

ALL NATIONS SUNDAY— THE PLAN

A Plan That Works!

ALL NATIONS SUNDAY is promoted for UPCI churches to rally around a concerted “cross-cultural” evangelistic outreach effort. On this ONE Sunday each year, emphasis would be placed upon evangelism into another culture or language group. Each member should invite someone of another culture or language to attend the service. Annually, the Sunday previous to United Nations Day (October 24) is designated to be ALL NATIONS SUNDAY. Churches that use these strategies will experience great success. The focus is not to just have a large attendance, but to make all members aware of the growing potential in North America for a great breakthrough into the multicultural harvest with apostolic revival. Remember these people are tired of dead religion and superstition. Although our services are different from what they may be used to, they are looking for services that are exciting and alive. Don’t “tone down” your services for their sake. It is extremely important that they feel welcomed in our churches; the United Pentecostal Church ought to be the “friendliest” church in town. Expect people to receive the Holy Ghost in the service—make it evangelistic! The following is a suggested ALL NATIONS SUNDAY Plan of Action.

DIVIDE & CONQUER

Begin by compiling a list of all church members and dividing them into teams that will work together to publicize the service and prepare as many souls as possible to receive the Holy Ghost. Each team should consist of a Team Captain (who will regularly contact each team member to check on their progress), a Team Secretary, and at least 12–15 members. Any more than 15 members per team could make it complicated for the Team Captain to keep up with.

- **Team Captain**—a team captain can be a minister, elder, aspiring minister, a lay minister, a well-grounded church member, or a faithful church member with some leadership ability.
- **Team Secretary**—a church member who is efficient in maintaining for the Team Captain the information shared at the team tag-in meetings.

Assign everyone to a team, from the leadership to the unsaved guest. One of the greatest ways to bring momentum to a congregation is for everyone to rally around a common object. Divide the congregation, either by alphabetical order or randomly. Insure each team is fairly balanced regarding the evangelistic tendencies of its members.

This is a great way to mobilize the church into evangelism. No one feels alone, but rather feels part of a team effort working together in the harvest.

THE GOAL

For this the ALL NATIONS SUNDAY to work, there must be an overall church goal for total attendance, for number of different culture-language groups, and for the number of people to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The Pastor may have a goal that he feels in his heart from the Lord. He will first meet with his top leadership before the kickoff to discuss the goal, then with the next level of leadership (i.e., departmental staff) to get their feedback. He continues until he reaches the church member. The Pastor must have vision and faith to believe God for the greatest Holy Ghost outpouring ever in the history of the church. He must transfer that vision and faith to every church leader and member.

Once the total church goal is established, divide it by the number of teams you have in place. That will give each team their goal to reach for. By dividing and conquering, the total church goal in this way makes each member believe it is possible to attain, motivates them to do their part in reaching each team's goal, and ultimately results in achieving or exceeding the total church goal.

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S TEAMS

To have even more success, rally the youth and children to be part of this ALL NATIONS SUNDAY endeavor. If there is adequate space, have separate ALL NATIONS SUNDAY services for the youth and the children. Everyone should expect people to receive the Holy Ghost. It would be good to schedule a Youth and/or Children's Evangelist (the Evangelist should have a burden for cross-cultural evangelism).

Set numerical goals for the youth and children for total attendance, for number of different culture-language groups, and for the number of people to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. To do this, begin by having Youth and Sunday School Staff determine and establish goals for each age group. Divide each group into teams, as with the adults, and assign each team a numerical goal to reach for. When determining these class goals, include the number of children and youth that needs to receive the Holy Ghost. Then by faith add to those figures, considering the classmates and friends that members can bring, as well as bus children and guests.

THE KICKOFF

At the ALL NATIONS SUNDAY Kickoff, display team rosters on an overhead screen, on a side wall, or on the bulletin board so your members can see which team they are on as they leave that night. Demographics of the area should be explained, perhaps using a PowerPoint presentation, to let everyone know the potential for cross-cultural evangelism. (There are several websites that give this information.)

