

PASTOR'S PRAYER PARTNERS

All pastors need a dedicated team to lift them and their family up in prayer. It is so important to find men and women who value the pastor and will serve him, ease his burdens, and provide protection for their family through the covering of prayer. This team should be continually aware of their responsibilities in covering them during service times as well as outside of service times.

PASTOR'S PRAYER PARTNERS' RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLES

The responsibility of Pastor's Prayer Partners is to create a covering of strength and protection for Pastor. Submission, honor, loyalty and support are key heart postures that Prayer Partners should value, and carry to help protect and support the vision God has given him.

- Pray for Pastor and/or the guest speaker before each service. If you are scheduled on Sunday 1st service or Wednesday night service, meet with Pastor in his office 30 minutes before service starts. There will be other Prayer Ministry members in the office to pray for him. Just follow his lead. For 2nd service he is not in his office. He tends to move around and mingle. Find him, wait for him to finish whatever he is doing, and then pray for him where he is standing. We also pray for him after every service.
- All Prayer Partners attending services, should pray for him and the service from their seats, allowing us to surround the auditorium with prayer.

Prayer initiatives Outside of scheduled Service Times:

- Pastor will periodically send out specific prayer needs. We communicate those at his request via the Realm under the Prayer Partners Serve Team.
 - Scheduling Conflicts – In the event you cannot serve on your scheduled date, please call or email another person on the team to see if they can cover or trade dates with you. If they are able to provide replacement, then text or email the ministry leader to let them know of the change. If you cannot find a replacement, please contact the ministry leader so we may find a replacement. Below is a list of prayer priorities relating to praying for Pastor Don and the Sunday services. Those assigned to these prayer targets should:
1. Pray for a presence-driven environment that transforms people. (Acts 3:20-21)
 2. Pray for a community of Believers who reveal Christ and are not afraid to engage with the Kingdom to impact our culture. (John 14:6-7)

3. Pray for the church and those attending the services. Specifically pray for:
 - receptiveness to the presence of God and the Word.
 - people's hearts to be good ground and ready to receive the seed of the Word.
 - the healing of all attendees in spirit, soul, and body.
 - fruitfulness that remains.
 - the removal of all distractions and hindrances.
 - the congregation to take in the Word spoken, respond to what they have heard, and follow God's lead.
 - Authentic heart worship to happen and the worship would be focused on Christ.

4. Pray for all volunteers that they would:
 - flow in their gifts and talents to display the gospel through their actions and service.
 - be strengthened with spiritual wisdom.
 - sensitive to what is happening around them and respond in a way that is loving and honoring to the church and pastor.
 - Be Sensitive to the Leading of the Holy Spirit
 - represent MGC and Pastor with honor and love.

5. Pray for the entire church team as a whole and individually. Pray for:
 - Pastor Don and his family.
 - all staff and their families.
 - faithfulness to hold firm to the whole counsel of the Word. (Acts 20:27; Titus 1:9)
 - pure hearts to serve. (Colossians 3:23)
 - whole-heartedness and a spirit of excellence. (Numbers 14:24)
 - creativity and vision. (Galatians 6:4-5)
 - anointing on the worship leaders as they lead the congregation into the presence of God.
 - vocalists, instrumentalists, and tech team that they are vessels used for God's glory.

6. Pray diligently over Pastor Don for:
 - a fresh continued anointing from God.
 - spiritual, mental, and physical protection.
 - divine health.

- his role as a husband and father.
- his peace, joy, and happiness.
- continual encouragement.
- spiritual wisdom.

ALTAR WORKERS

The MGC Prayer Ministry encompasses many different facets of prayer. One of the most sensitive as well as important teams that cover prayer is the altar worker. Altar workers carry a very important responsibility for every service, both naturally and spiritually. In essence, they function as the “hands and feet” of what is ministered on the platform. The primary responsibility of the altar team member is to help create an atmosphere of care and carry an attitude of prayer into the altars. Altar workers should be sensitive, compassionate, encouraging and welcoming. They continually fill their hearts with the word of God so that they can pray with boldness and confidence.

Altar workers are selected and trained to minister to those who respond to an altar call during one of our services. Just as every person is different, every altar call carries its own uniqueness. These prayer leaders are prepared to connect with those they are praying with quickly (we only spend 3-5 minutes with each person) and are easily led by the Spirit on how to pray for their need. Altar workers must realize that they are not there to “fix” anyone—that is something only Jesus can do! Their job is simply to pray the prayer of faith, declare God’s Word over the situation, and come into agreement with the Lord about what He says regarding the needs of those who have responded.

Below are some basic guidelines given to the altar workers to make our time of prayer at the altar more productive and effective.

1. Altar workers bring a **comfortable, safe** atmosphere to the altar. This is accomplished by:
 - entering worship with the expectation that Jesus will answer needs at the altar.
 - presenting an inviting, open presence while speaking with people, which includes voice tone, body language, and facial expressions.
 - Being aware and assured your breath is fresh.
2. Altar workers are open to **discover** the individual’s specific needs. This is accomplished by:
 - being sensitive to the person who is requesting prayer.
 - asking pertinent, Spirit-led questions to gain insight into the situation while not being “pushy” for more than what they are willing to share.

