeniable sense of God’s favor on this gathering. The city-wide body of Christ was able to turn on a dime to make this adjustment to an outdoor tent.

The move from a church location to a public location was a game-changer, as was the call to invite the whole city. Through radio, flyers, and even a billboard on I-95, the message got out to the city that the church was coming together to pray and they were invited! The vision that God had given Luis ended up being powerfully amplified by the vision that Gabrielle and Christopher brought to the table. God brought this powerful element to the forefront at literally the last possible moment and gave all parties the grace to say “yes”!

The God-Factor is key: Leaders need to be open to faith-filled input that may expand and enhance what is already planned.

Conclusion: Learning the Lessons of Bridgeport

Many of us want to see city-wide change and transformation. 10 Days is a spiritual tool, a divine strategy that's designed to do that very thing. However, if a tool remains in the shed or a strategy is only partly implemented, the value that comes from it will remain limited. To maximize the impact of 10 Days in your community, remember these three keys:

- Take Vacation Time to seek God—this moves 10 Days from a series of meetings throughout your city to an invitation for Holy Spirit to “set-up shop” in your city
- Gather city-leaders to fellowship and hear the vision together. To move as one, you have to be united in heart and in vision.
- Be prepared to respond in faith when God brings unexpected opportunities and expands your vision...remember, he's in control!

In Summary

- Call: Use the power of personal invitation
- Convene the Conveners
- Cast the Vision
- Create Positions of Service
- Schedule Prayer and Evening Gatherings
- You'll have plenty of opportunities for offense. So, don't let offense find a home in your heart.

Step 6: Pray for 10 Days

A Story

“Why am I wasting my time, my life?” That was my question to God on the two hour drive into Boston for the first night of 10 Days in 2014. Sounds pretty spiritual, right?

It had been a difficult year full of disappointments, betrayals, financial trials, and the confusing ending of a ministry we had started in 2013. On the way into the city, I talked with a good friend about what was going on. I wanted to just disappear into the city or go home, just write the whole thing off. I was done, and I could care less about the whole 10 Days thing.

As I got to Boston, I was feeling no better. I drove to the church where 10 Days was being hosted, only to find the entire thing empty just 15 minutes prior to the gathering. “I guess everyone else thinks this is a waste of time, too,” I thought. However, it was a little too quiet at this church. I checked the website on my phone, and discovered I had come to the wrong place! The church had grown and acquired another building since I was last there.

I decided to walk to the next location about half a mile away, knowing parking would be an issue.

I walked through the front door just a couple of minutes before the service began. Worship had already started. It was like a gust of fresh air, dispelling the despair that had been circling in my head for the past days. The presence of God was there. And there was an incredible sense of the unity of the Spirit that's so typical of 10 Days. Over 20 local church pastors had been involved in planning and hosting this gathering in Cambridge, just a few miles from Harvard University. I looked around at the diverse group of faces, black, white, Asian, Latino, and everything in between, all worshipping the same God in full voice, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. It was impossibly beautiful. I couldn't imagine anything more beautiful. All of a sudden, the difficulties and sacrifices of the previous months and years seemed insignificant. I broke down in tears, confessing to the Lord "It's worth it for this—it's worth it."

1) Moving from Mobilizing Prayer to Praying

The story above is certainly not the proudest moment of my life, but I share it because it illustrates the transition that takes place as we enter 10 Days, from mobilization and organization to simply sitting at the feet of Jesus. I've learned to enjoy both and see both as equally worthy activities, but they can certainly feel different. Every year is different, but more than a few years have had major difficulties in the months leading up to 10 Days.

- The purpose of 10 Days is to stop cities to repent, pray, worship, fast, and sit at the feet of Jesus.
- As an organizer, coordinator, or catalyst, the most important thing that you can do is to do that yourself!
- As you call others to "stop everything", plan to do it yourself, unplugging from normal life to seek the Lord. If you and your coordination team don't do it, it's hard to expect other people to do it.
- Some 10 Days are simpler and not "all consuming" (i.e. just having 10 evening gatherings). In these cases, plan to attend all the gatherings and develop and way to stay engaged throughout the day (fasting, etc.)
- Remember, this is *the best part!* Don't miss the chance to have time at Jesus' feet because of too much serving. This is the point of everything we've been working for!

2) You've wound the top...now watch it spin!

Through the organization and planning process, you've delegated leadership and orchestrated a coming together of the Body of Christ in your city. You've wound up the top—now it's time to watch it spin! Different kinds of 10 Days require more ongoing help to keep spinning.

