



PRAYER AT
THE HEART

A MOVEMENT OF HOPE

Congregational Representatives

CONGREGATIONAL LEADER OVERVIEW

PROJECT 2026

Passover (Easter) – Pentecost

***One Million Christians
Praying For
One Million Conversions***



Thank you for being a participating congregation. This guide is written with Project 2026 in mind. However, events or campaigns like Project 2026 are tactical and often short-lived. Around any tactical exercise, you need a long-term strategy that drives the vision.

Our goal is to develop a strategy that sustains a movement of prayer and evangelism, resulting in revival in the church and a great awakening in the culture. Pick out the things you can do immediately but always keep the long-term strategy in view.

Overview

From Passover (Easter), Sunday, April 5, to Pentecost, May 24, 2026, we will mobilize one million people to pray for 50 days to see one million people come to Christ. We will do this, with your help, by mobilizing people in your congregation.

As a **Congregational Representative**, you should:

- Establish communication with your **County Representative Team**.
- Cooperate and collaborate.
- If you are the only participating church in your area, help recruit others.
- Remember: this is a team effort. Ideally, each county should have at least 10 collaborating congregations (more in metro areas).

Steps for Congregational Reps:

1. Register on the **PATH website** as a Congregational Representative.
2. FYI: The average county has a population of just over 100K (110k) and slightly more than one church per thousand – 110 churches.¹ There are more churches in the South, and fewer in the West. There are often 10 bergs or more per county.
3. Do a **statistical assessment** of your city/county. Know your county population, and the population of the cities/town in it; the number of congregations, even the number of significant ministries. Don't ignore the college population if you have one.

¹ The number of churches across the nation is estimated to be between 325,000 and 350,000. Roughly, that translates to about one church per thousand, an average of 110 per county. In the South, that number may be double or even triplet due to the number of single-cell, family-like congregations that number less than 50. In the West, it may be one church per 2500. To determine the exact number of churches that you need to mobilize use this simple formula: One congregation per 14,000 residents. In a county of 100,000 (100/14=7.14), you need 7-8 congregations – that's all. We recommend a minimal goal of 10 collaborating congregations. Notice, we are setting the bar slightly higher than the minimal.

4. Think about pastoring the community.² 76% of USA towns have less than 5000 residents. You want to know the population, actually, **the number of households within 15-20 minutes of your location.**³
5. Forge partnerships with nearby congregations.
6. Mobilize your members:
 - **Evangelism as Blessing** training.
 - **Operation Andrew** prayer triplets.
 - Neighborhood prayer (Bless Every Home app).
 - Workplace prayer (SALTY Guides).
7. Set a bold but realistic goal for how many in your congregation will pray for lost loved ones.
8. Aim for **10 collaborating congregations** in every city/county.

Month-by-Month Timeline: Congregation Representatives

Caution: These are suggestions, options on your buffet. **Project 2026** is bottom-up, not top-down. Share these ideas with your members and let the Holy Spirit orchestrate what works best in your congregation.

January 1

1. Hold a **vision-casting meeting** with your congregation and share resources.
2. Help your State meet the goal of **20,000 Christians praying across your state**, for 20,000 to be saved. Of course, that will vary from state to state, but that is average benchmark. To get an exact goal, divide the county population by 350⁴ – that is your conversion goal to help us reach one million across the nation.
3. **Set a goal of minimal goal 50 people praying in your congregation. With a minimum of 10 collaborating congregations, that's 500 people praying to see 500 souls saved.** Be as aggressive in your goal setting as you dare.
4. Review and familiarize yourself with all resource materials.

² Today, we see the church as a building to which people from all over the city are drawn – and we minister to ‘our congregation.’ In days past, churches were assigned a ‘parish,’ a geographical area. The clergy ‘pastored’ the parish – both members and nonmembers. The church existed as a lighthouse to the community.

³ About 15% of USA cities have a population in excess of 10,000. About 8% have 25,000. And 4.2% are in excess of 50,000. Only 342 cities, 1.8% have 100,000 residents. Even small cities are a collage of neighborhoods.

⁴ For example, the average county has a population of about 100,000. Thus, $100,000/350 = 285$. That's your minimal goal. In city/county of 1 million/ $350 = 2.850$.