3. Altar workers should be strategic in **their** prayers. This is accomplished by:
 - praying Holy Spirit directed prayers for the need presented without drifting to other issues.
 - leading the responding person to repeat a prayer that deals with their particular situation as needed.
 - encouraging the person(s) to continue in prayer on their own once prayer has been offered and encouraging them in faith and hope as they continue to seek the Lord.

4. Altar workers should **pray** the prayer of faith. This is accomplished by:
 - praying the Word of God over every situation.
 - praying in the name of Jesus. (John 16:23)
 - praying prayers of faith and not doubt. (Mark 11:24)
 - believing that faith comes from God and He is faithful to hear and answer prayers aligned with His Word. (Hebrews 11:1)

5. Altar workers **understand** their mission. They understand that:
 - prayer and counseling differ.
 - the altar prayer is not a counseling session.
 - when to end the altar prayer without moving into intercession.
 - when and how to help connect the person(s) to the appropriate prayer leader or staff member for additional help.

ALTAR WORKERS' RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLES

The list below will bring a better understanding of the expectations during the prayer and altar service. Altar workers should:

1. **Pay attention to Pastor (or guest speaker) and his leading.**

From the outside looking in, it may appear as though every altar service is fairly the same. That pretense is false. Many aspects of a service can change how an altar service/prayer time will go. Thus, altar workers must be ready to move at any time during the service when called upon. A peaceful and prompt response helps to set the stage for those who are coming for prayer.

2. **Pray that the altars would be a place embraced and feel safe for those in need..**

At times, people are reluctant to respond to the altar call even though they recognize the need. Altar workers should always pray that the hearts of those responding are softened and receptive to anything God desires to accomplish.

3. Be in tune with the flow of the Holy Spirit.

Developing a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit requires more than just prayer on Sunday before a service. Altar workers should pray over their assigned times of ministry the entire week prior to the service. They should come prepared and ready to meet each need presented during the altar call with the promise of God and Spirit-led prayer.

4. Use wisdom while praying.

Many facets of altar ministry need wisdom, both naturally and spiritually. The placement of touch, how to pray for the need, how long to pray, what vocal tone to use when praying, when to give a hug if needed, are all decisions (along with many others) that should be covered in wisdom. Altar workers should never be a distraction to what God is doing at the altar, but rather a conduit for the Holy Spirit to touch each person individually. Engaging wisdom is the key.

5. Do everything to the glory of God.

The altar is not a place to display how “spiritual” we are. Humility is key in prayer and in the altar workers life. The altar is a place where hurting people come looking for help and divine intervention. As altar workers we must compassionately respond to each recipient with mercy and faith. In the end, we are simply the carriers of what God can and will do in every situation. All the glory goes to Him!

PRAYER TEAM

*R*ise and pray. In Luke 22:46, Jesus speaks and asks His disciples a question about why they are sleeping and tells them to get up, pray, and watch out not to fall into temptation. God is looking for those who will rise and answer the call to pray. Here at MercyGate, we are looking for those who will rise and answer the call to pray for the needs of others, the church needs, as well as other requests brought to them. The Prayer Team touches many areas, most importantly God's heart. It is from His heart that prayers are lifted.

When prayer requests come into the church office, we ask this team to find the will of the Lord for these needs and pray that out. Team members join in on prayer walks, come together to pray in groups, pray into prayer directives, and so much more. Our Prayer Team helps set the atmosphere and creates an environment where people from all walks can step into our church and our region and encounter the Presence of the Lord.

PRAYER TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLES

The responsibility of the Prayer Team is to create a wall of prayer that protects our church, Pastor, leadership, and all ministries. We pray for our community, for the lost and for the fulfillment of God's vision for our House. Prayer Team members have and are willing to grow into a strong knowledge of God's word. They know that God hears their prayers and responds in accordance to His will. They also understand that humility and faith are key for those desiring to be effective in prayer.

God wants His church rebuilt. This will be a move of God where the Father and Holy Spirit are in charge. We cannot make Christianity about us, but it must reflect the principle: *Thy Kingdom come*. The following are scriptural objectives that we have implemented at MercyGate to support rebuilding His church:

- Serve the Lord with dedication and commitment. (Deut. 6:4-5)
- Usher souls into God's Kingdom. (Col. 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:1)
- Uphold one another in love. (1 Thes. 5:25; Heb. 13:18)
- Stand in the gap and bring God's Word to light. (Ezek. 22:30)
- Establish the Kingdom of God. (Ps. 127:1; Acts 1:6-8; Matt. 6:10)

- Uphold the Word of God taught at MGC. (John 15:7; Ps. 19:7-11; Rev. 12:11 and 19:10)
- Engage in spiritual warfare against the enemy. (Eph. 6:10-18)
- To be fruitful, calling in a harvest through prayer. (Gen. 1:28; Ps. 126:6; Acts 17:26-27)
- Strengthen each other through love and partnership. (Matt. 18:18-20; Rom. 12:10)
- Uplift and cover our pastors and church. (1 Thes. 5:12-13; Rom. 14:19)