

PASTORAL PRAYER TRAINING DAY

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." Luke 4:18-19 Healing is "restoring what the enemy has stolen from people in a broken world and includes spiritual healing, healing from past hurts, healing of the body physically, healing of the mind, healing from demonic oppression, healing of our relationships and healing of social deprivation and environmental sickness".

1. A PROMISE

Is anyone of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the lord. and the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

(James 5:14-15)

2. POSSIBLE MODELS

- The vicar/lay ministers visit the sick and pray
- Notice sheet for congregation that includes names of those needing prayer during intercessions.
- The vicar/ministers pray/laying on of hands at the rail after the service.

- A midweek prayer group praying specifically for healing.
- Occasional healing services perhaps with a liturgical structure.
- A group that meets for prayer before the Sunday service to undergird the ministry of healing in the Church.

Someone gifted in the area of healing is invited to minister.

 A team who are authorised by the vicar to pray with those who come forward at the end of the service.

3. PROVISION

" There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-19).... Covet the greater gifts" (1 Cor 12:31)

4. PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

 A ministry wisely delegated by the leadership, but

A ministry not abdicated by leadership

• A ministry where leadership authority is seen to be present.

A ministry that requires ongoing training

Learning in small groups

Receiving as well as giving

What are our Values?



It is through Jesus as Lord

• By His stripes we are healed

Through the power of the Holy Spirit

In tune with the Word of God.

 Respecting peoples dignity and integrity

In love.

Our commission

As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near. 'Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received freely give. (Matt 10:7-8)"

OUR AUTHORITY

- Jesus called the 12 disciples to be with Him.
- He modelled the ministry before them.
- He then commissioned them to go out to preach the gospel, heal the sick, and cast out demons (Lk 9:1)
- He sent the 72 to do the same (Lk 10:9)

- Jesus finally commanded the disciples "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you (Mt 20: 19,20).
- He calls us to do the same.
- Yes but how?

WHAT IS PRAYER MINISTRY?

- It is not counselling.
- It is not talking or discussing
- It is not talking to God (e.g. praying to God "about" the person).
- It is not primarily problem solving.

- It is inviting the Holy Spirit to bring the presence of Jesus, His kingdom, its benefits and His unique agenda for the person being ministered to.
- A listening ministry, one ear tuned to The Holy Spirit, one ear tuned to the one being prayed with (we can get in the way if we talk too much).

We are totally reliant on the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit, using, not just our minds, but asking for His presence, healing, revelation and blessing.

• This is God's work, not ours!

PRACTICAL PREPARATION

- Prepare yourself with an expectant faith and an open heart. Pray for wisdom (Jas 1:5)
- Have tissues and oil nearby
- Is my breath OK?" Suck a mint!
- Do I smell good to be near (and avoid overpowering scent)?

Preparatory prayers

- Pray first with the person with whom you are ministering.
- Proclaim the Lordship of Jesus over you and those you are praying with.
- Pray for protection.
- Invite the Holy Spirit in the Name of Jesus (Lk 11:13) to bring the compassion of Jesus and His gifts.

GUIDELINES IN PRAYER MINISTRY

- Prayer ministry is under the authority of the ministry leadership team
- We usually pray in two's (male/female)
- Do not interfere with, or take over the ministry of another, unless requested to do so.

- Avoid beginning ministry after 9.30/1000pm at night. It can open issues that are best left until more time is available.
- Minister with compassion, treating the person as you would wish to be treated.
- Do not express shock.

STEPS IN PRAYER MINISTRY

Step 1. Where or what is the problem? (for healing) Where does it hurt?
Step 2. Why does it hurt?
Step 3. What kind of prayer will help?
Step 4. How are we doing?
Step 5. What should the person do now?

STEP ONE: "Where or what is the problem? WHERE does it hurt?

The welcome and interview stage

The welcome

- Find a good space
- Welcome the person coming for prayer and smile
- Introduce yourself and ask the person's name
- Give them your total concentration

The interview

 Ask them "What would you like Jesus to do for you today (or a similar invitation)?"

