

CALL TO PRAYER

JANUARY 2024



ONE ALLIANCE PLACE SET APART FOR GOD

On December 7, 2023, President John Stumbo, our National Office staff, local Alliance pastors, and other Alliance family members gathered on the property of One Alliance Place—the future home of the C&MA National Office—to consecrate it to the Lord. During a prayer time at the November 2023 Board meeting, it occurred to the members that the site had never been consecrated to God and to His purposes. Previously, it had been a place of unbridled sin. Drug activity, prostitution, and violence had thrived there while the old Kmart stood vacant, providing a convenient hiding place for illicit activities. John said, “In biblical times, when God’s people were ready to take a step forward, they were called to consecrate themselves and the land. So, that’s what today is about.”

Prior to heading out to the property, we worshiped the Lord in song. Mike Plunket, pastor of Risen King Alliance in New City, New York, led a teaching on cleansing prayer and our spiritual authority in Christ. Mike defined this as “the right and the ability to direct one’s speech into the ‘heavenly realms’ (Eph. 6:12) in such a way that agents in the spirit realm submit and

obey, with corresponding outcomes in the natural realm” (see Mark 11:23). This is also known as binding and loosing (see Matt. 18:18). An example of spiritual authority is seen when “Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness” (Matt. 10:1).

As groups of 15 filed out to the construction site, one National Office staff member carried a flag emblazoned with the phrase “An Appeal to Heaven.” A key aspect of the service involved taking back the enemy’s ground by confessing and repenting of the sin that had defiled the land. Examples of this biblical practice are seen in Daniel 9, Nehemiah 9, and elsewhere. In our God-given authority, those of us gathered spoke directly to the powers of darkness and canceled all of Satan’s legal rights to the property. We then declared the lordship of Christ over the land and called down God’s blessings on it, claiming spiritual promises and Scriptures. We covet your prayers as we continue to move forward with Project ReImagine, trusting God to bring it to completion.

| by National Office staff

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INTO THE LAND OF PROMISE

Many people today are trying their best to keep, perhaps, a New Year's resolution to live a different life, but before the year is past, they usually fail. They make these resolutions often and yet fail to keep them and so give up trying in despair. This is what the devil wants. He knew you would fail all the time. Many Christians are doing the same thing and perhaps think God has put them in hard places, and their efforts are vain to live in them.

Beloved, it is not what we can do but what God can do. Jesus Christ came not to impose taxes but to pay them. He does not command you to be right. That was the work of Moses. There is a great difference between law and grace, as great as between demand and supply. The law says, "You must"; grace says, "I will enable you to do." The law says, "Be strong and be holy"; grace says, "I have come to bring you the blessings of holiness." The first words spoken to Joshua were: "Go over into the land which I do give to you" (see Josh. 1:2b). Jesus comes to give, not to demand. He says, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

We are so grateful to our friends and partners in the gospel for their faithful prayers, heartfelt encouragement, and generous giving to Alliance ministries. We are here because of you! Following is a story from the spiritual harvest taking place in Sendai, Japan.

"Up until now, I had never considered God's existence. After meeting the people at the church, I have begun to wonder if maybe there is a God!" These were the words of Sato-san* as she reflected on her visit to Freedom Life Church, the Sendai church plant. Like most Japanese, Sato-san had never considered God or His existence in her entire life—not even once. A friend invited her to a worship service, and Sato-san came. Experiencing a worship gathering and Christian community made an impact on her. It caused her to think about God and even opened her up to the possibility of His existence. This is a small step, but we celebrate all steps in the right direction! Thank you for making it possible for us to connect with people like Sato-san. Please pray for her and others in this harvest field as they contemplate the existence of God and consider the claims of Christ. Ask the Lord for a mighty harvest of souls!"

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THEALLIANCE

by Stephen and Yire Woerner, Alliance
international workers serving with aXcess
in Japan

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