



PRACTICALmanual

What is a Boiler Room:

Imagination

Boiler Rooms are engine rooms driving God's purposes forward. Generally they are right at the heart of messed-up communities. Some people describe them as "Gen-X monasteries" because of the youth vibe and similarities with the ancient Celtic monastic movements. Although we fall way short of those radical prayer communities, we do find ourselves gathering to do many of the same things. The heart is the same but the clothes are new.

"The monasteries of Celtic Christianity were where things happened! These were a combination of commune, retreat, house mission station, hotel hospital, school, university, arts and power house for the local community - a place not only of spiritual energy but also of hospitality, learning and cultural exchange." (Ian Bradley)

The Boiler Room is a youth initiative seeking to establish a praying community.

Vision:

To raise up a new generation of radical worshipers to change the destiny of their world through a lifestyle of prayer



The Values

1. Radical OBEDIENCE to the Holy Spirit

Like Jesus, we seek to do what we see the Father doing. We acknowledge his right to break our rules and offend our sensibilities. (John 5:19; Psalm 127:1; John 3:8)

2. RELATIONAL

We are a community of friends with shared vision and values, driven by friendship rather than function (John 15:14-15; Luke 10:1-22; 1 Peter 4:7-11; 1 John 4:7-12)

3. INDIGENOUS

We respect, value and honour cultural diversity (Revelation 7:9-10; Daniel 1; 1 Corinthians 9:20-21)

4. INCLUSIVE

We work with anyone sharing our vision and values, regardless of race, age, gender or church background. We build unity and enjoy diversity (Colossians 3:11; Ephesians 4:3-6)

5. LIKE JESUS

We seek to be like Jesus in the way we do what we do. For us, the means do not necessarily justify the ends. (2 Cor 3:16-18)

6. DEEPLY ROOTED

We are committed to growth in maturity rather than size (Psalm 1:1-3)

7. CREATIVE and INNOVATIVE

We embrace God-inspired creativity as integral to authentic expressions of prayer (Exodus 35:30-35; Genesis 1:1-2; Psalm 45:1; Proverbs 8:22-31)

8. JUST

We will pursue justice and freedom from oppression for humanity and the created world (Isaiah 61; Luke 4:18-19; Romans 8:19-21; Isaiah 58)

9. STEWARDSHIP

We take responsibility for ourselves, those around us and the things God has entrusted to us (Matthew 25:14-30; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15)

10. SACRIFICIAL (1 John 3:16-18, Rom 12:1-2)

We believe that a lifestyle of prayer is costly at every level. (2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 1 John 3:16-18; Romans 12:1-2)

11. CELEBRATORY

We believe that Jesus came to bring life to the full and that we have a Christian duty to celebrate all that is good. Fun and laughter are central to Boiler Rooms and we do not need to justify these (Genesis 1:31; Psalm 24:1; Matthew 11:19; John 10:10)

12. SIMPLE (Ps 116:6, Luk 10:3-5)

We are a network of like-minded people, not some new slick organisation. In character we are wild and unpolished - passionate about developing people rather than our own profile (Psalm 116:6; Luke 10:3-5; John 3:8)

We passionately believe in the connection between prayer, creativity and missions.

The **keys** that define a Boiler Room are:-

1. Continuous prayer (1 Thes. 5:17). By having different stations/focuses around a room, for example, a place for worship, thanksgiving, prayer for the lost, your community and the Nations, it becomes a place to meet with the Lord and so should reflect something of who God is.
2. Creativity, like music, dance, poetry, painting and sculpture (Ex 35:30-35, Ps. 150)
3. Serving the poor, partnering with local projects to minister to the poor (Is. 58:6-7).
4. Community outreaches (1 Pet. 4:7-8).
5. Missions: prayer mobilizes effective missions, and makes the pray-er more sensitive to the needs of those who don't know Jesus (Matt. 28:19-20).



We are a visually stimulated generation so we believe a prayer experience in a Boiler Room will be an inspiration to all, and will give glory to God.

Goal:

To equip young people to learn about prayer by giving them an opportunity to pray.



Introduction to the practical stuff:

We will try to answer all your most practical questions and help you run the wildest prayer meeting ever! God will make it happen!

