

Praying for Others' Needs



Jesus reached out to people who were suffering. He used prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit to heal physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual needs of people.

As believers in Jesus, we are to follow His example. We have been charged in modern-day scripture to pray over those who are sick (D&C 125:15 and to call for the elders when we are sick and need support D&C 12).

In the Community of Christ, we uphold these scriptures by:

- Praying individually for those who are ill or in need.
- Praying collectively as a group, congregation, or via prayer chains or emails.
- Laying on of Hands by the Elders. (Refer to Laying on of Hands health brief at www.CHM.HMACofChrist.org)

Some Simple Guidelines

- ❖ Assure confidentiality/privacy: Many persons prefer to share their illness and concerns with a limited number of people. If someone has not given you permission to share information, do NOT pass the information along. Giving publicity to the private life of another person may subject ministers to liability for invasion of privacy. A great response after learning about a need is to *find a quiet place and pray for the person.*
- ❖ Obtain permission to share with others a person's name and their concerns for prayer. Clarify what they would like shared and what they do not want shared. *Then, give the request to the pastor/individual in charge of sharing the information.*
- ❖ Once you have consent, keep the details shared simple since God already knows the circumstances.
- ❖ When someone asks you to pray for them, **STOP and PRAY RIGHT THEN.** *Demonstrate you are a person of action.*

Created by High Priest Kathy Robinson, RN, MSN and
Elder Paula Rummel, RN, B.A.

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Handling Prayer Requests

- Congregations can use emails to send out prayer needs screened by a pastor or coordinator. Prayer requests can be received electronically throughout the day for those working or away from home phones. Traditional phone chains must still be used for those who do not have email.
- Congregations can use an updated, weekly bulletin insert for their prayer list. Keeping the list current can be a challenge. Some congregations have a time limit or only print the previous week's requests. Some congregations treat on-going illnesses or long-term concerns of congregation members differently than weekly requests.
- Congregations may request names of those needing prayer as part of congregational announcements each Sunday. A prayer may be offered during a "Sharing and Caring" time or as part of the worship service for these needs.
- It may be appropriate to offer prayers for the individual requesting prayers for another person. While they may not have the specific need, they care enough for this individual to bring the need before the congregation for prayer.
- Call upon the "prayer warriors" of the congregation who have/make the time for longer sessions of prayer. For special needs/events utilize a prayer vigil at the church.
- *Answered prayer* should be included as part of worship and celebration to acknowledge the power of prayer.

Remembering those who are ill, distressed, or in need is an important part of congregational life. Home and hospital visits, phone calls, food, transportation or housekeeping support may also be part of our caring and healing ministry. **Praying for one another is one of the most Christ-like gifts we can share.**

More about legal considerations can be found at
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