

Prayer Ministry Team

New Horizons Church

I. OVERVIEW OF THE PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

- A. At New Horizons we believe that prayer is the highest calling for citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven. Prayer is foundational for building our lives on a firm foundation and the means to fulfill our destiny. Through prayer we are privileged to share God's love with others and come into agreement with the Word and will of the King which releases the power of Heaven to invade hearts and circumstances.
- B. The purpose of the Prayer Ministry Team is to facilitate the move of the Holy Spirit in individuals in corporate gatherings and in personal interactions. The purpose is to release God's love and power toward those who indicate a desire for prayer and to bless, strengthen, encourage, and comfort.
- C. The Prayer Ministry Team consists of a Prayer Ministry Team Leader, Prayer Team Servants, and Prayer Assistants. Each role is essential to the effectiveness of the ministry.
 - 1. The role of the Prayer Ministry Team Leader is to work in synch with the Lead Pastor of NHC to develop and give Leadership to the Prayer Ministry Team. The Prayer Ministry Team Leader is responsible to review all applications, interview applicants, appoint Prayer Assistants as needed, and oversee the function of this prayer ministry of NHC.
 - 2. The role of the Prayer Ministry Team Servants is to serve people through prayer, staying in flow with the Prayer Ministry Team Leader. The Prayer Team Servants are trained and authorized to minister directly to people in corporate gatherings and may be sent out on ministry assignments as there is opportunity.
 - 3. The role of the Prayer Ministry Team Assistants is to serve with an experienced Prayer Team Servant to learn how to become effective in this powerful ministry and possibly assume the role of Prayer Team Servant. An Assistant may serve as only a Catcher without ever directly praying for people face to face if that is a better fit.

Note: When the Prayer Ministry Team Leader interviews a new applicant for the Prayer Ministry Team, the applicant will be advised on whether or not they are prepared to serve as an Assistant or released to carry the responsibility of a Prayer Ministry Team Servant.

II. CRITERIA TO SERVE WITH THE PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

- A. Have a servant's heart and a team spirit. (Matthew 20:20-28)
- B. Live submitted to Christ and exhibit His attitude. (Philippians 2:5-8)
 - 1. He gave up the glory He had with the Father. (John 17:5)
 - 2. He gave up the form of God and took on the form of a servant. (Philippians 2:6-8)
 - 3. He said only what the Father told Him to say. (John 8:28)
 - 4. He did only what the Father showed Him to do. (John 5:36)
 - 5. He exercised only the authority the Father gave Him. (John 10:18)
- C. Have become completed the NHC Basics and are members of NHC and are living honorably before the church family, community, and personal family members – meeting the same biblical requirements of a deacon. (I Timothy 3:8-13)
- D. Generously give the whole tithe (10% of all income) and offerings (missions, building fund, alms etc.) to the Lord through NHC. (Matthew 6:21; II Corinthians 9:6-11; Malachi 3:8-12)
- E. Walk in the power and fruit of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:22-26; Zechariah 4:6)
- F. Live with humility and a clear conscience. (I Timothy 1:5; I John 1:9; James 4:6-10)
- G. Practice the power of prayer in personal life and with the team before the service in which you will be ministering. (I Timothy 2:1-6; Acts 4:29-31) *“Jesus obtained miracles in prayer and manifested them in public”* - R.W. Schambach.
- H. Practice a spirit of faith with words and actions. (Hebrews 11:1; Mark 11:22-24)
- I. Receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and develop them by using them. (I Corinthians 12)
- J. Participate in the regular corporate gatherings, conferences and social events of NHC.
- K. Honor and support all the leaders and members of NHC.
- L. Personally, receive a “SOZO” session from the NHC SOZO Team discover and maintain a freedom in Christ from hurts and any distracting matters of concern, by additional SOZO sessions as necessary.

- M. Teenagers and children will be considered to join the Prayer Ministry Team but need the approval of their parent(s). Teenagers and children will initially serve in the role of an Assistant and work with an experienced adult until ready to be released to lead by the Prayer Ministry Team Leader.
- N. Prayer Team Servants are asked to arrive at 9:00 AM for prayer, to personally tune in to the flow of the Spirit and to release the atmosphere of heaven for everyone to encounter the glory of His presence in the service.

III. GUIDELINES FOR PRAYER SERVANTS IN CORPORATE GATHERINGS

A. Prayer for new believers

1. When an invitation is given from platform to receive Christ, at least two Prayer Team Servants should come immediately and stand ready to serve - so that potential responders have someone to go to for prayer. When more than two responders move toward the prayer area - other team members should respond immediately.
2. Ask the person what they feel God is asking of them (i.e., commit their life to Christ, to become free from a particular sin or shortcoming). Pray with them: *“Thank God for his love, mercy, forgiveness, and supernatural power to overcome.”*
3. Lead the person in prayer - ask them to repeat after you *“a prayer of repentance and receive God’s forgiveness, mercy and power of the Holy Spirit to come and fill them to overflowing.”* It is very important for the person to make a personal confession of faith and trust in the Lord. (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 2)
4. Share follow-up information and cards when appropriate. (i.e., Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Identity in Christ, Healing, Victory)
5. Offer a follow-up call or visit if the person is of the same gender. If a different gender, include your spouse or connect them with another Prayer Team Servant who is of like gender.

