



Backgrounder - Rick Astle Ministries

Rick Astle Ministries began when, at age five, a large black bear was chasing Rick down the street in front of his childhood home in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Rick prayed and asked God to prevent this frightening dream from continuing, and He granted that request. This answer to prayer was a memorable event that initiated an intimate relationship between Rick and his Heavenly Father through prayer. After his salvation in 1967, many years of blessing followed as Rick served various churches as a Pastor and Missions Director.

In 1999, Rick and his wife were invited to conduct a two-week prayer walk throughout the dangerous country of Lesotho in southern Africa. Hosted by a missionary couple, Rick and Donna visited and prayed at numerous sites where a powerful work of God was needed. Satanic strongholds were prevalent in Lesotho, resulting in hindrances to church growth. Many thousands of people there had heard of Coca-Cola, but had never heard of Jesus. God answered prayer and many churches were established following this visit.

In 2000, Rick was attending a prayer conference in North Carolina when he ran into an old friend. That individual was working at the time for a national organization that included an office of prayer, and he invited Rick to lighten his speaking schedule by accepting some invitations to conduct prayer workshops at conferences throughout the United States. During this period, Rick was introduced to some of the best-known national speakers at that time on the subject of prayer and spiritual awakening.

An association of churches in New York City invited Rick to come to Ground Zero following September 11, 2001, to pray on-site with members of the Port Authority Police force. Meeting in one of the trailers where recovery personnel were taking a rest between long shifts, Rick had the unforgettable and unique privilege to share God's love and compassion. The officers welcomed the opportunity and shared personal requests for prayer.

Rick began to sense the Holy Spirit's leading to begin writing books that would encourage the local church, and in 2005 he published his first book, *The Priority of Kingdom-focused Prayer*. This book addresses the need for the individual Christian and for the local church to shift the "focus" of prayer from temporal concerns to eternal concerns. Around this time, Rick served for three years as the Prayer Ministry Consultant for the team of Billy Graham Associate Evangelist, Ralph Bell. Opportunities to teach Believers about Biblical prayer increased.

On the National Day of Prayer, 2007, Rick was invited to serve as Guest Chaplain of the day for the U.S. House of Representatives. He was honored to stand and pray at the main podium in the House Chamber while Congress was in session, and then received a personal tour of the Capitol by the Speaker of the House. Rick also visited in the offices of some congressmen that

day who invited him to pray for them. An invited attendee to the National Prayer Breakfasts in 1997 and 2001, Rick continues to hold an interest in promoting prayer for our nation's leaders. A door of opportunity opened in 2010 and again in 2011 for Rick to minister to various voodoo witchdoctors in Haiti. God granted him unusual favor, as six different witchdoctors (one who later trusted Jesus for salvation) invited Rick to enter their voodoo temples to tell them about Christ and to pray for them. One witchdoctor even gave Rick a tour of his temple, explaining the role of various evil spirits and allowing him to make a video of the tour. Following these visits to Haiti, Rick formed "Adopt a Witchdoctor" – mobilizing hundreds of intercessors throughout the nation to pray by name for the salvation of these men. He also taught Haitian pastors through workshops on prayer-related subjects.

In 2011 the Internal Revenue Service approved Rick Astle Ministries' application for tax exempt status, and Incorporation was established the same year. Four additional books have been published, *The Believer's Guide to Overcoming Temptation*, *What Motivates God?*, *Post-Event Prayer and His Prayers and Mine*. Rick has now taught on the subject of prayer in over 30 states, and continues his writing and speaking ministry.