 Keep their "story" to a minimum. The more you hear the more your faith can be crushed!

The "interview" stage is conducted on two levels:

1) NATURAL

- Rational, through what you are able to observe.
- Discernment can come through your own past/present experience, e.g., what you have seen, known, learned about this situation or condition.

2) SUPERNATURAL - Beyond the rational, revealed through gifts of Holy Spirit:

Words of wisdom Words of Knowledge Distinguishing/discernment of spirits, etc.

The AIM of step 1.

To discern the cause of the condition, i.e., is it: natural, physical, emotional, social, sin, or supernatural.

STEP TWO: "WHY does it hurt?"

The "diagnostic" stage

Trying to discern the root cause in the NATURAL realm:

 A disease or sickness, have they hurt themselves, accident, etc.

 Sin resulting in a physical or emotional condition

- Emotional wounding by others
- Belief systems etc.
- Social eg. harbouring unforgiveness, bitterness, anger.

THE NEED FOR FORGIVENESS

This is a common prayer need

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins (Matt 6:12-15)

Be merciful (Eph 4:32)

Unforgiveness

- Holds a person in a spiritual bondage
- Jesus died for the sins of the whole world!
- Invite them to pray a simple prayer of forgiveness or help to be willing to forgive
- Pronounce forgiveness (1 John 1:9)
- They may need to forgive themselves (Matt 19:19)

Trying to discern the root cause in the SUPER-NATURAL realm

- Occult involvement in the past, oppression, curses (by self or others). Do not tell anyone they have an evil spirit. If this is suspected, seek advice from the Minister (guidelines may need to be developed)
- Pronouncements made by authority figures, parents, teachers etc. e.g. "you will never be any good at....."

STEP 3. What kind of prayer will help this person?

- Ask the person to close their eyes, except a person with hearing difficulties.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to come.
- Keep your eyes open and watch as you pray
- Place your hands gently on their shoulder (you may need to ask) Always be careful where placing your hands. Never push!

- Keep your stronger hand behind the person in case you need to 'catch' them.
- Keep your eyes open and "see what the Father is doing", this is especially seen in the person's face or body language
- Allow time without speaking
- If it is your gift, pray silently in tongues
As you pray, you may (or may not) feel:

 Heat or sensations of warmth (particularly in the hands).

• Trembling in hands (slight, to intense).

• Wait, give God time to minister.

 Focus on God yet watching what He is doing.

 The person may need to give their lives to Jesus as Lord. Be open to that possibility.

POSSIBLE SIGNS OF A RESPONSE BY THE PERSON BEING PRAYED FOR

- Tears or brokenness sobbing.
- Fluttering eye lids.
- Hot flushes across body or in certain parts of body (extreme cold).
- Rush or tingling sensations.
- Inflow of power as an electrical current.

Trembling or shaking in all or part of the body

- Quickening of the heart (exhilaration)
- Falling down or resting under the power of the Holy Spirit

Cries of pain or release

Laughing and great joy

Deep peace

Radiance or glow on the face

POSSIBLE WAYS IN WHICH REVELATION MAY COME Your spiritual "senses" may:

- Feel the revelation (eg. pain that is not yours)
- Hear the Lord (as Samuel did)
- See a word, names or a picture
- Even smell or taste something

- "Know" it (a word of knowledge)
- Find yourself speaking a word
- More probably, a combination of these
- You sense none of these, so it may be through "common sense"

- Sense of anointing of power.
- A knowing or inner witness of the presence of healing power
- A sense of authority and command
- Sense of detachment, as you listen to God

MINISTRY IS PRIMARILY BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT

- Whether or not these manifestations are present in a ministry situation, the Holy Spirit can be present to heal or deliver
- We are not ministering on the basis of these manifestations but under the authority, command and direction of Jesus

HOW DO WE PRAY?

