

BURNING BUSH NETWORK

Pastor Tumi Letoka and the Revival Team

What to Pray for in the Last Days

Burning Bush Media

Booklet 9

What to Pray for in the Last Days

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Chapter 1

Pray Without Ceasing

The place was shaken

If you fail at prayer you are likely to fail everywhere. A new convert at our church was suggesting different activities that should be implemented for young people and all that; I said something like, 'Right now we should concentrate on prayer, forget about everything else and learn first how to pray.' Well he really tried for a while, found it too hard on the flesh and soon disappeared.

A pastor I worked with was suggesting all kinds of programs for our church in a leader's meeting; when they kept quiet I said something like, 'The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.' The

main things are: Jesus Christ, the Bible, Holy Spirit power, prayer and holiness. In our day, we pay and the place is taken, in the book of Acts they prayed and the place was shaken, so said Ravenhill. The modern church is good everywhere else but in prayer. I came across a website where a man was asking a question about what to do with his wife wanting sex during his forty day fast, they answered by telling him that we don't have to fast in the "day of grace," pathetic. After the place was shaken in the book of Acts the Spirit of the Lord filled them and they proclaimed the Word with great boldness and power. The strength of the church is not in money, it's in prayer and the Holy Ghost. We preach for hours and plead long with souls to come forward for salvation, but in two words, "follow me," Jesus made men leave everything behind and follow Him to where they knew not.

Perhaps if we prayed like Him, we would have His results. We lay hands for many minutes at a time and scream out prayers while spitting but with little results, Peter simply walks the streets of Jerusalem and his shadow heals the sick and casts out demons. Then we excuse and comfort ourselves with western theories such as cessationism. No, the gifts were not foundational and have not ceased, we are lazy to pray like those men did. The Holy Spirit has not changed one iota, it is the church and its doctrines that have changed. Perhaps if we stopped visiting the beach so often and staring at bikinis, if we switched off our favourite sports channels, and spent all that precious time with Jesus, we would have what they had in Acts. Forget the cessationists, cessationism is man-made, the Holy Spirit still works, He's just waiting for wrestlers in prayer.

The structure of your prayer life

Now the Lord Jesus Christ said that our lives have to be such that we seek first the Kingdom of God. The nucleus of our relationship with Christ is composed of the Word of God and prayer. Every Christian must have a really fervent prayer life in order to stay strong and be in tune with the Lord in this days of great temptation and wickedness. When it comes to prayer, the church has to move from the land of knowing into the land of doing. If you fail to build a prayer life, you are likely to be like the five foolish virgins at the end of time. Now your prayer life has to be structured in such a way that you seek first the Kingdom of God in prayer.

Pray for these things:

- **To be transformed into the kind of Christian God wants you to be.**

Jesus Christ is omniscient, He knows us more than we know ourselves for He made us. He knows where He put whatever to make us exactly unique (Psalm 139). We are completely ignorant in comparison to God, for we are but a speck in eternity, made by Jesus Christ to be of worth by His image and blood. Now He who made us ought to be the one who has the final say on how and what we ought be. Furthermore, He is the only one who can make us what He wants us to be, for we can do nothing without Him (John 15:5). We work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12) but our working would amount to nothing if Christ was not involved, *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure* (Philippians 2:13). We have to pray that He make us what He wants us to be and give Him way to do exactly that even when it is displeasing to our flesh or

desires. Our desires have to line up with God's. It is His heaven we want to go to right? It is His earth we are living on and His air we are breathing right? Exactly, His house - His rules! We cannot be whatever we want, we have to be whatever Jesus Christ wants. When He says Nineveh we can't say Tarshish. Now this is extremely important because our eternity depends on it. Jesus said that only those who do the will of His Father will go to heaven (Matthew 7:21). Furthermore, the Holy Spirit is here to conform us into the image of Christ, so those who do their own thing in the name of “grace” are on their own.

