

Mapping Your Community

Many will be asking: How do I do it in my city? Because few Christian leaders today have much background in spiritual mapping, the answer to that question will not come easily. It is important not to fall into the trap of thinking this is some sort of magic that will work if we do things in the same manner as Victor Lorenzo or Bev Klopp. There is no one way to do spiritual mapping.

There are many levels of spiritual mapping. Mapping could be done in your neighborhood or in your particular section of the city. Mapping could be done for the city as a whole, or for the city and its surrounding area, or for the state of the province, of the entire nation. Some will want to map clusters of nations. For the sake of simplicity, I am going to assume we are mapping a city and I will word the questions accordingly. But the same questions obviously will apply to virtually any geographical area.

The first step is to gather the information; the second step is to act on the information. By this I do not mean to imply that all of the first step has to be done before the second step can begin. They can and should operate simultaneously. But the prayer action will be more effective if it is based on solid information.

STEP ONE: GATHERING THE INFORMATION

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

I. THE HISTORY OF THE CITY

A. The Founding of the City

1. Who were the people who founded the city?
2. What was their personal or corporate reason for founding the city? What were their beliefs and philosophies? What was their vision for the future of the city?
3. What is the significance of the original name of the city?
 - Has the name been changed?
 - Are there other names or popular designations for the city?
 - Do these names have meanings? Are they linked to religion of any sort? Are they demonic or occultic names? Do they signify blessing? Curse? Do they highlight the city's redemptive gift? Do they reflect the character of the people of the city?

B. The Later History of the City

1. What role has the city played in the life and character of the nation as a whole?
2. As prominent leaders have emerged in the city, what was their vision for their city?
3. Have any radical changes taken place in the government or political leadership of the city?
4. Have there been significant or sudden changes in the economic life of the city? Famine? Depression? Technology? Industry? Discovery of natural resources?
5. What significant immigration has occurred? Was there ever an imposition of a new language or culture on the city as a whole?
6. How have immigrants or minorities been treated? How have races or ethnic groups related to one another? Have city laws legitimized racism of any kind?
7. Have city leaders broken any treaties, contracts or covenants?

8. Have any wars directly affected the city? Were any battles fought in the city? Was there bloodshed?
9. How has the city treated the poor and oppressed? Has greed characterized city leaders? Is there evidence of corruption among political, economic or religious leaders and institutions?
10. What natural disasters have affected the city?
11. Does the city have a motto or slogan? What is its meaning?
12. What kinds of music do the people listen to? What is the message they receive from that music?
13. What five words would most people in the city use to characterize the positive features of their city today? What five words would they use for the negative features?

II HISTORY OF RELIGION IN THE CITY

A. Non-Christian Religion

1. What were the religious views and practices of the people who inhabited the area before the city was founded?
2. Were religious considerations important in the founding of the city?
3. Have any non-Christian religions entered the city in significant proportions?
4. What secret orders (such as Freemasonry) have been present in the city?
5. What witches' covens, satanist groups or other such cults have operated in the city?

B. Christianity

1. When, if ever, did Christianity enter the city? Under what circumstances?
2. Have any of the early or later Christian leaders been Freemasons?
3. What role has the Christian community played in the life of the city as a whole? Have there been changes in this?
4. Is Christianity in the city growing, plateaued or declining?

C. Relationships

1. Has there been conflict between religions in the city?
2. Has there been conflict between Christians?
3. What is the history of the church splits in the city?

PHYSICAL RESEARCH

1. Locate different maps of the city, especially the older ones. What changes have taken place in the physical characteristics of the city?
2. Who were the city planners who designed the city? Were any Freemasons?
3. Are there any significant discernible designs or symbols imbedded in the original plan or layout of the city?
4. Is there any significance in the architecture, location or positional relationship of the central buildings, especially those representing the political, economic, educational or religious powers in the city? Did Freemasons lay any of the cornerstones?
5. Has there been any historical significance in the particular plot of land upon which one or more of these buildings are located? Who originally owned this land?

6. What is the background of the city's parks and plazas? Who commissioned and funded them? What significance might their names have?
7. What is the background and possible significance of the statues and monuments of the city? Do any reflect demonic characteristics or glorify the creature rather than the Creator?
8. What other artwork is featured in the city, especially on or in public buildings, museums or theaters? Look especially for sensual or demonic art.
9. Are there any prominent archaeological sites in the city? What meaning might they have?
10. What is the location of highly visible centers of sin such as abortion clinics, pornographic bookstores or theaters, areas of prostitution, gambling, taverns, homosexual activities, etc.?
11. Where are areas that concentrate greed, exploitation, poverty, discrimination, violence, disease or frequent accidents?
12. Where are locations of past or present bloodshed through massacre, war or murder?
13. Does the position of trees, hills, stones or rivers form any apparently significant pattern?
14. Do certain landmarks of the city have names that would not glorify God?
15. What is the highest geographical point in the city and what is built or located there? This can be a statement of authority.
16. Which zones or sectors or neighborhoods of your city seem to have characteristics of their own? Attempt to discern areas of the city that seem to have different spiritual environments.

