

MISSIONS BLUEPRINTS

Build a Prayer Altar

By M. B. Howard

Prayer may be the single most important factor in successful missions. Without a mature prayer life, a Christian may be unable to discern the direction God has for his life.

There are many reasons why people don't have an effective prayer life. One may be that people aren't comfortable when they pray. Another reason is that people need a place that is set aside for the purpose of prayer. The Bible encourages patterns of prayer and says that Christians should enter into their closets to pray.

This blueprint is for a prayer altar. The idea was submitted by T.W. Hunt, LIFE consultant for prayer at the Baptist Sunday School Board. The

plans were drawn for him by Sunday School Board architects.

Depending on the width you choose, a person can pray alone or with another. Consider building this prayer altar to be placed in church prayer rooms, mission center prayer rooms, retreat centers, or businesses. When several are combined, these altars work as prayer benches near the sanctuary's podium.

The best use is for prayer at home. Consider setting aside a room, corner of a room or a closet just for prayer.

Wherever you place this altar, leave a Bible there along with other prayer guides such as *Missionary Prayer Calendar*, *Praying for Foreign Missionaries by Country*, and *Praying Around the World Every Seven Days*.

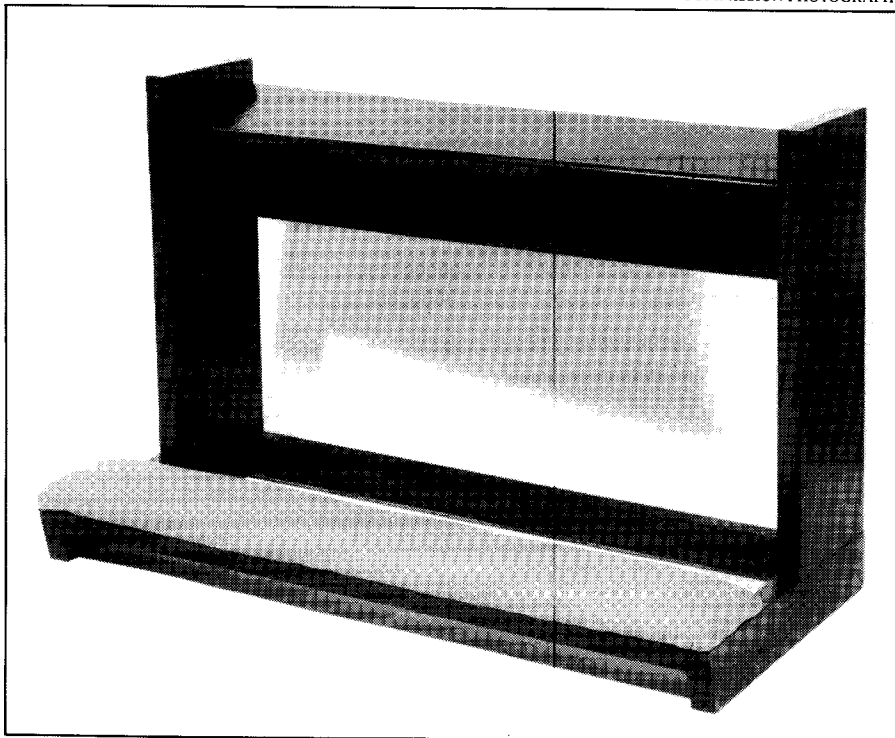
Each is available from the Brotherhood Commission.

The dimensions on page 4.2 are for a 4-foot-2-inch altar to accommodate two people. For an individual prayer altar, reduce the width to 2-feet-2-inches. For the altar shown on this page, I used white pine. Depending on your finish you may want to glue wood together and use cherry, oak or walnut. Total cost was under \$30 and took about eight hours to build.

TOOLS AND MATERIAL REQUIRED

Table saw or radial arm saw
Dado head for saw
Staple gun and 1/4-inch staples
Sandpaper
Steel wool
Wiping stain
Satin finish varnish
Wood chisel
6-penny finish nails
Nail set
Wood putty
Square
Rule
Electric drill
1-inch wood bit
3/8-inch wood bit
5/16-inch wood bit
1 x 12 8-foot lumber
1 x 8 4-foot lumber
2 x 12 8-foot lumber
2 x 10 6-foot lumber
1/2-inch plywood (7½ x 50 inches)
8 foot 1/2-inch quarter round
8 x 2 x 50-inch dense foam padding
Upholstery
2 1/4 x 3-inch stove bolts
4 1/4-inch nuts
2 1/4-inch washers
6 3/8 x 2½-inch dowel pins

BROTHERHOOD COMMISSION PHOTOGRAPH



CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

