

PRAYER FOCUS OCTOBER 2021

ROBSON PARK

A Brief History

Robson Park was the second congregation of Southside Community Church and officially launched in 1997. A number of families moved into the area (some from our Edmonds Campus) and began to have an immediate impact. In an effort to let the neighbourhood know of our presence, we had *Upstream* (Russ and Sandy Rosen) join us for a week of festivities. We had nightly meetings and a weekend Party in the Park before our official launch at Easter.

Over the first 18 months we met on a Saturday night. We had a number of new families join us but the mistake we made was that we thought if we did the same things in Robson Park as we had done in Edmonds we would get the same results. It was a different place and God was doing a different thing.

Over the first years we got deeply involved in things like Parties in the Park, music programs, sports camps and we were heavily involved in Prince Charles Elementary School. During the Olympics we held special events in conjunction with the school.

We saw a number of people join us from another local church that was struggling and closed and then we had a huge influx of teens as “Pete’s Place Youth Group” was a huge part of what we were doing. At one stage we packed the building with people who did not know Jesus or were very young in their faith.

Our Mission Groups had impact in on their streets and in their back yards. People came to faith and were baptized. For the first decade of our life together in RP we saw God do so many wonderful things.

Robson Park has also experienced some very difficult times. Through several times of deep pain some of our founding families left. Due to the pain the energy for outreach wained and the need to care for those remaining grew. Although they were difficult days the congregation still had some very faithful people who have demonstrated a great passion for Jesus and for the church.

As we were getting back on our feet Covid hit. Now is the time however to rekindle our passion to see friends and neighbours come to know Jesus and to once again become a light in what is an incredibly dark neighbourhood. We have hope that the best is yet to come.

Thanks for being willing to spend the day in prayer for our missionaries to the Robson Park neighbourhood.

Preparing to Pray

When we look around it's not hard to see the spiritual hopelessness in our neighbourhoods; people not knowing who they are or where they are going. People are looking for identity but sadly often in all the wrong things. God's Presence alone will bring the transformation to our communities that we long for. He is the one who can change a neighbourhood, a city, a nation. Do we believe that God is both willing and longing to transform spiritually barren communities when we His people engage in active persevering prayer? **Are we desperate enough to get on our knees and cry out to God over and over for revival to come to our streets?** We must be serious about this. We will likely encounter resistance and we may get discouraged. But God asks us to press on and to keep praying week after week, month after month, year after year, with fasting, prayer and humility as an act of obedience to the Lord.

As our focus today is on the **Robson Park Neighbourhood** keep the following words from one writer in front of you. Let us pray for God's Shalom for that neighbourhood as an overarching umbrella of all our prayers in the next 20 mins.

- *Shalom is what the Kingdom of God looks like*
- *Shalom is when all people have enough*
- *Shalom is when families are healed*
- *Shalom is where churches, schools and public policies protect human dignity.*
- *Shalom is when the image of God is recognised, protected and cultivated in every single human.*
- *Shalom is our calling as followers of Jesus . It is the vision God set forth in the Garden and the restoration God sets forth for every broken relationship.*

1. Thanksgiving - (3 mins)

Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. (Matt 6:10)

'Not by might, not by power, but by my spirit' says the Lord. (Zech 4:6)

Using these 2 verses spend a few minutes in thanksgiving. Here are a few suggestions:

- That our God reigns and has become King
- That we belong to a different kingdom
- That He has called us to participate with Him in His kingdom work
- That the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives within us.
- That we can do all things through Him who gives us strength.
- That God's desire is to bring wholeness and flourishing to our lives and neighbourhoods.

2. For our People in Robson Park - (5 mins)

Pray the following (as well as other things God brings to mind) for those who are a part of this congregation and sent to join God at work there. **As you pray for the different needs in the**

neighbourhood I invite you to slow down, open your ears to the Lord's voice and pray as He leads. These points are to direct our prayers but they are no means exhaustive. It might be that the Lord leads you into another prayer for this neighbourhood. Follow His voice.

1. For a deepening intimacy and love for Jesus. (Heart)
2. For a growing love for neighbours and the neighbourhood. (Neighbour)
3. For engagement as a congregation in outreach events. (Neighbour)
4. For discernment to see where God is at work and a courage to join Him. (Neighbour)
5. For the Spirit to be a hedge of protection against spiritual attack. (Heart)
6. For a discipline to learn more about God and to be surrendered to what He asks. (Mind)
7. For a discipline to learn about the Sikh and Muslim faith of our neighbours. (Mind)
8. For Nicole, Joanne and Shelley as they lead MG's in the congregation. (One Another)
9. For stewardship of all that God has entrusted to us to be used for mission. (Strength)
10. Other

3. For the Neighbourhood - (7 mins)

1. For an openness of the neighbours towards spiritual things.
2. For relationships to be built with people from the Mosque.
3. Use of the Back Room at RP for neighbourhood events
4. For Shalom (peace and prosperity) and an outpouring of God's Spirit.
5. For the poor who....
 1. Need food
 2. Need Housing
 3. Need help/freedom from addiction and violence
 4. Need Healing
6. For Prince Charles School - families, teachers and relationships to be built.
7. For other churches to flourish and see people come to faith.
8. For the re-establishment of the Shire Music School
- 9. For the groups that meet in the church building:**
 - a. For the Narcotics anonymous group
 - b. For Baljit - before and after school - (who runs the program out of RP)
- 10. Outreach** - For Crispin Bays neighbourhood event- October 31st- "*Safe Place harvest Gathering.*:" (Ron, Pamela, Shane and Linda's community)

4. For Connected Ministries involving those from RP congregation (3 mins)

1. For **Team Up** (Graham and Janis) as an Extension Ministry of Southside - for funds and favour, for relationship with KSS in Sauk and for safety in Grahams upcoming travels.
2. For **Forge** (Cam) and the teaching of other Pastors and Churches to reach their neighbourhoods.

Spend the last couple of minutes in silence before the Lord. “Lord is there anything you want to say to us as we pray for this neighbourhood?” Listen. Jot down anything you believe the Lord may be saying to us and email shelley@southside.ca.