

# 40 DAYS OF HOPE

## Organizer Summary

We are so blessed that you have shown an interest in leading the 40 Days of HOPE in your church or region. This summary is a resource created to help you facilitate what GOD is saying to do during this season of prayer, fasting, worship, and outreach.

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in **unity!** It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore." (Ps 133)

Psalms 133 is the best way to describe why we do the 40 Days of HOPE. Unity (also meaning harmony) is the highest function of the Body of CHRIST, and it gives us the most effective and fruitful outcomes. This is why the LORD says, "how good and pleasant it is". This psalm also points out that unity/harmony is where GOD commands the blessing of "life forevermore", which can also be understood as "sustained revival".

With this in mind, the 40 Days of HOPE seeks to unite the Body of CHRIST around the things we value to bring transformation to our regions, state and nation. It is a practical way of coming together yearly, 40 Days to Palm Sunday, and doing what we love and value together.

**The Vision:** "A united Church co-laboring together in the power of the Holy SPIRIT to bring awakening and transformation to the nations."

This Summary is intended to help you with ideas that you can pray through, and see which ones best fit your church, region, abilities, and situation. Look at it as a menu in which you can pick and choose the items you are hungry for, and what your region needs for proper nutrition. This is not intended to be a one size fits all, but has been developed to connect with what you are already doing in your congregations, and suggest ways you can do it together with others.

## The Fruit from Previous 40 Days of HOPE

◇ The first 40 Days of HOPE was for a problematic street in our city where there was homeless, drunkenness, and crime. We asked the churches to come together and prayer-walk the street, to share their faith, and to pray for the businesses. Twenty-five churches got involved and we saw a spiritual shift happen on that street. Some homeless people received the LORD and were helped to get off the street and into rehab. We also had our long-standing "F Street Book Store" close in our city on the 39th day of the 40 Days of HOPE.

◇ We asked all the churches we knew in our area to host a prayer meeting during the 40 days. Through GOD's grace we were able to fill the calendar, having at least one prayer meeting a day for people from our region to go to. It was such a blessing to fill up each day with a prayer meeting and visit other churches to pray with them.

◇ At the core of the 40 Days of Hope was a small group of pastors/ministry leaders meeting together for noon day prayer 5 days a week. We named the place where we met "The War Room" because it was such a powerful time in prayer. The LORD birthed vision and prayer topics that were on HIS heart, as well as, intimate times of ministering to one another. In addition we bonded in the SPIRIT, in a way that none of us had ever experienced before. We feel that 40 Days of HOPE has given us breakthrough in our personal lives, churches, and in the region. We anticipate similar groups springing up across our state next year.

◇ Every Friday night during the 40 Days our core team held regional meetings to encourage those participating in the fast. We celebrated with worship teams from across the region, and many prayed for breakthrough and shared testimonies about what God was doing throughout the 40 Days.

◇ Around 30 churches in the mountain cities came together every Saturday for prayer and worship, asking GOD to move in the mountain cities.

◇ Activate LOVE Workshops were used to help the church, release the love of CHRIST into their communities. Everyone that attended was taken up a notch in love and good works. This also helped kick off LOVE Week during the last week of the 40 Days.

◇ Christian preschool implemented the 40 Days of HOPE Prayer Guide for Children from the Waymakers website ([www.waymakers.org](http://www.waymakers.org)) in their daily curriculum, and saw GOD answer the children's prayers. It also encouraged the kids knowing that they were involved with something bigger than their school, and recognizing that they were joining other churches throughout the region in unity and for GOD's purposes. The preschool felt that connecting the kids, at their age, to what GOD is doing in their community is bringing eternal changes to their young hearts.

◇ In one area, nightly meetings were held. It is reported that many were healed, that the presence of GOD was tangibly felt in the meetings, and that GOD touched the broken-hearted healing their emotional wounds.

◇ In one region there were at least 3 to 7 daily meetings all over during the 40 Days of HOPE, whether prayer meetings, worship events, or outreaches into the community. GOD's people were on the move, united, praying, fasting, and loving those in the world.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

There are many on ramps to the 40 Days of HOPE, and it is not a one size fits all. What is GOD saying to you for your region, state or nation? How can you use this initiative to move the Body of CHRIST closer to the FATHER's heart? What are things your region already values that you can build upon? What are causes that you can rally around? Take the time to pray into this and the LORD will show you what HE wants to do during the 40 Days.