The Kickoff should be held at a time when most church members will be present, at least two months before ALL NATIONS SUNDAY. Because each church is different, adjust this date according to what works best for the individual church.

The Pastor must enthusiastically promote the ALL NATIONS SUNDAY drive. He needs to review the details of the promotion and challenge the congregation for a breakthrough within the multicultural harvest and to believe God for a great outpouring of His Spirit. The Pastor should already have the support of his leadership. Get the input of these leaders to create a sense of ownership, then reveal the goal that the leadership feels can be attained.

All in-house promotional items should be printed and ready for this service (available at www.allnationssunday.com).

Preparing the church

For the drive to be successful, the Pastor must first review this manual thoroughly, and then select the leaders (Assistant Pastor, Youth Pastor, Local Ministers, Sunday School Superintendent, etc.) to contact initially. He should then schedule a preliminary meeting with those leaders to review every point in this manual and plan accordingly.

The following must be determined during this meeting:

- Total church numerical goal for attendance.
- Total cultural/language groups to reach.
- Total goal for Holy Ghost infillings.
- Number of teams and team members for each.
- A timeline and calendar.
- A things-to-do list for all involved.

Schedule another meeting on an off-night with these leaders, team captains, and secretaries to discuss the plan of action.

It is recommended that the Team Captain meet with his designated team at least three times before the drive is over. This is what we call a "Team Tag-In" meeting. This allows the Team Captain to make the members of his team accountable to him. He should challenge and motivate his team to reach their goals for attendance and number of culture/language groups to reach, and by preparing people to receive the Holy Ghost. He should ask them for a list of prospects and what evangelism tools they will be using to prepare their prospects to receive the Holy Ghost, and record this information. (A special "Tag-In Meeting Form" could be developed.) This causes positive peer pressure and encourages everyone to get involved in reaching their team goal.

The Team Captain should also offer his or her service in helping them prepare their guests for ALL NATIONS SUNDAY. There may be someone in the group who can teach a Home Bible Study to a guest of another member. The key is working together for this one objective.

The “Tag-In” meeting can be scheduled during the Sunday evening service. (For churches with only one service, it is suggested that these meetings be held after service.) During the preliminaries, break out into the respective teams. Each team meets in a different area (classrooms, offices, etc.) of the church facility. This usually works most effectively.

The most important people on ALL NATIONS SUNDAY are the guests. The second most important people on ALL NATIONS SUNDAY are those who work in the Hospitality ministry of the church (ushers, greeters, hosts, hostesses, etc.). The Hospitality Coordinator should choose the most personable and cheerful people for ushering, greeting, and parking lot attendants. (Since this drive is for the purpose of cross-cultural evangelism, use ushers, greeters, etc., who are from different cultures/languages if they are available). It may be necessary to beef up Hospitality staff for this special Sunday. Schedule a training session for Hospitality staff at least two weeks before ALL NATIONS SUNDAY to go over all the basics and instructions on how to handle the guests and increased crowd.

NURSERY

The Nursery staff are the third most important people on this Sunday. A well-staffed and efficiently run Nursery will put guest parents at ease. This will enable them to concentrate on the service, and not on their baby in the Nursery. What a great feeling it is to know that some of those who receive the Holy Ghost on this Sunday were parents whose babies were being cared for in the Nursery!

MUSIC

Music is a vital part of every United Pentecostal church. The music needs to be at its best on this Sunday. We know praise and worship are vital in ushering us into the presence of God. Music enhances our ability to praise and worship God from the heart, and prepares the heart of the guest for the Word of God. (Music and singing in another language will definitely give the service an “international” flavor and encourage people of that respective culture/language group to enter in to worship.) The Word will inspire faith, and faith—among the saints and among the guests—is a requirement for anyone to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

It is recommended that the Music Director schedule several extra practices with the worship leader, musicians, and praise singers (beginning at least two weeks prior to

ALL NATIONS SUNDAY) to select and fine-tune the songs that will be used. This will give the musicians and singers sufficient confidence that they know the songs and allow them to give themselves to worship as they sing, rather than focusing on whether they are singing the right words or notes. Use worship choruses and special songs that directly minister to a guest regarding their need of God.