- Boiler Room is for groups who know that God is calling them to pray... but are bad at it! This will take normal, disorganised people and teach them to pray - by praying.*
- Boiler Room is particularly focused on young people (the church family's missing generation) but anyone of any age can join in.*

Keep it simple

*God asks us to **PRAY** and he asks us to **OBEY**.*

*We get so complicated with our conferences, books and theories. Jesus comes along and says "**Come**" and "**Go**".*

*'**Come**' and hang out, **come** and pray.....*

*Then '**Go**' and make a difference.....*

All you really need to do is find a room, mobilise some people and start to pray.

Register your Boiler Room

We invite you to register your Boiler Room so we can share our experiences, encourage and pray for one another. (Registration form at the back of this book).

Step 1: Planning your Boiler Room (First key - Continuous prayer)

(a) How long should we go for:

- It can be a few hours (ex. an evening), or a weekend or a week. Some will even have prayer running 24-7.
- It is important to communicate your plan effectively in order to motivate people.
- This is meant to be a challenge, so don't be too cautious in your planning. However, if in doubt, go for a week and end up doing two rather than planning big and then quit after a time.
- You may see the Boiler Room as a part of the bigger picture of your church/community, this may influence the period of time (in combination with an event)

(b) Why do we need a place of prayer:

- The Holy Spirit can fill a place as well as a person (Acts 2:2)
- The sense of God's presence after many hours of prayer makes prayer easier and the time pass much quicker. (One hour feels like ten minutes, where-as at home often ten minutes feels like an hour). The ancient Celts called it "thin places" where the veil between heaven and earth becomes so fine that prayer is easier.
- Our culture is looking for holy places - location of sanctuary and spirituality.
- Evangelistically the Boiler Room is excellent. People who don't want to be preached at may still like to be prayed for.
- Creative and unusual environments can be highly conducive to prayer. They pray non-verbally, posting artwork, poetry and graffiti on the wall.
- It provides accountability. If you don't turn up people will notice.
- A shared location provides a strong sense of being part of a community carrying each other's burdens as well as celebrating breakthroughs together.

(c) Where should we locate it:

- Accessibility:- somewhere central for those travelling at night.
- Size:- Look for a room that is big enough to move around in, for groups also. A medium sized room divided into themed areas works well.
- Security:- Let them pray in pairs, especially at night. Have a telephone available for emergencies (turn it off during prayer times)
- Facilities:- Obviously you need toilets.



- **Noise/Disturbance:-** Try to find a venue that is 'neighbour friendly', with people coming and going and music being played at all hours.

(d) What should it look like:

- There are no rules - only principles that help create an environment conducive to prayer. Use your imagination to create a space that glorify God and help people meet Him. Commission one or more arty persons to design the room so that it has a real impact when people step inside. (More ideas later) Share your ideas about themes. You will need a small budget for art materials etc.



- **Cleanliness next to Godliness** - constant maintenance will be needed, especially the creative area. Candles will burn down, pens will run out and so on. Appoint someone to daily visit the Boiler Room to top up resources, and tidy up things.

- Where candles are used, make sure that a fire extinguisher is at hand.

Atmosphere:

- **Lighting.** Different lights will create the right atmosphere for instance fairy lights, various disco lights, coloured bulbs, candles, dark room lights and UV lights.

- **Flooring.** Use different materials on the floor, cloth, sand, polystyrene, packaging material, matting, carpet tiles or straw as this can totally change the whole dynamic of the Boiler Room.

- **Materials.** Leave lots of materials that people can use to make things like cloth, clay paints paper, wallpaper paste, sellotape, staple gun, stapler, scissors, string ribbons egg boxes, used bottles, pieces of driftwood, buckets with sand, seeds, water, stones.

- **Video.** Have a video of your town or community so people can pray as they see the images. Record the news and play it on video. Record a video at your local nightclub, then have that playing for prayer.

It's up to you to discover and explore what is possible so, no more ideas from this side, but please share yours with us again.

Places of Prayer and theme Walls:

- **Repentance and forgiveness** - Our approach to God's throne should always start with repentance and forgiveness. God's word says that only those with clean hands and pure hearts may come into His presence (Ps. 24:4.) Repentance is not to say you are sorry, it is to admit that you were wrong. We need to forgive, for Jesus himself said that He could only forgive us as we forgive others. (Matt 6:14-15).