- **To be full of the Holy Spirit**

Now when it comes to being filled with the Holy Spirit you should never be satisfied until your 'cup runneth over.' Stephen was so filled that he was glowing

no matter what he faced. The church in the book of Acts was so filled with the Holy Spirit that they could face anything Satan and the world could bring. The power of the Spirit turned mountains into mole hills before them. Now we need to be filled with the Spirit because He gives us the character of Jesus Christ, which is the nine fruit of the Spirit: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance; against such there is no law* (Galatians 5:22). That means there is a law against anything that is contrary to any of these fruit, and you don't want to find yourself facing God having something against you. That is why the Apostle Paul said, *Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him* (2Corinthians 5:9). Don't be too sure and deceived by today's false grace preachers. Paul said that the one who

thinks he stands ought to be careful lest he falls (1Corinthians 10:12). That is why we need the true baptism of the Holy Spirit. The true baptism is not about running around the pews, you may jump and run yes, but the true baptism of the Holy Spirit transforms your life towards holiness and purity. It produces the fruit and the gifts of the Spirit; it makes you more and more like Jesus. You have to pray to be filled to overflowing and stay filled with the Holy Spirit in the last days, this dear friend will keep your love from growing cold (Matthew 24:12).

- **To know Jesus Christ more**

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death (Philippians 3:10). Every Christian has to walk very closely with the Lord Jesus Christ in order to make it in the

last days. How will you know Him if you don't spend time with Him? Spending time with Him requires discipline, serious discipline because all your flesh wants is the nonsense on television: sex, drugs and rock-n-roll. No one who spends time with secular television is going to be close to the holy God. Jesus Christ is extremely holy, that's what the modern church fails to understand. We serve a holy God who demands to be served in the beauty of holiness. Make enough time everyday to spend with Jesus. Do away with idling and frivolity. Pray that you may have a revelation of Christ and His holiness (Ephesians 1:17-21). I tell you the truth, if you can have a revelation of Christ, the world will look like the dustbin that it actually is. For you to live will be Christ and to die will be gain (Philippians 1:21).

- **To be a vessel of honour**

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these [bad influences], he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work (2Timothy 2:20-21).

A vessel is for use. When you live a lifestyle of faith and prayer and the Spirit sanctifies you unto holiness, then He will begin to flow through you unhindered. The Holy Spirit will use you like He did the Apostles, like He did Philip the Evangelist, like He did Stephen, like He did Dorcas, etc. Yes forget about the man-made doctrine of cessationism, the Holy Spirit still works the same. You will work for God with joy even amidst trials. You will be strong and not weak. When Stephen

died by stoning, he was strong enough to pray for his barbaric murderers. That is a vessel full of the living water of the Holy Spirit, a vessel of honour; not a vessel that wishes his enemies would be struck by lightning.

- **That you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will (and Word)**

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Colossians 1:9).

God's will is twofold:

1. His Word, as revealed in the Bible.
2. His will for each individual.

You have to pray for God to fill you with His Word until it flows through you like an unrelenting torrent. The Bible is sweet

when the Lord illuminates it to your mind and to your heart, oh! the sweetness. It is a lamp unto our feet and light unto our pathway. When you are full of the Word, whatever you come across you unconsciously and automatically compare it to the Word, rejected if it contradicts the Bible and accepted if it flows with the Bible. Pray that the Lord Himself would fill you with His Word, with a hunger for it. Do you know that when He fills you with His Word at times you will know passages you never even read before? I have read the Bible through of course but I have at sundry times found myself saying things that later I discovered are just the way they are written in the Bible though I did not even remember such a concept in Scripture.

The will of God for your individual life also has to flow through you. How did

John the Baptist know He had to live in the wilderness? Imagine if he had not been full of the knowledge of God's will, he would have been living at home eating the wrong food and dressing the wrong way. But he dressed like Elijah because the spirit of Elijah was upon him; you see he was full of the knowledge of the will of God for his own life. That's why he identified Christ at the right time and said "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30). Had he been far from God he might have increased when he was supposed to decrease. Pray to be filled with the knowledge of God's will.