ALTAR WORKERS

Trained altar workers are vital to a successful ALL NATIONS SUNDAY service. A great deal of effort is put into the preparation of this grand day and we must not fail at the altar. It's like a mother carrying a child for nine months, but having no one prepared or qualified to assist her in delivering her newborn at the time of birth.

An Altar Workers Training session is highly recommended, and should be held within two weeks of ALL NATIONS SUNDAY. Open this session to anyone in the church who wishes to help pray people through to the Holy Ghost. (Having this session two weeks prior to ALL NATIONS SUNDAY will give the church member several services in which to get comfortable in the altar using the techniques taught in the training.)

Since the emphasis on this service is cross-cultural evangelism, interpreters should be available in various languages, if possible, to assist altar workers as they help pray with people for the Holy Ghost.

The Pastor may want to invite an outside minister to come and teach on this subject. Make this ministry one of the highest priorities in your planning.

GUEST FOLLOW-UP

If a Follow-Up team is already in place, ALL NATIONS SUNDAY will require additional staff. If there is not a team structure, it is vital that staff be enlisted to make phone calls to the guests who attend ALL NATIONS SUNDAY services.

Schedule a planning meeting with your Follow-Up Team a week prior to ALL NATIONS SUNDAY to polish follow-up skills, for instruction on conducting the follow-up contacts, and to reinforce follow-up procedures.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

Prior to ALL NATIONS SUNDAY, the Pastor should address some points on church etiquette as it relates to guests. This is best done when most of the church members are present. The church should be instructed on how to treat the guests that come into the place of worship. Church members should be encouraged to come early and stay late to greet and make the guests feel welcome. The ALL NATIONS SUNDAY service is not to minister to the church member, but for the church member to minister to the unsaved guest. This purpose should be repeatedly stressed to the church body in the weeks leading up to ALL NATIONS SUNDAY.

A good resource for church etiquette is "The People Business" taught by Jack Cunningham.

SPEAKING FAITH

The Pastor must speak in faith that God is going to do what He said He would do in these last days: pour out His Spirit upon ALL flesh. He should express faith first to the church's ministerial leadership and encourage them to do likewise. Faith must be transmitted to every level of leadership until it reaches the ground roots: the church member. Church members should be encouraged to verbalize faith to one another and dismiss any doubt. Faith should be building as you move closer to ALL NATIONS SUNDAY. Speaking faith, "God is going to do it!" creates a spirit of expectancy.

When church members begin verbalizing their faith, faith will be so thick you can reach out and grab it! This creates the proper climate for people to believe God for the most wonderful gift anyone could receive.

This is not just practicing a positive mental attitude, but it is speaking faith in a promise that God, who cannot lie, declared to the prophet Joel, and again to the apostle Peter: "For the promise is unto you, and to you children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

Another good way to inspire faith is to read reports of Holy Ghost outpourings in North America and on foreign fields. If there are videos available of any of these happenings, it would be good to show the congregation. This will broaden the congregation's perspective and will promote faith. Also, photos of these services can be projected on an overhead screen or put on display so the church members can

see them. These positive reports will begin to expand faith in the church to believe God for His sovereign move.

Training the Church on How to Prepare the Harvest

Before reaping the harvest on ALL NATIONS SUNDAY, the church must be trained to prepare the harvest. *Do not take for granted that church members know what to do!* Many of them will know, but for the most part the saints must be trained repeatedly on how to prepare souls to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

It is very helpful to use the midweek services to prepare the congregation. Teaching the following sessions will build the saints' confidence in their ability to handle the harvest that will be reaped on ALL NATIONS SUNDAY:

1. **Personal Evangelism** (how to witness, how to share your faith).
2. **Home Bible Studies** (effectively teaching a one- or two-day Home Bible Study).
3. **How to Prepare Your Guests to Receive the Holy Ghost.**
4. **Altar Work** (assisting people to receive the Holy Ghost in the altar).