- In a multi-site 10 Days, sometimes the hardest thing you need to do is figure out where the next meeting is. You'll be travelling a lot, but other than that you can give yourself to the place of prayer and any organizational emergencies or needed announcements along the way.
- In a single site 10 Days, there is more need for ongoing leadership. People will be coming and going in a new space, and someone on your team will need to show them how to "plug in" so they can serve the overall vision. Honestly, I have learned to love and enjoy the dynamic of moving into and out of prayer, worship, and caring for and loving the beautiful Body of Christ. It's all good!

3) Fasting, Praying, Serving, and "Crazy" Things

Fasting

- Because 10 Days is a fast, you'll be working through the physical and spiritual dynamics of fasting in the process. Lean in!
- Fasting is God's idea and we can learn to lead from a place of weakness

Prayer and Ongoing Administration

- You may need to stay "plugged in" to a certain extent so that everything keeps working. I find it's best to give myself set times of worship and prayer, and then to help where needed in between.
- The point is this: Don't let yourself be robbed of "the best part" during 10 Days of all times. Your most important place is at Jesus' feet. However, sitting at Jesus' feet cannot be separated from loving and serving the church

Washing the Feet of Jesus

- Remember, part of being "at his feet" is caring for the needs of the saints. I find in 10 Days the revelation of the church as the Body of Christ comes home to me as nowhere else.
- Prayer is important. Loving God is important. But I demonstrate my love for God by loving the people of God. Keep in mind: You've done this for them!!!
- You've loved them by setting the table through months of planning and organization. Now love them as they come and eat at the spiritual banquet you've prepared.
- There is a seamless flow between prayer, worship, silence, contemplation and loving people, administering, serving. It's all part of a beautiful sacrifice to the living God during 10 Days!

Crazy Things Might (Will) Happen

- This includes crazy good, and crazy bad and will include things you're not prepared for
- That's okay. God trusts you to do this, and he knows you'll make mistakes.
- Keep going—the formation that's happening in you as you make mistakes and respond to unforeseen circumstances is part of His plan

4) Marathon Pace

10 Days is a long time to pray, to be close to people, to be fully engaged spiritually, emotionally, and physically. It can be totally refreshing and totally exhausting at the same time.

- Pace Yourself: This is a marathon not a sprint
- If you find yourself growing very tired or irritable, it's okay to take a break and step back to get some rest
- Certain types of prayer are extremely dynamic and take a lot out of us. Be sure to vary your mode and style of prayer including including worship, intercession, silence, and scripture reading. Each mode engages us with God in a different way
- Try not to be engaged morning, afternoon, and evening every day. Pick two of those times, and take the other part for rest or time with your family. There will be exceptions, but the point is, don't wear yourself out
- Take a nap during the storm! God's got this and it's okay to rest even in the midst of external challenges.

5) Grow in God, and Enjoy

Every year during 10 Days, God surprises me with His kindness and His goodness. I always learn more about His nature, about who He really is, and fall more in love with His people. It's a blessing to be able to spend this time with our Father and His family. The Kingdom of God is all about Joy, Peace, and Righteousness in the Holy Spirit. So sit still and watch as those things increase in your own life and the lives of those around you through the power of the Holy Spirit!

Step 7: Follow Up

A Story

Oct. 18th, 2012 was one of the most encouraging days in my life.

Over four hours through two video discussions and a larger conversation with many of the 10 Days Boston evening hosts, we shared "tales of the Kingdom". I listened to testimonies for hours but we could have shared for days. In terms of sheer volume of testimony, and in terms of the encouragement it brought to me personally, the day was unparalleled.

As we heard story after story, I was reminded of the end of the gospel of John: Jesus did too many amazing things to write them all down! The same is true today when Jesus is in the midst of His people—He does too much for us to keep track of!

As I arrived 20 minutes late to our debrief meeting at the Emmanuel Gospel Center, I literally found the meeting by following the sound of laughter. As we continued meeting together, we continued to laugh. Why were we all so happy? First of all, it's because we're friends and we like being together! New friends are welcomed easily into the

mix. Christ dwells in all of us individually—His presence is even more special when we come together.

The stories that we shared about God’s work were the other source of joy. Throughout the day, I heard story after story of God’s work during the 10 Days. They’re the kind of stories that make you say, “Wow” or “No Way”. Sometimes, they just make you laugh because they testify to the nature of our good God!

I was extremely impressed by the perseverance and determination showed by many of the evening hosts in pursuing relationships with others in the Body of Christ. They exhibited determination, love, wisdom, and unshakeable hope as they lovingly tried to bring others into this season of encountering the Lord together.