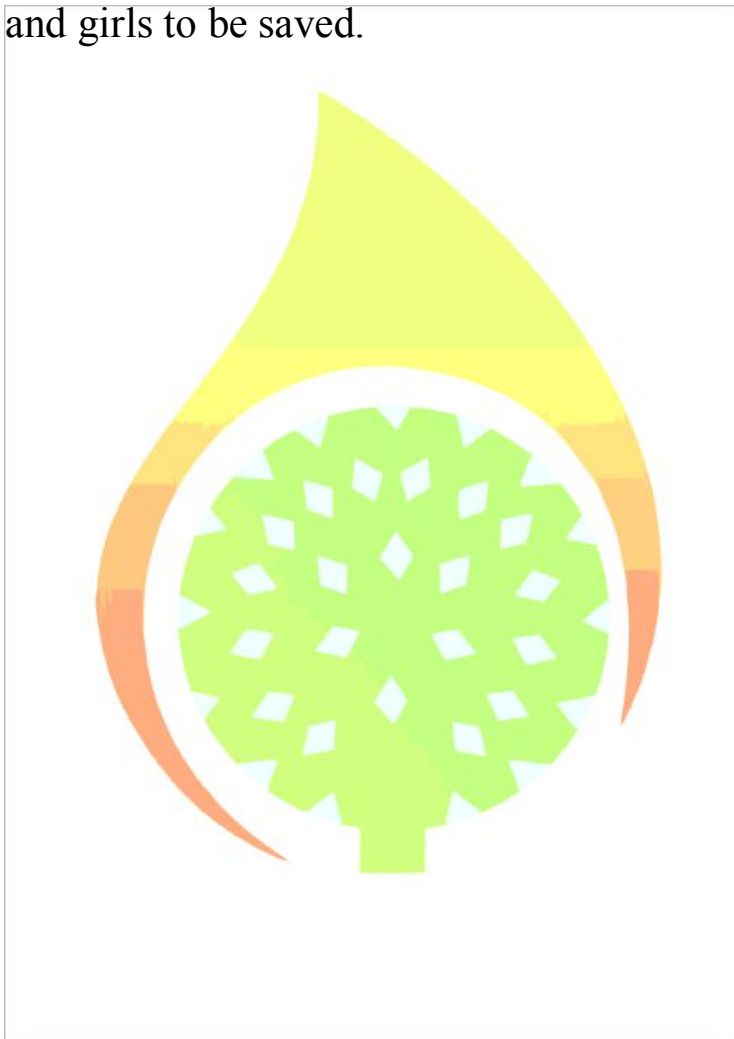
- **Pray for the Church of the Lord and the souls of the lost**

Almost the whole world is going to hell. Whaaat?? How could you possibly know that? you ask. I know that because, firstly, the Bible says the way that leads to

destruction is packed, and the way that leads to life is narrow and only few walk thereon. Secondly the Bible says to pursue peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. The modern church says that when a person is born again, they're holy and are going to heaven no matter what because grace does it all. What the church fails to understand is that justification is not the only entity essential for entry into heaven, sanctification also is. Jesus Christ and the Apostles made that clear numerous times in the Scriptures. In fact the very idea of the pursuit of holiness points to the fact that we have to be practically holy, i.e In daily lifestyle. Otherwise how would we pursue what we already possess. Certainly we possess positional holiness by Christ's death, but the fact that the Bible says to pursue holiness at the threat of forfeiting heaven upon failure to acquire it, tells us

that positional holiness does not automatically guarantee heaven, particularly for the presumptuous soul that is relaxed and not striving vehemently for perfect holiness but is trusting in false grace while living foolishly. Positional holiness guarantees heaven only under certain circumstances. I said all that to say that, I know that almost the whole world is going to hell because even in the body of Christ most are not pursuing after holiness, they're trusting in false grace. Grace is for both justification and sanctification. We are saved without works unto works (Ephesians 2:8-10). The judgement of the goats and the sheep at the end of the world involves works (Matthew 25:34-46). The works are not legalism, they are works of grace. So pray for your soul to be wholly sanctified, pray for the body of Christ to be established in holiness (1Thessalonians 3:12-13). And pray very

fervently for men and women and boys
and girls to be saved.



Chapter 2

The Spirit of Prayer

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn (Zechariah 12:10)

The above passage is eschatological and refers to the time in the future when the Jews would realize that Jesus Christ is the Messiah and would mourn, for they had rejected Him and crucified the only begotten of the Father. Revelation 1:7 takes it further by declaring that the entire

human race shall wail at His appearing:

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen

(Revelation 1:7). For indeed we all crucified Him, for had the human race not sinned, surely the Son of God would not have suffered the shame of the cross. Furthermore, the world will wail because He will be coming to judge.