PREPARING THE HARVEST

The ALL NATIONS SUNDAY drive is a **team effort**. Everyone must do their part. More often than not, church members invite their friends to church without preparing them for what God wants to do for them in the service. Churches often put all the pressure on the preacher to somehow get the unprepared guests to the altar. This is unrealistic. Church members must work together with their pastor to effectively reap a harvest. If possible, every guest that comes to this ALL NATIONS SUNDAY should be *prepared* to receive the Holy Ghost. (For example, if a member is bringing with them a non-Christian—e.g., Muslim, Buddhist, or Hindu—the guest also needs to be prepared for Pentecostal style of worship).

We cannot reap a Harvest that doesn't exist. If there's no one in need of the Holy Ghost, no one will receive it. If there are 10 present that need the Holy Ghost, 25 are not going to receive it. The reason 120 received the Holy Ghost on the Day of

Pentecost was because 120 were present who needed it! Furthermore, if those people present are not *prepared* to receive the Holy Ghost, the chances of them receiving it are drastically reduced. However, many will be moved on by the Word and Spirit of God, and will recognize they need the Holy Ghost. So to *insure* a successful ALL NATIONS SUNDAY service, *train your congregation to prepare the Harvest*. This cannot be overstressed.

The following are some tools that have proven successful in many churches.

1. **Home Bible Studies**—the one- or two-day Bible Studies seem to work best. They are simple, brief, and to the point, and are very effective in preparing people for the baptism of the Holy Ghost. “The New Birth Experience” written by Mike Blankenship, is a great tool. Of course, the 10- or 12-week Home Bible Study can be started, but it is crucial that the lessons are scheduled properly. For example, if the teacher is using Exploring God’s Word, insure that the fourth lesson on the tabernacle is taught a week or two before ALL NATIONS SUNDAY. The teacher can elaborate on the Holy Ghost when teaching about the Holy of Holies. This would be a wonderful time to prepare the student to receive the Holy Ghost. The 10- or 12-week Home Bible Study can be offered to a larger group during an off-night at the church. Many feel a little more comfortable with this than opening their home.

It is suggested that these materials be ordered several weeks ahead in order to have adequate supplies on hand for church members to use in preparing their guests to receive the Holy Ghost.

PROMOTING WITH PURPOSE

What gets promoted gets results. The Pastor must insure that he and the Sunday School Superintendent promote this ALL NATIONS SUNDAY drive every chance they get. There is no such thing as too much promotion. The promotion needs to be done creatively and enthusiastically.

Every avenue must be used to promote this ALL NATIONS SUNDAY drive. The following are some suggestions:

1. **Posters & Flyers**—colored flyers or black-and-white on colored paper. (Go to www.allnationssunday.com for beautiful promotional materials to help you

promote your ALL NATIONS SUNDAY service. Simply download the material and adapt it to you own situation.)

- A. Post the flyers in key areas of the church facility (sanctuary, hallways, bulletin boards, classrooms, etc.).
- B. Post before the Kick-off service.
- C. Smaller flyers should be given to the church members to use as invitations.

2. **Sunday School Bulletins**—each Sunday for a month prior to ALL NATIONS SUNDAY, the front page of the Sunday school bulletin should be used to promote ALL NATIONS SUNDAY.

- A. Also use small insert flyers with the bulletin as often as possible.

3. **Bookmarks**—these are printed and passed out to church members to keep in their Bibles, reminding them to work on their guests and to pray for ALL NATIONS SUNDAY. (Contact Kent Elliott for any printing needs such as bookmarks, banners, etc., at 860-729-8554.)

4. **Banner**—with the Multicultural Ministries logo (logo available from Multicultural Ministries at dhanscom@upci.org.)

- A. Have it up before the Kick-off service.
- B. Keeps ALL NATIONS SUNDAY in the minds of the saints.