5. Identify and train ambassadors to bless community leaders.
 6. **Allow the County and State Representative Team to assist with the coordination of ambassadors** contacting State Representatives and Senators, Congression Members and US Senators, the Governor and State leaders. We don't want them overrun – but we do want them 'blessed.'
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January 10–31

1. Join the **Prayer at the Heart** nightly national prayer call.
 2. We will release the broadcast information as soon as possible. The **one-hour call to prayer** will be hosted by P. Douglas Small and Reagan Wilbanks and will feature guests who are calling the nation to prayer. This will be the official launch of the PRAYER AT THE HEART – One Million Christians Praying for One Million Souls to be Saved, from Easter/Passover to Pentecost, 2026.
 3. Join the **statewide weekly prayer calls** (“Prayer Wall”) at 518-318-7117.
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February

1. Form a **Congregational Leadership Team**:
 2. Project 2026 Coordinator (working with the pastor).
 3. *Evangelism as Blessing* Coordinator (to recruit and train the congregation).
 4. Ambassador Coordinator – identifies 2–3 candidates for certification by Project Pray (candidates work with the city/county representative or Ambassador Coordinator).
 5. Operation Andrew Coordinator (partners members into teams of 3 for prayer and support).
 6. Follow-Up Team.
 7. Youth Coordinator (engages youth in the Project 2026 effort).
 8. Prayer Leader (weekly prayer focused on Project 2026 + encourages statewide call participation by members).
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Begin Evangelism as Blessing Training:

1. What is involved:
 - 24 short downloadable readings (15 minutes each).
 - Kick-off + 4 weekly training sessions.

- Downloadable leadership materials include a Leader's Guide and Participant's Guide.
 - Involve the whole congregation, including youth in a 90-minute training session.
 - Breakout sessions for the youth may be necessary after the initial training.
2. Announce that your church is joining in the **Million Christians Praying for a Million Souls to be Saved** effort. Mention this every Sunday and continue to recruit members to the *Evangelism as Blessing* training.
 3. Repeat *Evangelism as Blessing* training in March, if needed.
 4. Certify 2–3 **Ambassadors** to reach community leaders.
 5. Hold a **weekly prayer meeting** focused on covering the Project 2026 effort.
 6. Join the **weekly prayer call** connecting those across your state in praying for revival and spiritual awakening.
 7. Plan a **kick-off prayer event** for the congregation before Palm Sunday asking God to give new converts and renewed believers.
 8. Connect with the County/City Representatives for suggestions on how to collaborate with other congregations.

March

1. Keep promoting and recruiting to gain congregational support.
2. Continue *Evangelism as Blessing* training as needed.
3. Finish Ambassador certification; **commission them publicly**.
4. Develop a list of community leaders (political and non-political) for Ambassador visits. Consider sending a non-monetary gift, a token of support to leaders. The gift should be meaningful but not considered valuable as to constitute a bribe.
5. **NOTE:** It is important for Ambassadors to know their role is priestly in nature as a counselor with the goal of blessing and reconciliation.
6. **Draw a circle around your church location.** Be as aggressive as you dare – a one mile, or five-mile radius. Now consider prayer ambassadors to every business, every school, every public space, in that radius. You are now not only pastoring a congregation, but a slice of the city, the community. The ambassadors are agents of goodwill and your desire to be a congregation that serves the community and not simply its members. This is missional.
7. **Don't wait until Easter** to call the congregation to make a commitment to the 50-day prayer effort for the lost. Begin at least by March 1, to create a core team, as large as necessary, but not less than 10-12, in the smallest congregation. Up to 40-50 in congregations of 500 or more. These will be your forerunners, your

program advocates. The goal for each of them should be to recruit 3-5 other participants. These may also be the core of your Operation Andrew prayer triads.

8. **Step up the level of prayer** and the intensity of your recruitment effort.
9. Have special prayer for the anticipated effort every Sunday, as a special feature of your Sunday AM service.
10. Announce **Easter Sunday as the kick-off day**.
11. Make it the first of **two special invitation Sundays**. Easter and Pentecost Sunday.
12. **Pentecost Sunday** will be the last day of the 50-day prayer campaign and second invitation Sunday.

April – Palm Sunday

1. Publicly distribute **Operation Andrew** materials by this day or preferably earlier.
2. The core group of 10-12 congregational leaders should already have this material and be prepared to distribute copies to others they recruit.
3. Promote Easter as the key invitation day—when people are most open to attending church.
4. On Palm Sunday, or before, have the congregation make a list of family, family-like friends, coworkers, neighbors and community leaders. Those who have gone through your Evangelism as Blessing material have already done this. Keep repeating the process of prayerfully listing unchurched family and friends.
5. Also, the Bible calls us to pray for kings (those in political office) and for influencers. Have congregational members add a community leader to their list.
6. Also, ask the congregation to be aware, and to pray for those who God puts in their path during their daily life, as we are reminded by the story of the Good Samaritan.
7. The number of people on each person's list will vary.
8. Some will have a handful on their list; others will have 40-50. Encourage them to carry list daily – to place it somewhere they will see it, and to begin to call these names out to God in prayer. Categorize them by openness (most open, somewhat open, most distant). Pray for all but focus on those perceived to be most open.
9. Congregational members should invite the ones on their list in the most open category to Easter services.
10. Plan distribution of the **50-Day Prayer Guide**.