Pour out the Spirit of prayer

The Holy Spirit manifests His power for various purposes and each manifestation has a name;

Isaiah 11:2 mentions:

- a) The Spirit of wisdom and understanding.
- b) The Spirit of counsel and might.
- c) The Spirit of knowledge.

d) The Spirit of the fear of the Lord.

In Zechariah 12:10 we see “the Spirit of grace and supplications.” I want to focus on the Holy Spirit’s anointing that induces supplications and groanings which cannot be uttered (Romans 8:26).

The modern church needs an outpouring of the Spirit of prayer. That type of praying where after travail you think you've been in there for only ten minutes and when you glance at the watch you find that eight hours has passed. Many times in prayer in the night I would tell myself, “I’m going to pray until I hear the birds sing.” Oh! the blessing of spending entire nights with Jesus! Dear friend it may tax the body but it produces a warrior in the inner man. Eventually the physical body tags along.

The Spirit of prayer produces strong new converts. Converts who are born from

people's travails in prayer, I argue, remain strong in the Lord. Hannah was barren, she prayed so hard her lips moved but there was no voice there; yet she was pouring out her soul to God for a man-child. And Samuel was born, a revivalist, a strong child. It is said that 80% of Charles Finney's converts remained strong Christians until death. Finney prayed, and Father Nash his intercessor prayed very hard. Who knows perhaps how Elizabeth prayed, and John the Baptist was born, a revivalist. That or not, I believe that when we pray fervently, we will produce converts who get saved today, and tomorrow they're in the streets preaching Jesus, such as Paul.

The Spirit of prayer makes you one with the people you are praying for; for what is intercession? Is it not to 'stand in the place of?' If you're praying for a drunkard in the

Spirit of prayer do not be surprised if you start feeling the drunk's misery, bondage and emptiness.

Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? (2Corinthians 11:29).

For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ (Colossians 2:5)

Could Paul have been praying incessantly for them? *For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers (Romans 1:9).*

What of Jeremiah? *For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt; I am black; astonishment hath taken hold on me (Jeremiah 8:21).* The Spirit of prayer

connects you with the subject of your fervent prayers.

The Spirit of prayer is a spirit of war

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places...Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, (Ephesians 6:10-12; 18-19)

When you pray until the groanings of the Spirit flow, certainly the powers of darkness loose their hold like it or not. You battle for bondages to be broken and for the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ in the earth and in the hearts of men, where the powers of evil would block the way, their ranks are crushed.

What would happen?

If we had an outpouring of the Spirit of prayer, would we not have a repeat of the book of Acts? They prayed, and Peter's shadow healed the sick. They prayed, and they raised the dead. They prayed, and prison doors were opened. They prayed, and the lame walked, blind eyes opened, entire places were shaken for Christ, the poison of snakes was rendered harmless, witches were confounded, prisons were shaken, the world was turned upside down.

Chapter 3

Why Prayer Tarries

Ravenhill gave reasons as to why revival tarries, and part of that is because, as he classically put it in his classic *Why Revival Tarries*. “We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few pray-ers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers.” Simply put, prayer lacketh!

Prayer tarries because we're not hungry and thirsty after righteousness and after the presence of the Lord.

We're not hungry and thirsty after righteousness because the flashing lights of this lying world fascinate us, we are drawn to and kept up and down by the world.

We are drawn to the world because its road is easy and its path is wide. Is it not easy to sit around laughing at the jokes of our favourite stand-up comedian? How tough is it to drive out 5 miles to get some whoppers, come back, recline and watch your favourite stars on the “devil's eye” - ahem...meant to say TV? Compare that to the loneliness of hour after hour wrestling alone in the closet for a touch from God. The road to revival is narrow, difficult and lonely. Once I sat quiet for about 12 hours waiting for God; and boy does the flesh have a nagging voice: “I’m hungry,” “I’m tired,” “I’m bored,” “internet,” “I want an apple,” “Blah blah blah!” We're not hungry for God because we're full of the things of the world.