5. **Service Promotions**—should be done as often as possible. Insure every Sunday school teacher promotes it in his or her class.

PROMOTING OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

The most effective “outside” promotion is done one-on-one by the church member. The greatest method of evangelism is the personal one-on-one style.

- Print invitational flyers for saints to pass out to friends, family members, neighbors, and associates.
- Print door hangers for saints to distribute throughout their neighborhoods to notify the community of ALL NATIONS SUNDAY services.

- Send letters to infrequent church attendees and guests who have visited the church within the last 6 months.

Thousands of dollars have been spent for promoting various events on the radio and with newspaper ads and inserts. Yet there is very little success achieved using these public promotional endeavors.

- These types of advertisement will help the church be known in the community, which is vital. However, it is not pertinent to the success of the ALL NATIONS SUNDAY drive. Of course, if you have funds to spare for extra advertisement, do so.

PRAYER A MUST

The church must undergird this evangelistic drive with prayer. Study your church calendar and see where you can possibly include prayer for ALL NATIONS SUNDAY.

- The following are some suggestions to execute prayer in your assembly:
 - Have prayer in every service for at least one month prior to ALL NATIONS SUNDAY.
 - If there is a weekly prayer meeting, insure that prayer is made for this great day.
 - Take the month previous to ALL NATIONS SUNDAY and ask for volunteers (or designate) so there is at least one person per day praying and fasting for ALL NATIONS SUNDAY.
 - Designate two or three days of prayer and fasting for the entire church.
 - Have one or two all-night prayer meetings.
 - Have special prayer during leadership meetings.
 - Initiate Neighborhood Prayer Walks, either in prayer teams or by church members on an individual basis.
 - Schedule an all-night prayer meeting with ministers and elders the Friday night before ALL NATIONS SUNDAY. This will be a good time to seek the face of God for the greatest outpouring of His Spirit. A time of genuine repentance should be directed during this time. Everyone should be in one mind and one accord.

- The Saturday before ALL NATIONS SUNDAY a one-hour, all-church, guided prayer meeting should be planned. This is preferably done in the evening, dismissing early enough for church members to go home and call their guest(s) to remind them of and insure they will be in ALL NATIONS SUNDAY service.
- It is suggested that there be some instruction to the church on praying for the lost (i.e., intercessory prayer, praying for the city, etc.) This is ideally done in midweek services.
- All this prayer builds faith for what God is going to do!

The Service—Executing It Effectively

The actual ALL NATIONS SUNDAY service is the climax of all your efforts. The church has been laboring for months to insure this day is a success. It is too great an opportunity to do so much work and spend so much money to “drop the ball” on this day! Our goal is to have every portion of that service focused on faith and salvation.

First of all, insure all those who are responsible for executing this special service are at church and on post at least one hour before the service starts (ushers, greeters, hosts and hostesses, parking lot attendants, nursery workers, Sunday school staff, musicians, audio-visual staff, praise singers, service leaders, ministerial staff, pastor).

BEFORE THE SERVICE

The following are some suggestions that will help make this service more effective:

1. Have praise music playing softly in the background. This helps to set the atmosphere.
2. Assign your church leaders to walk around greeting the guests and church members. It will also be effective if the Pastor greets the guests as well. Being personable to a guest will help them relate to you, especially if you are the one ministering in that service.
3. Insure that ushers, greeters, hosts, hostesses, and parking lot attendants (have a special parking area close to the entrance of the church for guests to park) are carrying out their responsibilities and insuring that every guest fills out a guest card. This is very important!

THE SERVICE

The service needs to be well planned and prepared. Every part of the service needs to blend and flow together. First of all, this service is not for the church member. The church member has come to minister, not to be ministered to. This service is for the guests. The objective of this service is to insure that *everyone who needs the Holy Ghost receives it*. Every part of the service needs to line up with the objective of the service. Let's discuss each part of the service.