Easter (Passover Sunday)

1. This is the first Sunday of the 50-Day prayer campaign.
2. Hold a **special service** (sunrise + breakfast).
3. Encourage members to invite those most open from their Operation Andrew list.
NOTE: Andrew brought Peter to Jesus, and every Christian has the potential to influence others and possibly world changers.
4. Encourage members to download the **50-Day Guide**.
5. **Launch Your 50-day Prayer Campaign.**
6. Promote daily prayer guide downloads). The personal prayer guide follows the trajectory of the 7-week, 50-day campaign, beginning on Easter Sunday, and concluding on Pentecost Sunday. These can be released day, by the congregation – by email or some other means. They can be printed as a weekly handout. They are available online as well. A limited supply of printed guides is available nationally.
7. You are free to customize the prayer guide by adding information that may be more applicable to your congregation.
8. You are free to print your own copies using the downloadable pdf.

Sunday After Easter

NOTE: We attempted to avoid creating too much clutter around your Easter Sunday event. But now it is time to roll up our sleeves and take the project seriously.

The prayer guide has been distributed and for seven days now the people of your congregation have read the daily evangelism-mission challenge. Each day a different state is featured as well as a UPG living in the USA.

1. You may have distributed the **Operation Andrew materials** to the entire congregation but take time and review the guide again and emphasize the importance of prayer in the evangelism process.
2. If you have not done this before, have members lay 3-5 loved ones' names or better-yet, pictures of family and friends, from their list on the altar or tack them to a cross or a designated prayer wall.
3. **THIS IS VITAL TO YOUR SUCCESS!** Keep the lostness of family members and friends before your congregation. Remember, witness without prayer means witnessing alone, without the Holy Spirit's partnership. It is hard and cold. Prayer changes us for the witness encounter, and it invites the Holy Spirit's leadership.

4. Begin **weekly prayer for these names** during services allowing time for the Holy Spirit to move on hearts. Don't rush this weekly moment. Allow the Holy Spirit to break the heart of the congregation for the lost.
 5. Members should continue to lay more names and pictures on the altar weekly, or at the foot of a cross until Pentecost Sunday. These names and pictures will serve as a reminder of our evangelism obligation and of God's love for the lost.
 6. Those participating should find two others (forming Operation Andrew triads) to partner with for the remainder of the 50-day prayer campaign.
 7. The Operation Andrew Coordinator can assist in forming teams if necessary, pairing men with other men and women with other women.
 8. The teams are encouraged to meet weekly in person or by other means, to pray for one another and for each other's lists.
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2nd Sunday After Easter

1. Last Sunday, Palm Sunday, names were laid on the altar. This Sunday, additional names may be laid on the altar. In fact, that might continue until Pentecost Sunday, the 50th day of the prayer emphasis.
 2. This Sunday, each participating member will be asked to find two other people with whom they can partner in prayer during the remainder of the 50-day prayer campaign. This is Operation Andrew.
 3. The Operation Andrew coordinator will assist in building these teams, and if possible, collect a list of those partnering together.
 4. The teams are usually men with men, and women with women, or three couples in a partnership.
 5. These teams are encouraged to meet weekly, in person, if possible, by Zoom or at least by phone, and pray for one another, and for one another's list of loved ones.
 6. You may augment the partnerships with an afterglow. However, you do not want to make this effort a side-bar affair. You want, as much as possible, to mainstream this evangelism effort and involve every member.
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3rd Sunday After Easter

1. Your **Ambassador Teams** should have finished their certification and been commissioned by the congregational elders or leaders.
 - They have a list of community leaders who they will systematically visit over the next four weeks.
 - They are collaborating with the city/county representatives to avoid overlap,

and with the regional/state representatives, with regard to state assemblymen, the governor, and US congressional members.