Prayer tarries because we have forgotten about the seriousness of eternity. Without holiness no man shall see the Lord. Yes

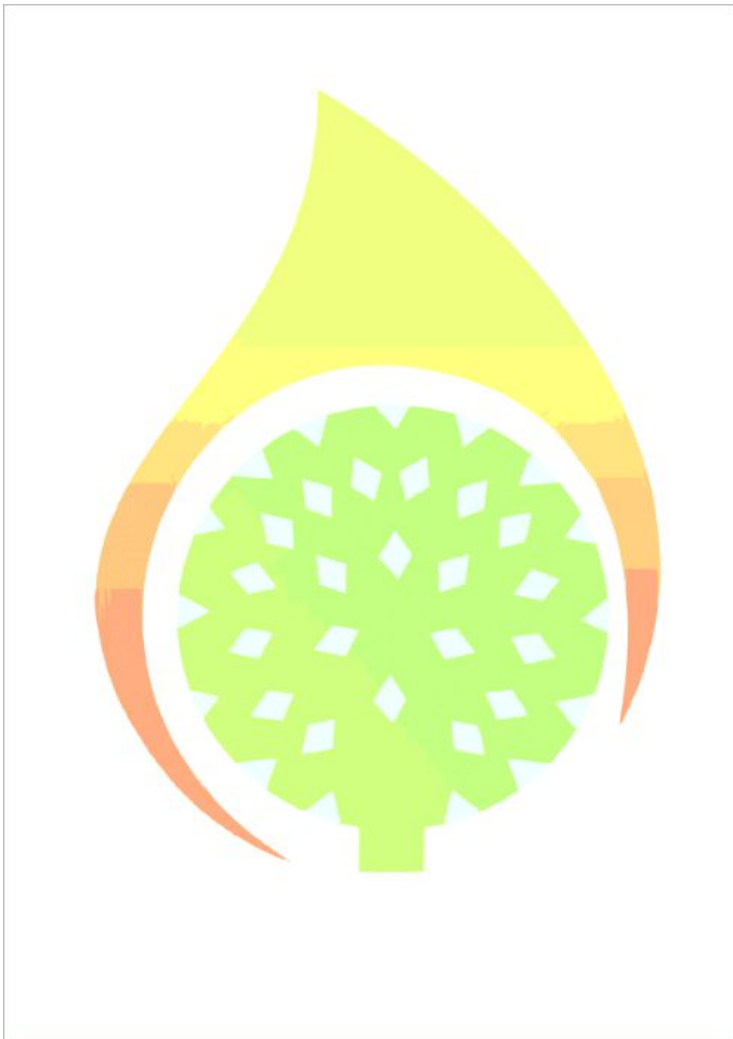
there are Christians in hell, forget about 'once saved always saved,' and let the one who thinks he stands be careful lest he falls. If we're unconditionally secure, why pray without ceasing? If 'once we're saved, we'll automatically persevere no matter what,' why fast and pray incessantly? That's why the western church is barren, and it will no more give birth until a prophet from elsewhere comes. Souls are falling into hell fire because there is no Holy Ghost fire, and there is no Holy Ghost fire because there is no prayer; there's no prayer because 'we're gonna live on earth forever aren't we? How deceived. Oh! if we're going to heaven we're going with the money we're spending all our time making, aren't we?' Ladies and Gentlemen, nothing that defiles shall enter that city!

Prayer tarries because of friends. 'I can't wait to see Suzie, so we can chat about Suzette.' You can't wait to see Jessica everyday but the last time you saw Jesus was Sunday morning. 'Jessica is always fun,' you think; have you ever wondered about who might have brought Jessica into your life? Men of prayer are usually loners, or are men of other men of prayer.

Prayer tarries because we won't persevere in the closet. Prayer may feel dry, sometimes the heavens are brass. I have told myself many times that I am going to hammer the heavens until they break, and it never disappoints.

For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth (Isaiah 62:1).

Oh! How I love to hear a voice in travail.



Conclusion

Prayer is to the Christian what capital is to the businessman - Ravenhill. The last days are extremely tough, and in all honesty, Christians who are not prayerful are not going to make it.