B. Prayer for someone when a “Word of Knowledge” is given from platform

1. Look for who is responding so that you may be prepared to go and pray for them at that moment or at the end of the meeting - especially if you have had success in the area of their need.
2. Listen for a possible prophetic word (*builds up, cheers up, or calls near*) to share with them if the opportunity comes at that time or after the service.
3. Pray for a *“release of God’s love, peace, strength, healing, etc.”*

C. Prayer for various needs

1. Immediately move to the prayer area when the Pastor/Leader calls for the team and if you are scheduled for that service. Allow the recipients to choose from whom they would like to receive prayer. Occasionally this may be reversed.
2. Ask the person - *“What may I pray with you about today?”* Inquire about what kind of need the person has in their life (fear, discouragement, sickness etc.). Listen carefully and don't ask too many questions which could embarrass someone or put them in a compromised situation to talk about someone else, or cause them to dump on you.
3. Share with the prayer recipient that you are honored to prayer with them and invite them to agree with the Word of God and His will for the matter at hand. If you don't have a clear biblical point of reference - *“pray for the will of God to be revealed.”*
4. Remember, you are a facilitator for the Holy Spirit. When praying for individuals, watch closely for what the Spirit is doing (John 5:19). If no manifestation of the work of the Holy Spirit, it may be wise to simply allow that person to “soak” and come back to them in a few minutes. We have found it is even advisable to say something like this, *“I want you to enjoy the presence of the Lord, to worship Him and soak in the anointing for a little while.”*
5. Remember, this is not a SOZO session, a deliverance session, or counseling. Don't allow people to “dump” at this time and place. If you perceive they need more ministry, you may suggest that they speak with their Connect Group Leader, an NHC Pastor, and/or apply for a SOZO.
6. Let the prophetic encouragements, edification, exhortation, or comfort, flow from prayer ministry . . . remember, no direction, correction, dates, or mates.
7. If you see anything “negative or evil” in the spirit realm (i.e., dark cloud, relational conflict, sexual sin) please DO NOT speak it to them. Why? In doing so, it will likely embarrass and humiliate the person which we must avoid. Speak God's Word of blessing, life, light, faith, hope, and love in the name of Jesus Christ and the “negative or evil” will break and flee from them.
8. If there is demonic manifestation, have an Assistant get one of the Prayer Servants experienced in deliverance. Quiet the demonic spirit by speaking “peace” in Jesus' name and continue ministry in another room (with at least one other experienced team member) as there could be distractions or wait until the individual could receive some counsel on how to be set free.
9. Do not force ministry! If you don't see something, relax and remember that there will always be another opportunity. Trusting the “Word of Wisdom” is essential, knowing when He is doing something personal within an individual and not interrupting that special “fellowship with the Holy Spirit.”

10. At times there is a “backwash phenomena.” This can happen when the anointing upon you is not being received by the individual (because of dryness or fear) and it “backwashes” onto you. Be careful not to misinterpret the experience, as this can also be the result of the strong anointing upon the one for whom you are praying.
11. If the person continues to have a difficult time receiving, you might help them in the following ways:
 - a. Help them deal with a tendency to rationalize or calm their fears of loss of control. Gently and softly speak grace and peace, love and blessings.
 - b. Let them know what to expect - that even when the Holy Spirit is blessing them, they stop the process at any point if they want to.
 - c. The Holy Spirit will often move in “waves” similar to the ocean.
 - d. Encourage them to “be still and know that God cares” and stay focused on the Lord, He loves them intensely and longs for them to know Him intimately.
12. Take time to minister to people. This is not a microwave experience, this is a slow bake. Pray until the Holy Spirit releases you from that individual whether they are still standing or resting on the floor or have other outward manifestations.
 - a. We want people to have more than an encounter with the power of God and to expect a loving and empowering spiritual experience with Holy Spirit.
 - b. The goal is not a specific manifestation or falling down, but for a person to receive an impartation from the Holy Spirit.
 - c. If you sense the person is not connecting with the anointing after praying for a few minutes, allow the person to “soak” and come back and pray later.
13. Be very careful not to tip people off balance, as they stand. This is offensive and will cause people to grow resistant to the real manifestation, of power. Keep your eyes open and make sure you do not put pressure on their forehead/shoulder or lean into the individual being prayed for and cause them to feel they’re being pushed over.
 - a. Some people are afraid of falling and being injured. Help them to sit down, kneel, or gently help them lie down. Be especially attentive to anyone who has back problems or are pregnant or elderly.
 - b. Watch for over-enthusiasm and a tendency to want to help God out, especially when you are sensing a strong anointing within you, or if you are impatient.
 - c. Laying on of hands - not leaning on of hands. After asking for permission, give a light touch only, generally on the hands, shoulder, or the forehead - not on hair.