Prayer directed TOWARD God

- Petition is most common
- Seeking repentance and forgiveness
- Releasing blessings and healing
- Intercessory prayer (praying into the person's needs)

Prayer directed FROM God

A command of faith

A pronouncement of faith

Words of prophecy or revelation

BLESS WHAT GOD IS DOING

KEEP GOING! As you wait/minister, you may find the following short prayers helpful (this can feel mechanical, but can impart a very real blessing)

- More of your Holy Spirit Lord (Eph 5:18).
- Come Lord Jesus (John 1:12)
- More love Lord (Rom 5:5)

- More peace (John 20:21, Phil 4:7)
- Release your joy Lord (Neh 8:10).
- Your kingdom come, your will be done (Luke 11:2)
- Send your anointing (Luke 4:18)
- Release your gifts lord (2 Tim. 1:6)

- Bring your reconciliation Lord (Col 1:20)
- Bring a deeper revelation of your love Lord (Eph 1:17)
- Give more understanding of your ways (Pro 3:5, Ps 37:5)
- Strengthen inwardly with your Spirit Lord (Eph 3:16)

STEP FOUR: "How are we doing?"

The evaluation-stage.

Ask questions if necessary

- "What's happening?"
- "What is God doing?"
- "How do you feel/what are you thinking?"
- "Is there anything you would like to pray?"

Continue to pray as led. Stay attentive to the Holy Spirit

Stop praying when:

 The Holy Spirit or person indicates that the ministry has been effective

There is nothing else to say

 Everything has been prayed for with or without (apparent) progress

STEP FIVE: "WHAT should the person do now?"

The "post prayer" stage.

- Only if necessary make suggestions i.e. seek God for more insight, areas of need, keep a journal, take time out etc.
- Preface "I sense it would be good to... or I feel that the Lord might be leading...."
- Read encouraging words of Scripture etc

- Remember that you need an "exit strategy" in Prayer Ministry as some people may be very needy
- Some issues will need referral
- Do not say that someone is healed if there are no signs
- Do not instruct anyone to give up medication

CLOSING MINISTRY DOWN

- You may want to anoint the person with oil
- Give time for the person to sense the peace of God
- You may want to encourage the person to receive further ministry as opportunities arise
- Give thanks to God and bless them as they go

CHALLENGES TO MINISTRY

- Our WORLDVIEW prevents us from praying in this way
- We have no experience of this
- it seems presumptuous!
- We lack a model (Acts 9:40, Luke 8:5)
- We lack the Leadership's authority
- We lack power (Acts 1:8)

CHALLENGES PRIOR TO MINISTRY:

A desire to stay away

 Feeling inadequate, tired, not needed, depressed, ill or hassled

Temptation to sin

An argument with a friend, colleague or spouse

• Anger, doubts, self doubt, unkind thoughts etc.

• If so, be prepared to receive ministry from other people before you start.

CHALLENGES DURING MINISTRY

- Fear of failure, that "nothing is happening"
- No sense of anointing
- Distractions
- Interruptions

- Negative thoughts viz., something always happens when they pray! Self condemnation
- Temptation to make (manipulate) something to happen.
- Finding yourself annoyed by traits/ habits/ mannerisms in people.

CHALLENGES AFTER THE MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

- Today/tonight was a waste of time
- I have made fool of myself
- I don't feel that I belong in this ministry
- I can't flow in the spirit
- Is this merely manipulation?

CONCLUSION

- Pastoral prayer ministry is confidential. The person prayed for needs to feel secure that what has been shared will go no further
- The ministry is therefore "ring-fenced" and is not taken further unless with advice from a member of the Leader-ship Team

FINALLY!

- Pray with the person with whom you have ministered
- Pray that the cross of Jesus would be placed between you both and between you and those you ministered to
- Pray that the Lord would clear your mind of anything you do not need to remember

- Pray release from the role of prayer ministry
- Give all those you have prayed for back to the Lord
- Give God all the glory
- Talk through any issues that have troubled you. Remember that we are ALL learners!

