

Walls to Bridges

Long before the Lord gave Daniel Geraci the vision for Austin Disaster Relief Network (ADRN), He had already given him a vision for tearing down walls in the city. The year 2000 found Daniel knocking on doors and making phone calls in an effort to bring together pastors and prayer leaders once a month simply to pray. He was looking for doors in the formidable walls of fear, prejudice and ideology that kept God's people isolated and divided.

One of the doors Daniel knocked on belonged to Pastor Manuel Ramos of Templo Monte Sinai, far out on East Riverside. By asking Pastor Ramos to host a prayer event, Daniel was confronting some very high walls. The people from the west side of town were afraid it wasn't safe on the east side of town. There were walls of fear, walls of skin color, walls of theology, walls of tradition, walls of pride, but one of the first walls on this one was that Daniel was a Catholic, and the Hispanic pastors were afraid he would try to convert their people to Catholicism.

As Daniel was on his way to a 9:00AM meeting with several of the pastors to talk about it, a cement truck a ways ahead of him tipped over and spilled cement, closing down the road. Daniel was stuck in traffic at 8:45AM, contemplating another wall that the enemy of our souls had just placed in his path. That's when God showed up, looking like a Yellow Cab driver. Daniel realized the driver was waving at him from his cab. Daniel told this story:

"He was motioning me to roll down my window. I thought he was trying to connect with someone else, but he kept pointing to me. I rolled down my window, and I shouted across two lanes of traffic, 'Are you talking to me?' He shouted, 'Yes! Are you trying to go somewhere?' 'Yes. I have a 9 o'clock meeting!' He says, 'Where?' I shouted back the address, and he said, 'Follow me!'

"Suddenly, the sea of stand still cars parted, and I followed him in my car down many side roads and places I had never driven before, and he got me to the meeting right at 9AM. I truly believe this person was an angel of the Lord, helping me get to this key pastors' meeting.

"When I told the pastors the story, they were all amazed and agreed it was of the Lord. We prayed together and talked. Walls melted into friendship, and they agree to have the prayer meeting at Pastor Ramos' church."

Around 600 people attended that powerful prayer gathering. Pastor Ramos provided a wooden bridge for everyone to cross over as a prophetic act that the Hispanic and Anglo communities were joining hands on behalf of the Lord and our city. God doesn't like walls that separate His people. If we will take steps of faith to cross the bridges, He will bring down the walls.