Create a place for purification of personal sin. Use a cross where people can sit down - "at the feet of Jesus".

You can use a "sin bin", a paper shredder for shredding sins written on paper at the foot of the cross.

Also use a bowl of water for washing your hands, symbolic of clean hands.

Provide bread and wine for holy communion.

- **Holy spaces** - Just being in His presence, being in awe of God. Only sit and listen to what God wants to say (make notes). Pray the Word.

This should be a place of silence. You can put up a tent for people to be on their own, or create a prayer cave with cardboard boxes.

- Place a "commitment box" in this area. (No one will open this box, the commitment is to God.)

- Create areas where people can wash each other's feet and break bread.

- **Praise and worship** - A place for creative music, song and dance as an expression of praise to God. If possible, make musical instruments, CD player and CD's, flags and banners available.



Walls - Unless you're in a windmill or a lighthouse (!) you will probably have four walls. You can use each wall to direct people's prayers in a new direction. For example:

1) A "Welcome Wall"

- Put up the themes and aims, vision and values near the door, with visual introduction.
- A 30-second audio or video recording, welcoming people will help them to focus.
- A sign-up sheet to reserve one-hour shifts and phone number of the responsible person.

2) A "Wailing Wall" to post personal prayer requests, a bit like the Jews do, wedging their heart-cries on scraps of paper between the bricks of the old temple in Jerusalem.

Clothes peg prayer: Write names of non-Christian friends, family and work/school colleagues on squares of coloured paper, use clothes pegs (and Prestic) to put them on the wall, or hang them on a wire or string. As you put yours up, pray for one already hanging.

String of prayer: Have lots of bits of string hanging from the ceiling. Staple on the bits of paper with prayer requests.

Birdseed prayer: Have a wall covered in paper, use paper glue to paint the name of a person you want to see saved on the wall. Throw birdseed at it as you pray. The birdseed will stick to the glue

A global map can be used to pray for lost nations.

3) A "Worship Wall".

This is for prayers of wonder and praise. Use three different focal points:

(a) Thank you Wall - use shapes of coloured paper, write thank you notes, stick them to the wall or window (the writing visible to people passing by)

(b) God is.....Wall - Use the names of God to exalt Him and give him praise. Think about the character of God and what that means to us. Use sheets of paper to express what you experience. Consider what God has done in your life, match that to a Name. (Use the book "Pray the Word")

(c) Promises Wall - use scripture of the promises of God, write them on pebbles, pray them and stack them in a basket or in a glass bowl. Thank God for his faithfulness. (Use the book "Pray the Word")

4) A "Reality Wall"

Pray for your school/campus, community, church, city, province and country. Also pray for leaders. Put up all the information you can find.



Newspaper clippings work very well. Cut them out, stick them on the wall where it fits the focus, and pray.

5) Creativity Wall

- If you are going to pray with all your energy, words alone aren't gonna be enough. We need to see a release of poetry, symbolism, dance, song, sculpture, paintings, graffiti, sounds, lighting effects and smells if we are to truly express our worship and intercession to God.



This should be a place where we want everybody to feel safe to release what God has downloaded in their lives to help us and others draw closer to God. Have paper and pencils, markers, paint etc. available. Stick artwork to the wall, others will be inspired.

In exceptional locations you can graffiti right onto the walls and simply whitewash over it at the end.

6) Nations Wall

- Pray for the nations, featuring a world map, newspaper clippings, political and social details of specific nations. Operation World is an excellent book to use (also on CD). Flags and an inflatable globe also work well. Pray for missionaries known to you.

Other themes:

Furnace. *Cover the walls and ceiling in foil and with crepe paper (orange, yellow, red). Create flames coming from the ceiling and going up the walls. Put heaters on. Very simply, you have a furnace.*

Water World. *Get hold of some water features, Create a waterfall & river effect with them. Paint the room blue and you have a refreshing prayer space.*

Chalk prayers. *Paint the prayer space completely black, floor, ceiling and walls. Only have white paint and chalk available when people come in to pray and paint.*

Global focus. International flavour - have maps, pictures from magazines and newspaper articles of different nations stuck to the wall. Use news recordings on video, and videos from international charities, to pray for.