Example: In the East County of San Diego, pastors were already praying together for over 30 years on a monthly basis, and some were wondering what next steps they could take in unity. The 40 Days of HOPE provided a platform for each congregation to cross-pollinate by praying with one another, as well as, participating in joint outreach events to learn from each other's strengths.

### Things You Can DO In Your Region

First things first: sign up for our daily emails at [40daysofhope.net](http://40daysofhope.net) so you stay up to date during the 40 Days.

The 40 Days is a blitzing of your region with fasting, prayer, worship, outreaches, and evangelistic activities.

Fast for personal, family and regional renewal

Encourage the Body of CHRIST to fast food, and feast on GOD. Promote personal repentance, consecration, and renewal to GOD on a personal, marital, and family level.

### Pray

- ◇ Use Our Prayer Prompts sent out through daily emails for united prayer direction
- ◇ "Seek GOD for the City" devotional resource for broader prayer objectives
- ◇ Prayer Evangelism - praying for the lost to come to CHRIST
- ◇ Hold daily prayer meetings throughout the region that are open to all.
- ◇ Create a regional calendar to put all the events taking place in your region.
- ◇ Pastors and Leaders praying regularly/daily together
- ◇ Encouraging congregations to saturate their neighborhoods with prayer, care, and share adopting their streets and identifying key areas of need.

## HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE (cont'd)

### Worship

- ◇ Connect with the worship leaders in your community
- ◇ Open air worship, prayer, and the reading of GOD's Word
- ◇ Worship events
- ◇ Intentionally target areas to release GOD's presence through worship
- ◇ Cultivate an umbrella of worship over the region.

### Outreach and Evangelism

- ◇ Connect with the outreach ministries in your area and invite the Churches to join the outreach events
- ◇ Have Training and Sending events
- ◇ Loving through Service Activities
- ◇ Street and Neighborhood Evangelism
- ◇ Serving the needs of your cities

**LOVE Week** is the last week of the 40 Days of HOPE and is dedicated to releasing the unconditional love of CHRIST throughout the region through:

- ◇ Random acts of kindness
- ◇ Caring for the less fortunate
- ◇ Loving your neighbor
- ◇ Giving generous tips
- ◇ Openly asking for prayer needs in public
- ◇ Sharing the Gospel
- ◇ Invite people to join your Resurrection Sunday Service

## **Ways Individual Churches Can be Involved**

(The following is on our website at [www.40daysofhope.net](http://www.40daysofhope.net))

### **Doing what you already do**

Many churches are already doing what the 40 Days of HOPE is encouraging. Many of us already have prayer meetings, worship events, or outreach activities. However, can we do them in such a way that other people from different churches can join us during the 40 Days of HOPE? For Example, if there is a prayer meeting that you already have, you could open it up and share it on a regional calendar so that others can join you in praying with an emphasis on the 40 Days of HOPE.

**See more testimonies and videos at [www.40daysofhope.net](http://www.40daysofhope.net)**

### **Keep your congregation informed**

Share the daily prayer prompts with your congregation which will encourage and direct them as they join other believers in praying for their region, state and nation.

### **Encourage your congregation to join the fast**

Fasting is one of the most powerful tools that GOD has given us to draw near to HIM. Imagine your congregation, and others, throughout your city fasting and praying together, and being directed to pray similar prayer prompts for the region. It will not only bring transformation to our congregations, but it will affect the region for the Kingdom of GOD.

### **Pray for your neighborhoods**

For US Residents [www.pray4everyhome.com](http://www.pray4everyhome.com), your congregation will be able to adopt their neighborhoods in prayer evangelism and care for those around them. We also encourage inviting your neighbors to your Resurrection Sunday Service at the end of the 40 Days of HOPE.

### **Join or host a special event**

We don't often have the opportunity to cross pollinate with other congregations. By doing a special worship or prayer event it gives our congregations new life and hope by mingling with other believers outside of their normal weekly routines.

### **Host a Pastors' Prayer Group**

If unity has been on your heart, the 40 Days of HOPE is a great time to reach out to other pastors in your city and ask them to come together regularly during the 40 Days to pray and fast for your area. This one activity has changed many pastors during previous 40 Days of HOPE.

**There is more...** Creativity is a gift in many leaders and pastors. We have seen the 40 Days of HOPE do amazing things in setting the hearts of believers on fire for GOD. There are endless expressions that can come out of this time of fasting and prayer so feel free to explore with the Holy SPIRIT what HE would have you do during the 40 Days of HOPE.