"Best Practices" Guidance for Implementation: Dynamite Prayer: A 28-Day Experiment by Rosario Picardo/Sue Nilson Kibbey

Step 1:

Introduce, explain and cast possibility-filled vision in every setting about God's potential response to daily personal prayer for breakthroughs—and then continue to explain it again and again. This as you both initially introduce this to your congregation to launch it—and repeatedly, over and over, explain what it is and what we are doing together as a congregation in any and every setting during the 28 days (and beyond!). This includes in worship, small groups, committee meetings, youth group, and with individuals.

Our experience has been that most effective is always using the language of possibility ("What might God do, if ...?" "How might God respond if ...?" etc.) whenever you explain that for 28 days, our entire congregation is going to embark on a breakthrough prayer experiment.

Do not simply announce to your church that "we are going to do this." Instead, fuel the atmosphere of your congregation with the spiritually adventurous sense of possibility. Example: We don't know what God will do in response, but we believe deeply that prayer makes a difference...so let's add to our existing prayer lives the additional prayer to ask God to break through each day for 28 days—and see what unfolds!

Here is some additional descriptive, inspiring language that our publisher's promotional team created to help enhance the sense of possibility for those embarking on the 28-day experiment using this guidebook. Feel free to incorporate it into your messaging (verbal, written) as you launch and lead the Dynamite Prayer through the month.

NOTE: do NOT use all of this language at the same time—just sprinkle it throughout the month, as you continue to excite and fuel your congregation to pray!

Option 1: Supercharge your prayers. Tap into God's miraculous power. Open new doors of possibilities in your life and world.

Option 2: Tap into God's unlimited power. Experience more than you could have ever asked, thought, or imagined.

Option 3: Pray with resurrection power. Discover the possibilities God has for you.

Option 4: Break through the walls of your prayer life and discover miraculous new possibilities

<u>Option 5</u>: Break through the walls of your limitations. Discover miraculous new possibilities.

Here's a longer description you might choose to provide verbally or in writing:

This daily prayer quide will show you (and each of us/all of us together) how to begin a practice of breakthrough prayer, tapping into God's unlimited power, opening new doors of possibilities, and transforming your life and world.

Here's a description of the "Dynamite Prayer" guidebook you could use or incorporate:

There is a massive current of divine power — God's resurrection power — that is active and alive in the world today. What if, through prayer, you could tap into the miraculous power of God's Holy Spirit and unleash more than you could ask, think, or imagine into your life and world?

Dynamite Prayer is a daily prayer guide that will show you how to begin a practice of "breakthrough prayer," a way of praying where we ask God to open new doors and reveal new possibilities, fueled by the Spirit's power. This 28-day adventure will take you from feeling stuck, overwhelmed, and uninspired to curious and expectant as you surrender your own preferences and ideas and courageously follow the miracles God brings into your life.

Each day contains:

- A brief meditation on a verse from Scripture that will help you see how the Spirit's dynamic power has been at work throughout history and in your life today
- Reflection questions for the day
- A short breakthrough prayer for the day
- A prayer word or phrase to help you make breakthrough prayer part of each moment

Here is another description you could use to help people connect personally the value of breakthrough prayer, which some may not heard of before:

God's Spirit, God's resurrection power, is always at work in the world, creating new possibilities and breathing new life into things. And God promises that, through Christ, we have access to this miraculous power. But how often do we actually live in this?

Most of us spend our prayer life looking inward and focused on our problems instead of looking up and out for the possibilities God has for us. We want something new, something fresh, something more, but we don't know how to get there.

Breakthrough prayer is a simple, powerful process of surrendering what we know for the mystery of God wants to reveal. In it, we discover we're not responsible for finding the ideas or the solutions but rather trusting God to give us more than we could ever dream up on our own and following what emerges.

Here are some questions you could ask to your congregation...to help them connect personally with their need to this type of daily prayer:

Do you feel frustrated, stuck, overwhelmed, and discontent?

Do the odds seem insurmountable and you're out of ideas?

Do you want more but don't know how to get there? You have no clue what to do differently or next...?

Does your prayer life feel flat? It's inward-focused and problem-focused...?You pray because you know you're supposed to, but you wonder if God really hears you.

Do you feel stuck and like the challenges and walls you're facing are insurmountable? You need a breakthrough – to see supernatural possibilities beyond your earthly limitations...?