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man (Luke 21:36).

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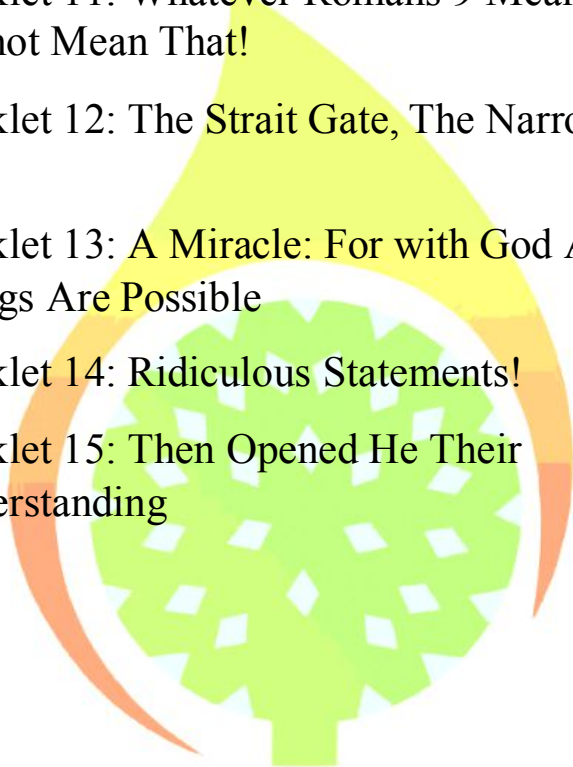
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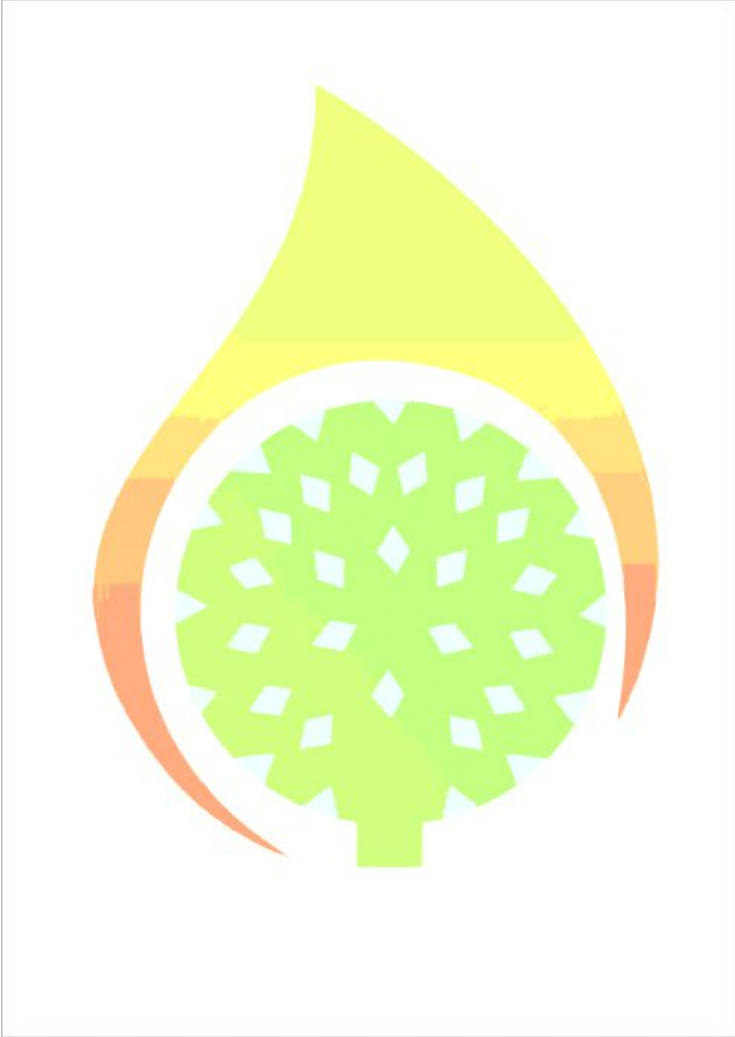
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