14. Respect the “personal space” of everyone. Generally, there is a two three-foot area around a person that is considered their “personal space” in American culture which we must respect. Touching people with whom you have no close ties is inappropriate, unless given permission.
 - a. No inappropriate touching (neck, chest, abdomen, upper legs) by either gender.
 - b. No back massages, rubbing, or caressing of opposite gender or like gender – even if you have a close relationship, because others are left to assume they’re next.
15. Generally we have people stand to receive ministry. In consideration, for assurance of safety and comfort, have an Assistant stand behind the recipient to catch them if they fall in the Spirit.
16. When people fall and are “resting in the Spirit” keep praying for them as the Spirit continues to do work even when one is down on the floor. Allowing people to get up too quickly can short-circuit the process of spiritual renewal.
17. At times it is good to pray for the person while they are “resting in the Spirit” for a couple of minutes, then go on to minister to others waiting, but occasionally return to the first one to see how they are doing. Many feel very vulnerable while in this position and appreciate the loving care given by faithful team members. Also, they need to be guarded from others bumping into them.
18. Don’t project what God has been doing with you onto the person you are praying with. For example, if you have been laughing or crying, don’t pressure them to do the same. Find out what God is doing for them and bless it.
19. If your hand or body is shaking, pray with your hands slightly away from the person so as not to distract them. If a stronger manifestation begins to happen within you, then withdraw from ministry time for a while and let the Lord bless you.
20. The person you are praying with needs to be assured that he or she is the most important one for that moment. Maintain focus and avoid becoming distracted.
21. Your own personal hygiene is essential. Breath mints for frequent use, deodorant, clean hands, hair, and clothes. Smokers who have the smell of smoke on them are a distraction to many people and actually cause allergic reactions to some. [Note: If you’re a smoker it may be best to participate in the Prayer Ministry as an Intercessor during the service and/or throughout the week.]
22. To keep your focus, give thanks for what God is doing and pray in tongues quietly, under your breath, so as not to distract others while edifying yourself. If you lose your focus due to fatigue or distractions - graciously step aside for a while.

D. Soaking prayer format and guidelines

In this type of prayer people are invited to stand or sit to simply soak in the presence of the Lord without a specific request being shared and allow the Prayer Team Servants to spontaneously minister to individuals as they feel prompted by the Holy Spirit. *This format for prayer is rarely used during the Sunday morning service, but more commonly used in an evening service or other gatherings.*

1. It is usually good for a Prayer Team Servant to include an Assistant when ministering – should the recipient fall under the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit who you are to pray for and do so when you feel the release of the anointing toward an individual.
3. Give priority to individuals who are experiencing the presence of God.
 - a. Very softly and gently begin to pray for them using their name, if known. Encourage individuals who are not focused on the Lord to close their eyes, hold out hands to the Lord, and think on the Lord. Encourage the person receiving to be quiet, relax and not pray, receive from the Holy Spirit as you pray. (If they're frightened about falling, assure them that someone is standing behind them and will gently lay them down.)
 - b. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you the Father's heart and love for the individual. Speak softly over them:
 - * *The Father delights in you...*
 - * *You're greatly loved by the Lord...*
 - * *Jesus sees your faithfulness...*
 - * *He's coming to give you peace...*
 - * *The Holy Spirit comes to give you freedom...*
 - c. Keep your prayer short, ("silence is golden") encouraging what the Holy Spirit is doing in the person's life whether it makes sense to you or not. Prayers such as:

* <i>Come Holy Spirit</i>	* <i>More Lord</i>
* <i>Let your Kingdom come, Lord on earth as it is in heaven</i>	* <i>Release your peace - that is beyond all understanding</i>
* <i>Reveal the heart of the Father toward them</i>	* <i>Release your love to heal all hurts</i>
* <i>Release the gifts and callings</i>	* <i>May the river of God flow into them</i>
* <i>Let the anointing break every yoke or bondage in the name of Jesus</i>	* <i>Be filled with the power of God</i>
* <i>Open eyes of their understanding</i>	* <i>Receive the anointing of Jesus</i>
	* <i>Receive Jesus' love for you</i>
	* <i>A revelation of the Father's love</i>

E. Guidelines for Prayer Team Assistants training to become Prayer Team Servants

1. A Prayer Team Assistant can work with an experienced Prayer Team Servant to listen and observe how to minister to people with various needs. Pray quietly in agreement. The Prayer Team Servant will invite the Assistant to pray with recipients of various needs and give feedback to the Assistant after the service.
2. A Prayer Team Assistant may discover that he or she is best suited to remain an Assistant (equal in value to the team) rather than becoming a Prayer Team Servant that takes the lead.
3. The Prayer Ministry Team Leader will monitor the progress and development of the Prayer Assistants and release them to take the lead role of a Prayer Servant, when both the Team Assistant and the Prayer Ministry Team Leader feel they are adequately equipped.