SPIRITUAL RESEARCH

A. Non-Christian

1. What are the names of the principal deities or territorial spirits associated with the city past or present?
2. What are the locations of high places, altars, temples, monuments or buildings associated with witchcraft, occult, fortune-telling, satanism, Freemasonry, Mormonism, Eastern religions, Jehovah's Witnesses and the like. Do these form any patterns when plotted on a map?
3. What are the sites of pagan worship from the past, even before the city was founded?
4. What are the different cultural centers that might contain art or artifacts connected with pagan worship?
5. Has any city leader knowingly dedicated himself or herself to a pagan god or a principality?
6. Were any known curses placed by the original inhabitants on the land or people who founded the city?

B. Christian

1. How have God's messengers been received by the city?
2. Has evangelism been easy or hard?
3. Where are the churches located? Which of them would you see as "life giving" churches?
4. What is the health of the churches in the city?
5. Who are the Christian leaders considered as "elders of the city"?
6. Is it easy to pray in all areas of the city?
7. What is the status of unity among Christian leaders across ethnic and denominational lines?
8. What is the view of city leaders toward Christian morality?

C. Revelational

1. What are the recognized, mature intercessors hearing from God concerning the city?
2. What is the identity of the ranking principalities seemingly in control of the city as a whole or certain areas of the city's life or territory?

STEP TWO: ACTING ON THE INFORMATION

An advantage of having several contributors in a book such as this is that they provide glimpses of several different approaches to strategic-level spiritual warfare. We have seen Cindy Jacobs lead the pastors of Resistencia in repentance. We have seen Kjell Sjöberg's friend infiltrate a Swedish occultic organization and observed Harold Caballeros find the strongman's name on a certain page in the Guatemala newspaper. We have seen Bob Beckett drive oak stakes into the ground at the gateways to Hemet. As well, we have seen Victor Lorenzo join in a human cross in the center of the plaza in La Plata, and Bev Klopp repent in Seattle's underground buildings. All of them found some advantage in the methods they used, but none of them claim that others should do it their way.

Through prayer, God will show leaders, city by city, what action is most appropriate for their particular situation. Meanwhile, there are some general rules for ministering to a city through strategic-level spiritual warfare. Those who have read the first book in this series, *Warfare Prayer*, will be familiar with the rules for taking a city, which I explained there. For the benefit of those who have not read it or those who have forgotten, I will simply list the six rules without further explanation:

Rule 1: The Area

Select a manageable geographical area with discernible spiritual boundaries.

Rule 2: The Pastors

Secure the unity of the pastors and other Christian leaders in the area and begin to pray together on a regular basis.

Rule 3: The Body of Christ

Project a clear image that the effort is not an activity simply of Pentecostals and charismatic's, but of the whole Body of Christ.

Rule 4: The Spiritual Preparation

Assure the spiritual preparation of participating leaders and other Christians through repentance, humility and holiness.

Rule 5: The Research

Research the historical background of the city in order to reveal spiritual forces shaping the city. (This was covered in the first part of this chapter: "Gathering the Information.")

Rule 6: The Intercessors

Work with intercessors especially gifted and called to strategic-level spiritual warfare, seeking God's revelation of: (a) the redemptive gift or gifts of the city; (b) Satan's strongholds in the city; (c) territorial spirits assigned to the city; (d) corporate sin past and present that needs to be dealt with; and (e) God's plan of attack and timing.

-REFLECTION QUESTIONS-

1. This chapter contains 60 questions for spiritual mapping. Would some of the questions not apply to your city? Eliminate them.
2. Use the remaining questions for mapping your city. One or more persons may do this.
3. Plot what you find on actual city maps. Check your findings with other Christian leaders to confirm the accuracy of your insights.
4. Form a team of intercessors to pray over the map and share their findings with participating Christian leaders.
5. Try to read the book *Warfare Prayer* by C. Peter Wagner before beginning actual spiritual warfare for your city.

Taken From: C. Peter Wagner, *Breaking Strongholds In Your City* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1993), pp. 223-232.