

Raising Up Gatekeepers for Your Church

Our pastor and prayer coordinator sought the Lord for a plan to involve our congregation in prayer. This led to a prayer model based on the concept of “gatekeepers.”

Historically, gatekeepers were appointed by Kings David and King Solomon to stand guard at the temple (see I Chronicles 26). Later, Nehemiah appointed gatekeepers when the walls of Jerusalem were being rebuilt (Nehemiah 4:13-23). They were assigned to stand guard at the various gates into the city: north, south, east, and west. The gatekeepers were responsible for guarding the city, opening and closing the gates, and overseeing rooms in the temple.

At our church, we have adopted the gatekeeper model, assigning a ministry emphasis to each gate:

EAST GATE:

Those who pray at the East Gate pray for those in church leadership positions.

SOUTH GATE:

At the South Gate, prayer is offered for God’s provision and financial blessings upon the congregation and church.

WEST GATE:

Those at the West Gate pray for our outreach to the lost and hurting people in our community.

NORTH GATE:

At the North Gate, prayer focuses on the protection, spiritual growth, and unity of the body.

During worship, church members are encouraged to take their place on the wall of prayer at the gate to which they have felt God’s call. Each gate group meets once a month for focused prayer. All four gates pray together once a month. It is also our goal to have each gate covered in prayer on a daily basis.

We believe that God has called us to build a community of watchmen and gatekeepers to pray for His vision and purpose for our church, and to stand against the enemy, who would try to hinder the fulfillment of that call.

By Sandra Chambers