



## DEVELOPING A PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

Many women's ministries offer those attending their events the chance to seek prayer for a personal need, to pray through a concern they have for others, or simply to share in giving thanks for God's blessings to them.

It is important that people who take part in prayer ministry during public worship, when the church is responsible for the ministry are trained, accountable and follow the church's policy on prayer ministry. An outline policy is given below, which is intended as a basis from which to work - it is likely that this will need tailoring to suit the individual policies and practices of your church.

### EXAMPLE GUIDELINES FOR MINISTRY

*"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him." 1 John 5: 14-15*

#### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the prayer ministry team is to actively encourage and cover the women's ministry team and all events in prayer. Be open and responsive to the working of the Holy Spirit, so that God's love, guidance and healing power will be released for the benefit of his women and to his glory.

#### 2. EXPECTATIONS

##### What the Women's Ministry team can expect of the Prayer Team Members

- Members of the Prayer Ministry Team will be approved by, and accountable to the Church and Women's Ministry Team.
- Members will be aware of and adhere to the principles set out in these guidelines.
- Membership will be a response to a desire to pray with people.
- Members will seek to be open and responsive to the Holy Spirit in prayer.
- Members will be available to pray with women during and at the end of events as designated.
- Members will have a commitment to participate in appropriate Prayer Ministry training. (*Book a workshop with the BUV Women's Ministry*)
- Members will be available for a term of specified office.

### What Team members can expect from Women's Ministry and Church

- Prayer support will be provided for the team by the church.
- The team will have access to the leadership for advice, guidance, support and encouragement.
- Periodic reviews of the prayer ministry.
- The church will understand that personal circumstances change and members may need to step down.

### **3. PROCESS FOR PRAYING WITH PEOPLE AT EVENTS**

These guidelines apply both to ministering to people and to those seeking intercession on behalf of others.

- Prayer with women at events should normally be done in 2's or more and of the same gender.
- If you don't know the person you are praying with, start by introducing yourselves, and ask for a brief outline of the prayer need.
- If appropriate, explain what will happen, i.e. that you are there to pray for them. If the need is a personal one, encourage them to be quiet and receive; although if they are bringing a concern for another person, offer them the opportunity to join in the prayer if they so wish
- Sit down, with one member of the prayer ministry team sitting on either side. However, if there is a particular need for healing then it may be appropriate to adopt some other posture.
- Start by thanking God for the person, or for some element of the situation.
- Expect the Spirit to guide your prayers, perhaps with words of wisdom, knowledge or comfort. You may need to wait a while in quiet to understand where the Spirit is leading you. You will need sensitivity and humility to find out if what you think you have been given has any significance for the person you are praying with. If you receive words or pictures, you should be wary of interpreting them for the person as you may put your own interpretation or slant upon them.
- You do not need to share everything you receive in prayer at the time - you may want to share it with your co-team member afterwards to check it out. If it still feels appropriate then it can be shared with the person later.
- Be aware that the Holy Spirit will be working on the person being prayed for even if there doesn't seem to be anything happening. For some, it may be the first time that they have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, and they may need a little explanation that what they are experiencing is both normal, and from God. Keep focused on the Lord.
- After prayer, it may feel appropriate to ask them if they would like continued prayer covering. There are a couple of choices;
  - i) Offer to continue to pray for them during the coming week.
  - ii) Offer the opportunity of using a prayer chain to ensure that they are covered in prayer. Beware of confidentiality as you open it to a church prayer chain.
  - iii) Offer a further occasion to meet with them for prayer - if appropriate involve the leaders in this.

#### **4. DELIVERANCE**

Occasionally a team member may feel they have discerned a need for deliverance ministry. Since sensitivity is of utmost importance, you must verify your feelings with the leadership before sharing your thoughts with the person concerned.

If this arises it would not be appropriate for immediate action at the even, so explain to the person you are praying with that they may benefit from additional prayer and that you would like, with their permission, to discuss the matter with the leadership and to arrange further prayer time with them. Any necessary deliverance ministry will only be done under the leadership of one of the church leaders.

#### **5. CONFIDENTIALITY**

In most instances people coming for prayer can expect strict confidentiality. There may be times when total confidentiality cannot be given. This would include disclosure of serious criminal activities such as abuse. For example; if an adult woman disclosed she was being abused by her partner it would not be appropriate to breach confidentiality but, if the same woman disclosed her belief that her partner was abusing a child, confidentiality cannot be maintained. If something of this magnitude were disclosed you must discuss it with the leadership so that appropriate action can be taken.

If someone raises the need for confidentiality, you may find it helpful to respond by explaining that occasionally, when serious matters are shared, the Prayer Ministry team members are obliged to take it to the leadership. Reassurance can be given to the person that what they discuss will not be subject to gossip.

There may be other issues where you feel guidance from, or the involvement of the leadership would be helpful. On these occasions it is essential to obtain the agreement of the person you are praying with before you identify them.

#### **6. FURTHER PRAYER**

You may feel it helpful to offer one or two further opportunities for prayer but it is important to remember that this is not in-depth prayer counseling. You may wish to make arrangements to discuss the need for this with the leadership. Praying with others is also a good opportunity to encourage people in their own prayer life. It may be helpful to recommend books and courses as well as offering to introduce them to prayer triplets, etc.

*"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."* Hebrews 4:16

#### **7. PRAYER WARRIORS**

It would be good to establish a prayer warrior team, who intercede for the women's ministry leaders and for include prayer points passed to them from the Prayer Ministry team. Women that could be invited to be prayer warriors might be women who are shut-in's or elderly women who cannot help physically with events, but are keen to be involved through prayer.