Entrance areas:

- **Dry bones.** What about cardboard bone shaped pieces hanging down to create a valley effect to symbolise the valley of dry bones.
- **War-zone.** Using camouflage netting, sand bags, etc., create a war-zone entrance.
- **Holy ground.** Right opposite the entrance put a big sign inviting people to "take off your shoes, for this is holy ground".

Share books:

- A book for questions - Answers must be scripture based, and must be given promptly
- A book for prayer requests - If this is used, someone should be responsible for praying through the requests.
- A book for testimonies - Answers to prayer and life changing events.

Other stuff:

- A Bible and a book of prayers. Use scripture everywhere. "Pray the Word" and other prayer guides.
- Helpful audio and video tapes on prayer
- If your church has received any significant prophetic words or Scriptures you could make them into posters.
- Use prayer quotes as posters.
- A local newspaper.
- Some symbolic objects or pictures you can place in the room to direct people's prayers.
- Air freshener!!!



Step 2 - Preparing the people.



- *"The two essential conditions for revival are prayer and unity." (Winkie Pratney)*

Unity breaks down barriers faster than any other, it carries authority across a region. If we want to be spiritually effective, unity with a common heart is vital. Satan uses division and disunity as a major strategy for defending the stolen territory he has gained.

- *In many ways, preparing people to pray is the most important job of all. The point is that this is a space for people to hang out with their heavenly Father, a place of intimacy and transformation.*

- *Peers are best at influencing peers, key leaders influence other leaders, youth workers can draw other youth workers, students can gather other students and so on. It takes careful communication to inspire and mobilise people to get involved.*
- *Communicate well with leaders, get them on board and ideally actively involved.*
- *Get as many names and details as you can to build a database of people committed to prayer. Keep in touch with them and encourage them by informing them of developments in the area and answers to prayer.*
- *Encourage people to share stories of answered prayer in order to build faith.*
- *Design a simple flier, and go to youth groups, schools etc. sharing the vision in order to get the whole church/community excited and get them all involved.*
- *Give people a bracelet or a small sticker for their watch to remind them of their prayer time.*
- *Encourage a season of fasting. (It could even only be from chocolate, TV or certain foods).*
- *Be clear about the objectives.*
- *Wherever possible put up your own website and include the Boiler Room.*
- *Let people pray how they want to. Some kneel quietly, some shout and yell.*
- *Responsible adults should accompany children and teenage groups.*
- *Recruit an "on call" team, to fill empty prayer slots, to be on call for emergencies and to tidy up.*
- *Only commit to what is absolutely necessary; you are not responsible for providing meals, transport, babysitting or pastoral counselling to people coming to pray.*

Step 3 - Launching your Boiler Room.

- *Grand kick-off: Make it a real event and start with a bang!*
This is something historic you are doing here. Have the sign-up sheet on display so that people can still sign up.
- *The best context for launching into prayer is worship.*
 - *Consider projecting Boiler Room website onto the wall to show people where else in the world prayer is happening at the same time as you are praying.*
 - *Mark the actual moment that launches the Boiler Room by Lighting a candle, or count down the final ten seconds NASA-style, all together, and send the first person/people to start praying as you reach 'lift off'. You could even crowd-surf the first person into the Boiler Room.*



When a Boiler Room is well launched it continues to impact the group for a long time afterwards. You will also be surprised at how many people are still only just beginning to get their heads around the idea of continuous prayer by the time of the launch - no matter how diligently you have sought to raise awareness.

MAY YOUR BOILER ROOM BRING GLORY TO GOD



Boiler Room Registration

Please inform us at Jericho Walls of every new Boiler Room being established.

City/town/campus/church/venue:

Contact person:

Postal address:

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Postal code:

Tel.(w):code..... Number:

Tel.(h):code..... Number:

Fax.: code..... Number:

Cellphone:

E-mail:.....

Please return this information to "Boiler Room", Jericho Walls International:

Tel: +27(0)12 365 3213

Fax: +27(0)12 365 3214

E-mail: 24-7sa@jwipn.com

