**GUIDELINES FOR ADULT PRAYER MINISTRY SESSION**

Ideally, we have 15 people assigned for the prayer sessions. This is enough people for three or four rooms. The prayer sessions are currently Tuesday evening from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Thursday afternoon from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM and Thursday evening from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Team members come an hour prior to the beginning of the session to spend time in prayer. This prepares each member for this time of ministry. We believe this time is critical to a successful prayer session. We seldom place people immediately in a prayer session until they have been in prayer for an hour.

From the fifteen team members one acts as lead intercessor and has been pre-assigned to that role. Two team members manage the front desk and the remaining twelve form four, three person teams. If we don’t have a full team we use two member teams. But we must always have at least one person in intercession. While we tend to keep the same three members per prayer session throughout the afternoon or evening, we do interchange team members when appropriate. The persons assigned to the front desk select the members of the prayer team and those who will remain in intercession.

Those individuals who manage the front desk leave the intercession room about fifteen minutes before the beginning of a session to be ready for any early arrivers. The front desk is vital as those persons set the tone of friendliness and acceptance for those who are coming for prayer. Basically, the persons at the front desk run the operations for that afternoon or evening. They coordinate with the lead intercessor for the prayer needs that are being prayed for so that the persons in intercession will be able to more directly target their intercession. This results in the three person team praying with an individual for that person’s prayer need with other persons in intercession praying into the same need. Those in intercession do not know or see the persons for whom they are praying. No names are ever shared.

When a person enters the Prayer Center the persons on the front desk greet them by exchanging names and then asking if this is the person’s first time to come to the Prayer Center. If it is the first time then the prayer request form that includes a liability waiver is given to the person to fill out. That form follows. If they have come previously, then the closet shelf will have their file. The person is then given the prayer request continuation form to fill out. There already may be one in the person’s file as the form has room for four appointments. If there is not one then those forms are available at the desk for the person to fill out. That form follows.

The role of the lead intercessor is to direct the prayer for that session. Those in intercession will remain engaged whether soaking in God’s Presence or verbally praying for prayer needs. The lead intercessor will direct the flow of the session both with the music selected and how he or she chooses to lead the time of prayer.

The person leading the three person prayer team receives the prayer request form from the front desk, reviews it with the other two team members and prior to bringing the person in the prayer room prays with the team for the person’s need. Then he or she goes to the waiting area to meet the person and then brings the person to the prayer room for prayer. The leading person begins and leads the time of prayer with the other two members participating as that time of prayer develops. The lead person should remain aware of time as prayer sessions need to be between twenty to thirty minutes.

At the conclusion of the prayer session, the lead person can give one or more of the prayer cards and brochures that are in each prayer room to the person for whom they have prayed. There is no need to do this unless it will be helpful. The flow of the prayer session will determine if one of these will be helpful. Also, prayer cloths, anointing oil and Bibles are in each prayer room and may be given as is appropriate. The lead person will escort the person being prayed for back to the reception area and then return to the prayer room with the other two members to fill out the summary of the prayer session which is on the back of the prayer request form. The prayer request form is then returned to the front desk. The team will either remain together for additional prayer sessions or return to intercession as directed by the front desk.

**FINAL POINTS TO REMEMBER**

**1. Faith In God.**

We must accept on faith scriptures such as Mark 16:15 & 18b in which Jesus said we will place our hands on the sick and they will get well. Your faith is not in your faith, but it is in God - faith in His promises, His wisdom, His power and His goodness.

**2. Pray in Faith.**

To pray in faith is: (1) to turn to God in complete trust that He knows what is best, that He loves us more than anyone else and has the power to accomplish whatever we need, (2) to accept as normal our doubts about our own adequacy and our own prediction of results, (3) to see that the faith-action we need to take is to pray for the sick, and (4) to leave the results up to God.

**3. Style.**

Your prayer technique and personality will be different from others. You must find your own voice for prayer, but do allow yourself to learn from others.

**4. Love and Comfort**.

Remember two guidelines (1) to show love and (2) to comfort and encourage. Apply this principle to the wording of your prayers. For example, if the person requests prayer for more trust in the Lord, it is better to pray, “Father please increase my brother’s faith” as opposed to “Father, deal with a heart of unbelief.” Love and acceptance are the keys.

**5. Goal.**

The goal is an impartation of the love of God through you and a release of the power of the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus. It is not to see a visible manifestation of some kind, though that will often happen. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself in love. (Galatians 5:6)

**6. Take Time to Minister.**

Do not rush or force the work of the Holy Spirit! Your job is to pray, it is His job to touch, heal and comfort the person. You must be relaxed and let the person for whom you are praying know you have plenty of time. In fact, you have only 20-30 minutes, but that is usually enough time. And the person can always return for more prayer.

**7. Assess the Response.**

When praying, pay close attention to what the Holy Spirit is doing. Pray with your eyes open. Watching the person’s response can assist you in knowing how to pray.

**8. Emphasize the Positive**.

Do not minister correction. No directional prophecy. No counseling and no advice. No health food supplements, diet secrets, or your favorite home remedy. You are trusting the power of the Holy Spirit. So instead, minister positive words of encouragement and healing, or the release of greater love, faith, joy, etc.

**9. Laying on of Hands.**

The appropriate places to lay hands on someone for prayer are the hand or shoulder. Apply a soft touch, being sensitive to not offend anyone. It is best to ask permission from the person before laying hands on them. When praying for healing, if the affected part of the person’s body is not a sensitive one, for example, if it is a foot, back or shoulder, you may touch the area. This seems to bring the power of the Holy Spirit in you closer to the point where the healing is needed. If the problem is a sensitive area, such as, the abdomen, you can ask the person receiving prayer to place their hand on the affected area and then place your hand on the person’s hand. If this seems inappropriate, simply hold the person’s hand gently or touch the shoulder lightly as you pray. Again, ask permission before laying hands on the person for whom you are praying. Remember scripture does not say rubbing, massaging, etc. It says laying on of hands.

**10. Praying in Tongues.**

Since this ministry is both ecumenical and involves praying for people from many faith backgrounds, as well as, those with little or no faith background we choose not to pray in tongues out loud.

**11. Relax and do.**

Think in terms of doing rather than believing. Just relax and do it.

**12. Two Points.**

(1) You can’t heal anyone. (2) You don’t have the answers.

**13. Your Motto.**

Be Happy! Be Loving! Pray in Faith!