

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR GROUP INTERCESSION

Appoint a regular time, once a week or once a month, which is agreeable to all involved. Remember when two or three are gathered together in His name, Jesus is in their midst: consequently, two can be 'the group'.

Commit to coming together at this time. Let this commitment always be a first priority. Do not be tempted to make any other appointments or commitments during this time.

Appoint a leader, but with the understanding that all involved will share leadership. Allow a different person to lead the group from time to time, but keep the format the same. Commit to praying God's Word as a group, as well as individually.

Set a time limit and stick to it. This time should be used for prayer only. Save visiting and talking until after the group session, otherwise your intercession time can quickly become a gossip session.

- Come together in total silence
- Invite the Holy Spirit to guide you in your prayer time.
- Ask the Lord's forgiveness for all known and unknown sins of the group. Silently confess any unforgiveness that you may be harboring, 'lest your prayers be hindered'.
- This is also an excellent time to pray the Deliverance Prayer (p23) or you can pray it at the end.

As you become a prayer warrior, you may experience some interference from satan and his allies. Satan is not pleased when God's army begins to pray against him and will no doubt plan a counter attack.

Consequently, you may want to get into the daily habit of binding satan in your life, your family's lives, and your work places. Quite frankly, I do not get out of bed without

praying the Deliverance Prayer. I try to remember the saying 'if the devil can't make you bad, he will make you too busy'. You will be amazed at the power of the Deliverance Prayer. This prayer is especially beneficial when prayed at the beginning of your intercessory group meeting for the members of the group and their families.

- **Pray the Intercessors Creed (p13).**
- **Then pray the Scriptures for Intercessors (p14).**
- **Write the individual requests (first names only) on the Prayer Request Form (p174).** This form may be copied and enlarged for easier use.

Consistently state the importance of confidentiality in all petitions. Always strive to be a trustworthy intercessor. Use first names only when praying for others.

- **Identify the needs as salvation, physical healing, inner healing, special needs, deliverance, relationships, protection and comfort, wisdom and guidance, faith and strength, joy and peace.**
- **After all the requests have been put on the form lift the names to the Lord, praying several Scriptural Prayers where they apply.**
- **Close with the Deliverance Prayer (p23) if you did not pray it earlier.**
- **After intercession or 'hands on' intercession, you may find it helpful to pray the Cutting Free Prayer (p28).**

This prayer sets your own spirit free from any burden bearing after intercession that could cause oppression, depression or even illness. If the intercession becomes intense, the need for this will be important. The Lord does not want you to carry the burdens of another. He wants you to release the person to Him, in order for the Lord to do His work in the person for whom you are praying. **Releasing the person to the Lord is one key to healing, desperately hanging on to a person often prevents God's intervention.**

Commit to praying for these petitions on the Prayer Request Form (p174) **individually** three to four times a week for three weeks to a month, then let the names go. Depending on how often you meet, you will be adding names throughout the month. Placing a date by the names will facilitate your knowing when to take names off the list. The little yellow stickies are very useful for listing names on the Scripture pages.

Fasting can be one of the most powerful tools of intercession. In difficult situations, fasting can make a significant breakthrough. This takes commitment and discipline, but the results are phenomenal. A one day fast seems to be sufficient. Omit breakfast and lunch. This is very little to sacrifice, but experience has shown that God honors the commitment.

Please pray the Scriptures and fast for the unity of the Church (p46), Israel (p53), your community (p68), the nation and worldwide issues (p64). There are over 20,000 prayer groups fasting and praying for the nation and the Church using Scriptures in *The Sword of The Spirit, The Word of God*. Please join us.

Remember, these suggestions are not absolutes, for there is no set way of praying; but when you are praying for people and situations at a distance, this type of intercession seems to work best.

We have found that praying the Deliverance Prayer and the Scriptures over people in the different categories is very powerful and is in God's will, for Scripture tells us that Jesus was sent to destroy the works of the devil, (I John 4:8) and God will not let His Word return void and He is quick to perform it (Isaiah 55:10-11).