- The goal for the ambassadors, in the full 50-day period or seven weeks, is 15-20 appointments per team. If that goal is too aggressive, set a more reasonable goal and narrow your list.
 - The ambassador ministry is not limited to the 50-days, but it will make a greater impact if launched in the 50-days, and then continued with quarterly visits to community leaders, continuing to build bridges.
2. Your **weekly prayer meeting** to support the effort is continuing and hopefully gaining strength.
 3. You are encouraging congregational participants to join the **state-wide, once-a-week call** for the lost.
 4. You **continue to pray weekly**, Sunday after Sunday, for the names and pictures that have been placed on the altar.
 5. As you receive reports from Ambassador teams and their connections and reception by city and community leaders, you are sharing them with the congregation. You are praying, as Paul commanded, for those in authority and with community influence.
 6. You want to **encourage your Operation Andrew teams to meet soon, face-to-face**, for a time of prayer and strategy as they combine their list of people for whom they are praying. Have them again, prioritize, as a group, five-to-ten who they perceive to be most open to the gospel. They want to engage, as much as possible, as a team.
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4th Sunday After Easter

1. Now we are in the homestretch.
2. Prayer should be continuing with fervency – both the local prayer effort and the state-wide weekly call. You may have put in place a weekly county-wide prayer call.
3. The **Operation Andrew team members**, and that should include all the congregational members if possible, and certainly half, will now reach out for the first time with a personal contact to their most open family members and friends.
 - The ‘reach-out’ can be a card, or better yet, a text or an email.
 - “Haven’t talked for a while, you have been on my mind. How are you doing? Are you up for a cup of coffee or a quick lunch sometime in the next few days?”
 - This is a personal reach out. It may be to one person, or two or three.
 - Each Operation Andrew triad is aware of the reach-outs each other is doing and they are praying and sharing results.

4. The **Ambassador Teams** are continuing their visits.
 5. The church leaders are revisiting and emphasizing the ***Evangelism As Blessing*** model throughout the 50 days.
 6. Everyone is using the 50-day Prayer Guide.
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5th Sunday After Easter: Two Weeks to Pentecost

1. Pentecost Sunday is the 2nd Invitation Sunday. You are now 14 days away from that climatic Sunday.
2. **Operation Andrew** is in full swing – That is hopefully a majority of your adult congregation. You are now experimenting with what it means to truly be a missional congregation.
 - Members have sent their **initial contact** – a text, an email, a note, and hopefully they have had a positive connection. A positive connection is important, that's why you want each person to start with a list of 3-5 of their most open contacts. You are praying that at least one will respond positively to the gospel.
 - Now, you want to **accelerate the relationships**. Encourage a dinner meeting, or something more personal. For ladies, it may be shopping outing, or tea at a favorite spot. For guys it might be fishing or hunting, or just another face-to-face event, this time, less hurried. For couples, it may be a barbecue, a joint affair each inviting two to three other couples – still building bridges.
 - **Listen to Their Story** – You are probably **not ready to share the gospel**, at least, not until you listen to their story – and your response to that is still not sharing the gospel – it is affirming them. Letting them know you have heard them and that you care.
 - At the most, you may **offer to pray for them**.
 - **Pray casually**. Do it in a way that does not embarrass them but truly lets them know that God loves them and so do you.
 - Moving too quickly – may terminate the relationship. You have a fragile bridge. Truth is heavy. Make sure your bridge is capable of carrying the heavy truth you, at some point, need to deliver.
 - Your **language is that of 'blessing** – and when you pray for them it is to invoke God's blessing on their life, for them to know His love and experience His grace.
 - You are working with your short list of what you perceive to be the most open hearts out your family of friends. Don't rule out others on the list – pray for them as well. And **follow the promptings of your heart**. Also, don't rule out the political person for whom you are praying or the

community influencer. Most of all, don't forget that God orders our steps. He may, like the Good Samaritan, place someone in your path with whom you have no history.

- If in these weeks, people are led to the Lord, celebrate their conversion.
 - Allow the relationships to unwrap at a natural pace. Some will go faster than others – don't rush, and don't miss open-heart moments.
3. The **Ambassador Teams** are continuing their visits with community leaders.
 4. The **Youth Evangelism track** is unwrapping simultaneously.
 - The youth teams may collaborate.
 - Youth gatherings focused on evangelism, inviting friends on the short-list are often effective.
 5. The **ungirding prayer effort is continuing.**
 - You may consider special nights of prayer – with men.
 - Or with youth! Or women! Or couples. However, the Lord might lead.
 - Each Sunday, you are praying for those who have been laid on the altar – and the number of those names and pictures might be growing week by week.
 6. The **Follow-up plan** should be ready – along with the materials you will use.

NOTE: You are focusing on those perceived to be most open, but continue to pray for the entire list, not ruling out others.