Provide everyone in the congregation has a copy of the *Dynamite Prayer* resource (paperback or Kindle), and explain that it is a daily devotional/prayer guidebook for the 28 days for their personal time with God each day. PROVIDE THEM A "START DATE" TO BEGIN!

Encourage them to identify a time each day to read, respond to the reflection question in writing, to either pray the breakthrough prayer or created a unique one of their own...and then to use the Prayer Hold as a quick repeatable prayer throughout the day.

Encourage them to have their Bible alongside, so they can look up and read the day's scripture as well as read more verses before and after as they feel led.

Idea: you might want to describe when and how you are going to make time to do this yourself each day—when, where and how.

Emphasize as you explain how to use Dynamite Prayer that when praying for breakthroughs each day, you then look "up and out" to notice how God responds. Just doing the devotional daily reflection questions and praying the breakthrough prayer for the day is only half of this experiment. The other half is then noticing and naming how God shows up and breaks through personally, and throughout our church's life together!

Explain how you would like them to share God's responses...what they notice and name. Do you want them to post it on your church's facebook page? Email or text you? Write it on cards available to to each person when they attend worship each week? Other route?

Step 3:

Each week during the 28 day experiment, preach on the week's theme of the entries that week (see the table of contents of the guidebook—and you'll notice that there is an overall theme for each of the 4 weeks of entries).

You could choose any of the week's 7 days of specific scriptures as your foundational text for your sermon for each week (all 28 daily entries utilize the Greek word dunamis or miraculous resurrection power...which is also the Greek word from which our English word "dynamite" came from along the way). We would encourage you to emphasize the theme of the week's entries.

If your sermons are recorded (video or audio), we would love for you to share those on dynamiteprayer.com (you can upload them there) during or after the 28 days— for other pastors/leaders/congregations to utilize or from which to gain ideas for their own 28 day experiment! If you create PowerPoint slides, handouts or anything else to go with your sermon messages and feel comfortable sharing those/uploading at dynamite prayer.com as well for the same purpose, that would be awesome. You will truly help lead the way!

Step 4:

Ask people to share their stories and examples of what they notice about God's breakthroughs during the 28 day experiment is crucial. Otherwise, praying the breakthrough prayer each day will be only a cognitive (rather than a heart and spirit) new prayer practice.

Each week in worship or other venue, share stories of breakthroughs that you and/or individuals in the congregation have noticed and named. (Remember to get permission from individuals to share their breakthrough prayer stories first.). **ALSO share those on dynamiteprayer.com along with what you are observing about the atmosphere of the congregation, any questions individuals are asking you, plus new ideas or ways you are rallying your congregation to move breakthrough prayer, via this resource, to the center of their lives, and of congregational life.

Remember also, when you convene your council meetings, or when the choir meets to rehearse, the youth group gets together, Sunday classes gather—to train your leaders of these to open their time together by asking not only for "prayer requests/concerns" but also about "what breakthroughs have you seen or noticed, as a result of our 28 day Dynamite Prayer experiment?" Request that your leaders write down those breakthrough that are named and pass them along to you, unless confidential to that group. This will be an additional way you can track with how the 28 day experiment is taking hold and impacting your church's culture relative to prayer for new possibilities.

Step 5:

Consider scheduling a 28-day experiment celebration event for your congregation — when the journey through the *Dynamite Prayer* guidebook finishes!

Your agenda for this can include sharing again about breakthroughs and new open doors that God has brought, sharing of individual stories from church members about how this has impacted their daily prayer practice and what they've learned, plus new next steps God may have unfolded during the 28 days for your congregation or leadership to investigate, explore or on which the church can simply move forward together.

AFTER the 28 Day Experiment:

We would both urge you to continue your newly-established breakthrough prayers for God possibilities together ongoing. One next step would be to create a two-sentence breakthrough prayer for your congregation/ for individuals to pray daily (possibly at a certain time of day), plus pray together in worship. Check out Sue's book, Open Road: The Adventure of a Breakthrough Prayer Initiative (@2021, Marketsquare Books) for specific step-by-step guidance.

NOTE: never, ever stop explaining what the breakthrough prayer is in worship and any other gathering in which you are praying it together! Always explain it (using the possibility language provided above, or

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some of your own)...so that your breakthrough prayer together doesn't become a "word habit of the mind" that your leaders and congregation aren't really *praying* — and instead just reciting together.

THANK YOU so much for your prayer partnership...as we together see what God has in store for your congregation!

-Sue and Roz

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