We stand on the powerful promises of God's Word. We have also found that in praying this way, one can pray for many people in a short period of time. Remember, simply lift up the names to the Lord, pray the Scriptures, followed by the Deliverance Prayers, then let it go. Trust and let the Lord do His work through His Word. **'The Lord will work with us and confirm the Word by the signs that follow'** (Mark 16:20).

INDIVIDUAL INTERCESSION

Commit to praying at least three times a week. Choose the same time and place on the appointed days. If you find it hard to find the time, ask the Lord to waken you earlier on those 'committed' days. He will do it.

Read and meditate on the Scriptures for a few minutes, allowing yourself to come into the presence of the Lord. You may wish to keep a journal, jotting down the Lord's responses. What a joy this can be.

- **Invite the Holy Spirit** to guide your prayer time.
- **Pray the Intercessors Creed** (p13).
- **Pray the Scriptures for Intercessors** (p14).
- **Take the Prayer Request Form** (p174). This form may be copied and enlarged for easier use.
- **Write the names of the people** you want to pray for under the appropriate categories on the Prayer Request Form.
- **Lift up the names of the people** on your Prayer Request Form by praying several, or all, of the relevant Scriptural Prayers over them.
- **Pray the Deliverance Prayer** (p23) over all for whom you have prayed the Scriptural Prayers. (Pray it just once over all the names). Speaking these names and prayers out loud is very powerful.
- Please remember to pray for the unity of the Church (p46), Israel (p53), your community (p68), the nation and worldwide issues (p64).
- After intercession or 'hands on' intercession, you may find it helpful to pray the Cutting Free Prayer (p28).

Watch each day how the Lord will bless you with His love and presence. You will be amazed how lives will be changed as a result of obedience to intercession (see 2 Chronicles 7:14).

Do not limit yourselves to pray only for the requests that you receive. If we all unite as intercessors, praying God's Word,

in one accord, there is no limit to the victory of the light overcoming the darkness. Pray Deliverance Prayers and Scriptures against the evil that has the potential for causing destruction and division to our nation, our families, our government, our churches, our schools, our youth, our Christian beliefs. On pages 64-67 are suggested topics.

I have chosen these groups, and factions simply from the standpoint that if what they represent, or condone, is not in concordance with God's Word, then they are out of the will of God, and therefore, 'in the will of satan to do his work' (2 Tim 2:26).

The lists on pages 64-67 are only partial lists of the many people and organizations that the Lord wants to draw unto Himself. Be on the alert as you go throughout your daily activities. The Lord will consistently nudge you to pray for certain people, groups, institutions, and organizations.

Please remember as you pray for these groups that God created every one of these people in love. Every person comes from God, they are here on earth to serve God, and one day they prayerfully will return to God. We as intercessors are never to judge or condemn another human being. That is God's task, and His alone. We are only to pray for them, to lift them to the Lord in love. If anyone is in sin, we are to love the sinner but hate the sin.

Jesus Christ appeared in order to take away sins; and in Jesus there is no sin.

1 John 3:5

Unanswered Prayer

A word about unanswered prayer. This topic has been the 'unanswered topic' forever. No one seems to have the answer: however, I have experienced this: if a person does not choose to get well, praying for healing doesn't seem to make a breakthrough. Our heavenly Father has given all of us free will - the right to choose - and this is also true of healing. The person in question could have experienced rejection or trauma as far back as the womb, or may be carrying deep guilt from some woundedness or unconfessed

sin. It is my belief that both can result in the person being filled with guilt and/or shame, thus the person never feels worthy of healing. Subconsciously, dying may be their choice rather than healing. In situations with these characteristics, it takes in-depth inner healing to bring about a deep awakening, and an unquestionable knowledge of God's forgiveness and His unconditional love to give the person the desire to live, and thus receive healing. When this happens, the person finally realizes that yes, they were chosen by God, that they are here on earth to serve God, and one day they will go back to God. Knowing this gives life true meaning.