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Jerry & Melanie Stone

Dear Prayer Counselor:

The primary purpose for the Prayer Counselors is to minister salvation, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and restoration of relationship with God. However, many times Prayer Counselors also encounter individuals who have various other spiritual needs. Therefore, each worker must be properly trained to answer a variety of questions.

We appreciate you being a part of the Prayer Counselor Ministry Team. Your efforts to expand your knowledge of the Scriptures and to commit to this position are a blessing. We encourage you to stay in close fellowship with the Lord so that you can follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, being sensitive to individual needs. May the Lord bless you as you serve Him with a heart of compassion.

Sincerely,

Jerry Stone
Lead Pastor

QUALIFICATIONS FOR PRAYER COUNSELORS

1. Complete all three Discovery courses.
2. Fill out a Volunteer Card and turn it into the Welcome Center or Church Office.
3. Meet with the Lead Prayer Counselor for a brief interview.
4. Read the Prayer Counselor Handbook and agree to follow the guidelines.
5. Read the Honor Code and commit to keep it.

RESPONSIBILITIES

I. PRAYER TIME

A. ARRIVAL

Prayer Counselors are to arrive 30 minutes before the start of the service to get a seat near the front and to begin quietly praying for the service, being careful not to draw attention to themselves.

B. AFTER SERVICE PRAYER

We always want to offer prayer to people who come in with a need. Normally we will make prayer available at the end of the service, and the rest of the congregation will be dismissed. Prayer Counselors will meet with people at the front to pray for individual needs.

C. ALTAR CALLS

There could be times when the Holy Spirit will lead the pastor or guest speaker to have an altar call.

1. Prayer room workers will be called upon to stand behind those who respond to the altar call. Quietly pray for the person you are standing behind. Be careful not to be a distraction.
2. The Pastor may ask workers to individually minister to the people at the altar. Introduce yourself to the person and ask their name. If it is not clear what the altar call was for, ask the individual what it is that they want prayer for. Ask them if it is okay to hold their hands or to put your hands on their shoulders. Pray.

II. PRAYER RESOURCES

PRIMARY PRAYERS

The primary purpose for Prayer Counselors is to minister salvation, restoration, and the Holy Spirit baptism.

CONNECTION CARDS

After praying, ask the person if they would fill out a Connection Card. When they are through, as the Prayer Counselor, write down what the person prayed for and received, and give Connection Cards to the Lead Prayer Counselor.

PRAYER PACKETS

When you get the Connection Card, give the person a Prayer Packet. The Prayer Packets include a letter from the pastor, an invitation to the Discovery 101 Membership Class, a Life Group information card, and booklets. We have four Prayer Packets to minister to specific needs. The Salvation Prayer Packet is for people who are giving their life to Christ for the first time. The Salvation Prayer Packet has the Gospel of John included in it. The Holy Spirit Prayer Packet is for those who are asking for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Restoration Prayer Packet is for people who have been out of relationship with God or need forgiveness. The Faith Prayer Packet is for those who are asking God to move in their life in any other way.

Become familiar with the packet contents. Often it is helpful to explain what each booklet is about and why it would be a benefit to the person who read it. Another suggestion is to write scripture verses that relate to the person's need on the outside of the prayer packet.

POLICIES

I. PREPARATION

- A. You are encouraged to come before the service to pray the will of God to be accomplished in that service. This will also prepare your heart for ministry.
- B. Be familiar with prayer guidelines and scriptures by giving yourself to study and prayer at home.

II. DRESS AND HYGIENE

- A. Dress smart casual with modesty.
- B. Fresh breath and clean teeth.
- C. Fingernails and hands clean.

III. DO'S AND DON'TS

- A. Because people might be in a vulnerable condition, whenever possible, men minister to men and women minister to women. Never be alone with someone when ministering as a Prayer Counselor.
- B. Never be negative or condemning. Always be positive and encouraging.
- C. Never argue with people about anything. Always be polite, kind, and courteous. If someone is argumentative, they are not ready to receive from God.
- D. Never pry into the private lives of people. Always try to avoid listening to a lot of personal details. God knows their situation, and He is the One you are leading them to.
- E. Never betray someone's confidence. Always keep secret the private personal facts someone may tell you.
- F. Never make decisions for people. Always encourage them to seek God's direction through the Bible and to follow their own heart. Making decisions for people is dangerous and could cause legal problems for the church.
- G. Never give people to whom you minister your personal address or phone number. Always give them the church office number.