6th Sunday After Easter: One Week to Pentecost Sunday

1. You are now **operating on all cylinders.**
2. The **Ambassador teams** are finishing their visits. Have them double-back and issue invitations to those they have visited to attend church on Pentecost Sunday.
3. Your prayer effort has been noble – but it is not over.
 - **Open the church for prayer – all week**, if possible, every day.
 - If that is impossible – open the doors for prayer during the weekend before Pentecost Sunday.
 - Don't plan a prayer service per se. **Just open the doors and let people come** – early in the morning, on their way to work; at noon – let them gather as they fast lunch in prayer for their friends; on the way home from work.
 - Let them come at the time most convenient to them, and stay as long as they desire, and pray.
 - Hope that some will lie prostrate before God, weeping over souls.

- Put soft music on. And lights – but dim, not dark.
 - Scroll the names of loved ones laid on the altar on the screen – or prayer cues, scriptures, etc.
 - Use banners as prayer themes – for the family, for revival, for souls, for drug addictions, for schools, for the needy (Project Pray Publications has banners just for such an occasion.)
 - If appropriate, gather those who are present in the early morning, at noon, or in the evening for a circle of prayer. **Don't do a formal presentation.**
 - All day long, allow people to come and pray, to sit in the sanctuary and weep for the lost.
 - Some, on your list, may surprise you – they may be more open to coming to the church to pray, than in coming for a formal service. Keep your options open. Allow the Holy Spirit to work creatively.
 - **Advertise. "This church open for prayer,"** with the times listed. Few evangelical churches are open on weekdays that welcome people to simply come and pray.
 - If possible, **schedule members of your prayer team** to be present at various hours when the church is open for prayer – that protects the facility and provides guidance for anyone with questions.
4. **Operation Andrew** – This is the week, if appropriate as led by the Spirit, to share your conversion story with those for whom you have been praying.
- To invite them to know the full measure of God's blessing on their life by openly declaring to God their desire to know him.
 - During the week prior to Pentecost Sunday, you will make your most valiant effort to share God's love with your family of friends – and invite them to this special day.
 - Rely heavily on the *Evangelism As Blessing* training material.

Pentecost Sunday – Invitation Day

1. Plan a special service for Pentecost Sunday – this is your climatic INVITATION Sunday.
 - Pray that God will give you a **creative plan for Pentecost Sunday** – music, drama, a grand welcome for guests, a creative invitation to know the love of God.
 - Don't be surprised if regular attenders want to make a fresh commitment – an estimated 10 percent of those who attend evangelical churches regularly, have never made a definitive commitment to follow Christ.

- **All those for whom you have been praying are now to be invited** to the special service.
 - **Make sure your effort is quality** – both the music and the message, as well as a balanced invitation to know Christ.
 - **Include a prayer of blessing** – for everyone, but especially for those who are guests, for whom you have been praying.
2. This is **the climatic Sunday** for your Operation Andrew effort.
 - You want members to invite those friends who were on their short-list and sit with them, if possible.
 - Your prayer is that they will respond to the gospel in some way or the gospel message will give the believers who invited them, an open door for them to share Christ.
 - Have community leaders come as honored guests.
 - Make sure everyone is welcomed royally.
 - Each Operation Andrew triad will welcome the guests of members of their team.
 - Plan a guest reception.
 - Don't let Pentecost Sunday be the last day of your evangelism effort.
 3. Allow **the youth** to do special invitation for their friends, and perhaps a separate event. Include them in the primary service with music or a drama. Or even a testimony.
 4. This would be a good Sunday to **have various members briefly share their conversion story**. Chances are, most in the congregation have never heard one another's salvation story.
 5. You may have some visitors who have not been in church for a long season. A hard, long push for coming forward at the end of the service may not be wise. Opening the altar to those who are ready to respond is a good idea. Make sure you have altar workers ready to pray with those who respond. And make sure their friends join them at the altar.
 6. As some pray at the altar, **encourage small groups of prayer** to form in the congregation. That puts your honored visitors in a circle of prayer with the friends who invited them. They may make a decision to follow Christ at that point.
 7. Encourage each member to **take their friends to lunch** – and in that relaxed atmosphere where they can ask additional questions, some might make a commitment to Christ.
 8. Pentecost was the birthday of the church – the church on mission. If you have faithfully executed the plan, you have aroused a sense of mission in your people and you want to cultivate that going forward.
 9. The 3000 saved at Pentecost were not saved in the Upper Room, but in the streets as a result of the overflow of the 120. **Look for the impact of overflow** as a

result of your effort. Fifteen nations were impacted on that Pentecost Sunday of Acts 2. Ask God for the nations.

10. **Continue the effort of evangelism.** Have your members keep visiting their list and praying for open hearts. Looking for opportunities to pray the prayer of blessing.

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