F. Guidelines for Prayer Assistants who are physically able to be Catchers - prevents people from falling backward and assists people in laying down on floor to rest in the Spirit.

1. Yield to the lead Prayer Team Servant and pray quietly in agreement
2. Place a Kleenex in the hand of one receiving from the Lord ONLY if they are “drying” their eye - it would otherwise distract them.
3. Ask for assistance when catching an individual weighing 175 lbs. or more. A “drop” on the floor can distract a person at best, or possibly injure them.
4. Lightly touch an individual in the small of their back, with the back of your hand, if they seem fearful or unstable, so as to stabilize them if they are feeling overwhelmed by the Spirit, which will help to alleviate their concern.
5. Catchers can make their presence known by agreeing in prayer with the lead person only loud enough to let the recipient know you’re behind them.
 - a. As they fall, support their lower back with your hands and lower them gently.
 - b. When catching a teenage girl or woman, lower her from the side and make sure you don’t touch the front of her body. It’s best if a woman can assist.
 - c. Make sure all ladies are immediately covered with a blanket that are “resting in the Spirit.” (It's best for a lady to place blankets over women.)
 - d. Protect people lying on the floor from injuries by:
 - (1) placing their arms by their sides

- (2) alerting a Prayer Team Servant that someone is behind their feet
- (3) keeping children and adults from walking among the “strewn bodies”
- e. For comfort, place a blanket under their head or reposition their body.
- f. Offer assistance to people getting up from the floor and help them to a chair if they desire, where they can relax and enjoy His presence.

G. Prayer tunnel guidelines

There is usually a concentration of the anointing of the Holy Spirit in a “prayer tunnel” simply due to the close proximity of numerous people who are in covenant with the Lord and one another. Many people experience major breakthroughs (physical healings, mental and emotional freedom, etc.) by simply walking through a prayer tunnel, because of the concentrated anointing and Spirit-empowered prayers. To maximize the effectiveness of this type of prayer to our guests and friends, please adhere to the following guidelines.

1. Please avoid boisterous prayers, loud laughter, and joking. It’s true that some people enjoy the loud party style, but others find it distracting, distasteful, and sometimes offensive - to both NHC members and guests.
2. Please do not place hands on the body of a male or female – except to lightly touch their hands or shoulder, or their forehead. You are given permission to lightly touch them as stated, by reason of the fact that the individuals have chosen to pass through the tunnel trusting that the boundaries stated by the Leader of the gathering.
3. Please avoid holding up the line by prophesying over people or by lengthy prayers. If you have something of a prophetic nature for an individual, slip out of the line and go to the end and ask their permission to prophesy over them.
4. Keep your prayers brief as people pass through. Brevity can be powerful.
5. When a prayer recipient stops in the “prayer tunnel,” help to keep the line moving by gently taking their hand or elbow and moving them forward.
6. If a person is unable to stand, a Prayer Team Servant of like gender should walk them through the line and have them sit down on a chair or gently lay them on the floor.

IV. OCCASIONAL CORPORATE PRAYER GATHERINGS

- A. The New Horizons Pastoral Team occasionally calls the entire church to a prayer gathering for an evening, sometimes for a 24 hour vigil, or a week or more of focused prayer and fasting. Prayer Servants are expected to participate, if at all possible.

- B. The focus of these all church prayer events may be related for an individual, the whole church, the city, Leaders of ministries or government, or for a people group of our world. The impetus for the gathering may be in response to a crisis or simply a response to the call of the Spirit to release the resources of Heaven toward a particular end.

V. SPECIAL OPERATIONS FOR PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

The Prayer Ministry Team is occasionally called upon for special operations for church family members and people in the community and region, which may include:

- A. Cleansing homes, churches, and business buildings and properties from demonic influence and strongholds.
- B. Praying through a home, a neighborhood, a business, a church, or a city for an increased release of God's presence and power.
- C. Participating with community or regional prayer events.
- D. Giving prayer cover and ministry to people at NHC conferences and seminars.
- E. Participating in Evangelism Outreaches in McMinnville and other cities of the region.
- F. Joining a Short Term Out Reach Mission (S.T.O.R.M.) team from NHC to other nations.