Honestly, I was in shock just from the sheer volume of things God had done. Even the things that were hard and painful seemed to be encouraging in this light, just another learning experience on our journey together. I was reminded of how Jesus and the disciples rejoiced when the disciples returned from their first mission trip full of testimonies about the power of God.

I think Jesus was rejoicing with us as well.

1) Share the Story

When you spend 10 entire days with God, there are going to be testimonies...lots and lots of testimonies. Here are some ideas on how to follow-up and use those testimonies to build up the Body of Christ.

- Host a follow-up meeting for those who led during 10 Days
- Follow-up with and call people who played a key role one-on-one
- Write up a report (or use video or other media) to tell the story of what’s happened
- Share testimonies in your city, but also with the national network
- Testify with wisdom and humility: Don’t exaggerate, use it to praise God and to bring honor to other parts of the body (not to puff yourself up!)

2) Rejoice in the Lord...and Rest!

When God does amazing things, we ought to pay attention, be grateful, and rejoice! There’s something about honoring what God’s doing, even if it’s relatively small, that attracts His presence and leads to more and more of His activity, leading to more and more stories. So, rejoice in the Lord and give thanks for all the things He’s done!

Rest following 10 Days is key if you have been in a leading role. Because the months leading up to 10 Days are so busy for me personally, I always take a week off (or slow) to recover. Your rhythm may look different, but please do find time to slow down, rest, and recover your strength after pouring yourself out on behalf of God and His people.

3) Look for and Take the Next Steps!

The Church was born in 10 Days of Prayer. During the 10 Days leading up to Pentecost, the disciples waited in the upper room. But when the Holy Spirit was poured out, they were empowered and sent on their corporate mission to evangelize the world.

It's similar with 10 Days—God will use this time to speak, empower, and equip you. So, afterwards, it's important to “Go” where He sends you.

Often times, God will speak corporately during 10 Days regarding next steps for city-wide churches. He'll also speak of next steps for individuals. We've seen countless ministries and initiatives (corporate and individual) launched out of 10 Days, things like new city-wide prayer meetings, or pastor's groups, or 24/7 prayer initiatives, missionary or evangelistic efforts. God is going to be speaking to individuals and groups during this time—come out on the other end ready to move in response!

In Summary:

- Follow-up with participants and key leaders
- Hear their stories
- Tell the story using writing, video, audio, or other media
- Rejoice in what He's done!
- Go where he is sending you, both individually and as a city

Conclusion

My goal in writing this 10 Days Coordinator's Manual has been to help answer the question I get so often, “how do I do 10 Days in my city?” The truth is, I don't really know and I'm still very much learning how to do this. As Jesus said, “Apart from me, you can do nothing.” However, under His leading, we can do all things, especially those that seem to be impossible!

If nothing else comes through, the most essential thing is this: We must listen to the Lord and follow His lead! This is the only program that is going to get us where we need to go.

I've shared with you some wisdom and insights gained from doing 10 Days many times and in many different forms. It's amazing that we've been able to work together to gather thousands for prayer over the past years in more than 30 cities. However, my heart is hungry for more.

In 2004, God showed me a city that had stopped everything for 10 entire days to seek the face of God. He also showed me a map that kept getting bigger and bigger. I believe God wants to take this movement in both directions. The “city stopping” represents depth of encounter with God. The expanding map indicates a wide-level of engagement.

As a movement, he's taking us both Deep and Wide.

Deep is real, Holy, permanent, and eternal. Wide is exciting, encouraging and promising. What really gets me excited is when Deep and Wide come together.

We're envisioning many people, many cities, many nations "dropping everything" to seek God in unity as city-wide churches on an annual basis during the fall Biblical feasts. We're going to see multiple cities stopping for Sabbath-like 10 Day seasons of repentance, fasting, transformation, renewal, and mourning for the return of Jesus Christ.

"Well, that's impossible!" some would rightly say. I think what they really mean is "it would take a miracle". Personally, I spend a lot of time with people who don't seem to understand that "things are impossible" since they keep seeing God do miracles when they step out in faith. If you're reading this manual, I think you're one of those people!

Personally, I'm betting on the people of faith and their God over "impossible".

How would God respond if an entire City took 10 Days to seek His face together? And what if this was happening not just in one city, but in thousands of places around the world? How would God respond to this?

Already we've seen incredible things, amazing things happen as the people of God have come together in Unity to seek His face.

I've never seen a city stop everything for 10 Days, but I've seen enough to get an idea of how good it's going to be. We're going to see this happen! Let's persevere in faith for the joy set before us, the joy of seeing the Church of Jesus Christ entirely enthralled with their bridegroom God and completely in love with one another. May we see them brought to perfect unity; just as the Father is one with the Son, Father, let them be One!