

Ministry Guidelines

Ministering in the Power of the Holy Spirit



Whether you've been praying with people for years or you haven't got a clue where to start – Soul Survivor asks that everyone coming has read and understood the Soul Survivor ministry values.

A note on "ministry times"

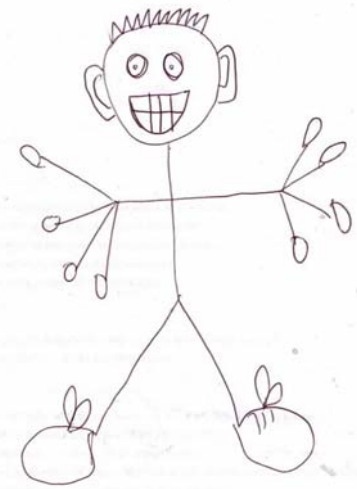
One of the things we're really passionate about is meeting with God. During the main meetings and celebrations we will always seek to involve God, by His Spirit, in what is going on. In real terms this means that there is often a call forward for prayer. This is a specific time to let God 'minister' to us – that is to work with and deal with things in our lives. As a Team Leader, you'll be expected to get involved with praying for others and encourage your team to do the same. For anyone unfamiliar or unsure of this sort of prayer ministry, we have an experienced 'Enabling Team' on hand who will be around to give people a guiding hand.

There is no 'right way' to pray for each other. However, we've put these guidelines in place as they are tried and tested and tend to work quite well! Please stick to the advice given.

So, what happens?

Ministry times usually begin with an invitation from someone on the main stage for people to respond to the Holy Spirit. In praying for people, the most important thing to remember is that this is God's work not ours. We are there to encourage those seeking God and to bless what the Holy Spirit is doing in people.

An illustrated guide to praying for others...



God can use any of us to help people meet with him, but we've found that some of this common sense stuff is useful in making sure we don't get in God's way when we're praying for others.

Sex: Only pray for someone who shares your gender. Prayer ministry can bring up all sorts of stuff and so it's a tried and tested principle to always have at least one person with you who shares the same physical bits as the person you're praying for. Even if you're married we'd ask you to bear this in mind to avoid any confusion for others around you. Thanks.

Mouth: Don't be afraid to ask someone what they would like you to pray for and what God is doing – even if the Holy Spirit is moving powerfully on them (*Luke 18v40* Jesus asks the blind man 'What do you want me to do for you?'). However, be aware of not turning this into a long conversation, this is a time for the Holy Spirit to offer counselling, not you! If appropriate speak into the situation or condition in Jesus' name, be sensitive and recognise that you may be wrong. If you have a

prophetic word or picture, offer these as a prayer or in such a way that the person being prayed for can make their own decision as to how appropriate they are. **Never insist that what you have to say is a word from God and seek to build up, comfort and encourage the person you're praying for (1 Cor 14v3).**

Hands: Encourage the person to receive from God and be still, rather than pray for themselves. Some people may show this attitude by opening their hands in front of them. You can also lay your hands on them (if they are comfortable with that). This can be helpful for the person being prayed for and biblical, especially with regards to healing (in *Mark 1 v40-45* Jesus heals a man of leprosy, as a blessing *Matthew 19v13-15* Jesus blesses the children). If it is appropriate to pray in this way, be sensitive about where you place your hands.

Ministry Guidelines cont...

Eyes: Keep your eyes open when you pray for someone. This means you are more aware of what God is doing and how the person is responding. It also means you can be prepared if they look like they may fall over in the power of the Spirit. If this does happen then please make sure they are in a comfortable position, not draped over anyone else and that their dignity is maintained (i.e. nothing is on show that shouldn't be). Stay with them as long as needed and encourage them to go on receiving from God. It is not always necessary to stay with the person you have prayed with but keep a watchful eye on them and continue to check that they are safe.

Ears: Listen carefully both to the person you are praying with, and to God. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and encouragement, be prepared to wait, this is God's work, not yours. The person you are praying for may tell you about things that have happened in their life. Don't appear to be shocked by any disclosures. Remember that confidentiality is of the utmost importance but DO NOT promise to keep anything secret (especially with regards to claims of abuse). Your first contact in such a situation should be a member of the Enabling Team. They are there both to support you, and the person you are praying with and will be able to take things further if necessary.

The whole body: Allowing the expression of feelings is very important and this might mean people cry, shake or respond in other ways to what God is doing. This is totally cool, but be careful not to suppress or to build up the situation. We want God to do what he needs to do and not get in the way of that.

And finally...

Not everyone is familiar with ministry and prayer times and some people are fearful when they become aware of God working through the Holy Spirit. We need to help people who are receiving, to feel comfortable and safe, and to encourage them to reach out to God. Always be sensitive and respectful, keep in mind how you would like to be prayed for, constantly ask God's help no matter how you are praying. Reassure those being prayed for that God has heard sincere prayers and the cries of our hearts and encourage them to expect answers. Speak healing, peace and release in the name of Jesus and remember the place of repentance, forgiving and being forgiven.

If a request is made for further ministry then encourage the person to go to the 'Chat Room' on site where there will be people available to pray with them. It should also be encouraged that individuals should seek help from their home church where ministry can be continued. Do not make appointments to pray with people outside of the meeting. If extra prayer or counselling is needed then find a member of the Enabling Team and explain the situation.

If at any time you feel out of your depth then ask for help. The Enabling Team will be moving around the venue and wearing bright pink badges. We all find ourselves in situations that we cannot handle alone. This is not failure and it's often good to pray with others, plus is a great way to learn more!

All these are tips to help you let God work through you. Remember: don't worry. The Enabling team and the person leading the meeting will be giving directions and advice to everyone. The important thing is that you are ready and willing to pray for those around you and can encourage your team to do the same.

There will also be opportunities to find out more about praying for other people, before the conferences even begin: Why not come along for the 'Holy Spirit and His Gifts' event - all about praying for people, held on Sat 30th May (see the website for more information) plus there'll be a seminar open to everyone on the first day of each conference – so lots of opportunity to find out more and ask questions.