Songs—Songs that are sung before service (with praise singers) or during the song service, as well as any special singing, needs to complement the objective of the service. Sing songs of praise and worship, songs that inspire faith and lead people into the presence of God. This is an evangelistic service. We don't want to sing songs that do not relate. The preacher will be preaching an evangelistic sermon. We don't want to sing songs about the rapture or songs that speak directly from a saved person's point of view. Our objective is for everyone to relate and participate in this time of worship.

Scripture reading—Scripture reading should be relevant to receiving the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:1–4 or Luke 11:9–13 would be appropriate Scripture passages to read. (Possibly have these passages read in different languages.)

Prayer requests and offering—The individual administering the prayer or offering makes comments or reads Scripture verses that inspire faith.

Testimonies—It is strongly recommended that no one testify during this special service. This can open a door for someone who is not a member to say things that may distract from the objective. (An alternative to this would be to have someone from different culture/language groups read Acts 2:38 in their mother tongue.) If you do have a testimony service, pick the people ahead of time that you know will testify properly, and advise them to tailor their testimony to be positive and to reinforce the objective of people receiving the Holy Ghost.

Sermon—The message needs to be evangelistic in nature. The message should inspire faith in the hearts of people. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." The message should include instructions on how to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

THE ALTAR SERVICE

(Since the emphasis has been on cross-cultural evangelism, altar workers of various culture/language groups should be trained and ready to help in the altar.)

It would be contradictory to preach about the plan of salvation and not give people an opportunity to repent of their sins and receive the Holy Ghost. Insure the speaker is creative on how to get those who need the Holy Ghost to the altar. (This would be a great time to have a Global Missionary preach.)

Altar workers need to be attentive so they can move right in and work the altars. All the altar workers should have already been trained to know what to do.

When a seeker receives the Holy Ghost, the altar worker signals the speaker. The speaker announces it publicly, helping to inspire faith in saints and other seekers.

After receiving the Holy Ghost, new converts are taken to a separate room where water baptism is explained by a minister or knowledgeable saint. An altar card should be filled out for each recipient. Inform them of and encourage them to attend the discipleship course and other ministries of your church, and offer them a Home Bible Study. Putting tracts and other materials in their hands about their new walk with God is also very effective. As much as possible, provide them with a packet to take home that includes the following:

1. A one- or two-day Home Bible Study (e.g., "The New Birth Experience").
2. A brochure about the discipleship class.
3. A brochure about Home Bible Studies.
4. A church business card.
5. Tracts regarding salvation.
6. A flyer or brochure advertising the many ministries your church has to offer.

CELEBRATION

Take some time to celebrate what God has done. Many times we tend not to celebrate our victories. A lot of time, effort, and money have been put into this drive to insure its success—it's been successful, so rejoice!

It is suggested that on this Sunday an international dinner could be hosted by the church. Even guests of another culture will delight in bringing with them one of their favorite food dishes. Perhaps restaurants in town would donate food. Give the event an international atmosphere by decorating with different flags of the world, pictures, and using a variety of different gospel music and singing from around the world.

The Pastor should celebrate with the leaders. If you have Sunday evening service it is helpful to designate it as a Celebration Service. Oh, how God delights when His people give Him glory and honor in the spirit of praise and thanksgiving!

Follow-up

Now it's time to insure these newborn babes in Christ are nurtured spiritually. Follow-up is a *MUST!* Now the hard work really begins! The goal of the follow-up team is "turning first-timers into full-timers." The following are some suggestions on conducting effective follow-up:

- A letter from the pastor should be sent to each visitor. If the visitor received the Holy Ghost, he should rejoice with them over what God has done in their life.
- A phone call from a church member for the pastor should be made early in the week to every visitor.
- A visit would be good, if feasible for your area, preferably by the church member who invited the recipient.
- The Newcomers (or New Convert) Care Director should follow up with a phone call to encourage the recipient of the Holy Ghost to join the church's discipleship class.
- The Home Bible Study Director, or a designee, should call to try to enroll them in a Home Bible Study.
- If you have small groups or cell ministry, someone from a small group should be assigned the responsibility to follow up on them and encourage them to join their small group.