- H. Never encourage people who have a church home to leave it to come to The Life Church at Charlotte. Always encourage them to be a support to their pastor and to be a blessing in their home church.
- I. When people are emotionally upset, let them express themselves, but always bring them back to the truth in God's Word.
- J. Never assume responsibility you don't have. Always look to those in authority for directions.
- K. Do not attempt to counsel people. If they request counseling, have them call the church office to schedule an appointment with one of the members of the church staff.

PRAYER GUIDELINES

I. MINISTERING SALVATION

Emphasize that salvation is not just a one-time experience, but it is the beginning of a life-giving relationship with their Heavenly Father.

A. Show people what the Word says.

1. God is our life. Separation from Him is death.
Romans 6:23
2. All have sinned and are in need of a savior.
Romans 3:23
3. Jesus died for us, and He rose again.
Romans 5:8
4. You can be saved.
Romans 10:13
5. Receive Jesus as your Savior.
Romans 10:9,10

B. Show them how to receive salvation (Romans 10:9,10).

1. Believe with your heart that Jesus died and rose again as a sacrifice for you.
2. With your mouth, declare Jesus as the lord of your life.

C. Pray with them, leading them in prayer, and end with a statement of faith. Keep it simple.

Example prayer:

Dear God, I come to You in the name of Jesus. I need You. I know that I am a sinner in need of a Savior. I now turn to You, Jesus. I believe that You died and were raised from the dead by God. I believe that You are the Lord, and I now confess You as my Lord. Thank You that I am now born again. I am saved and am a part of Your family. Thank You, Lord.

- D. Explain
1. They are forgiven, and they have received new life in their spirit (II Corinthians 5:17).
 2. There is forgiveness if they sin in the future (I John 1:9).
 3. To grow spiritually, show the importance of:
 - a) Reading the Bible, especially the New Testament. The Word is God's will for them and God's voice to them.
 - b) Prayer and fellowship with God.
 - c) Involvement in a Bible teaching church for fellowship, growth, and service.
- E. Determine if they are open to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- F. Ask them to fill out the Connection Card. Briefly show them what is in the prayer packet and recommend reading the salvation booklet. If they do not attend another church, invite them to come to the Discovery 101 class.

II. MINISTERING THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

- A. Ask them if they have received salvation.

- B. Show them what the Word says.
 - 1. God wants them to ask for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13).
 - 2. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a separate experience from salvation. The Holy Spirit indwells you when you receive salvation. The Holy Spirit empowers you when you are baptized.
 - 3. Show them how to receive.
 - a) Do not surprise them when laying hands on them for prayer. Explain the Bible says to lay hands on individuals as a point of contact (Acts 19:6, Acts 8:15-17). Be careful to touch only their head or their shoulders.
 - b) They receive by faith, not by feelings.
 - c) Give them practical instruction about praying in the spirit. Explain that the Holy Spirit helps us to speak with words that we don't understand as evidence that we've received His power. Speaking in tongues is available as a prayer language, but it is not necessary to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - 1) Yield to the Holy Spirit. He won't force Himself on you.
 - 2) You speak. He won't speak for you.
 - 4. Pray with them, leading them in prayer and ending with a statement of faith.

Example prayer:

Dear Father God, I ask You in Jesus' name to fill me with the Holy Spirit so that I may receive the fullness of what You have for me. Lord, I want to have power to be a witness for You. I want to be able to praise You from my innermost being, and I want to speak Your Word boldly. Jesus, I believe You are the Baptizer, so I ask you to baptize me in the Spirit now. I believe I receive the Holy Spirit now. Thank You, Lord.

5. Encourage them to:
 - a) Rely on the Holy Spirit for the boldness and strength they need to be a witness.
 - b) Pray in the spirit every day to edify themselves spiritually.
6. Ask them to fill out the Connection Card. Briefly show them what is in the packet and recommend reading the Holy Spirit baptism booklet. If they do not attend another church, invite them to come to the Discovery 101 class.

III. MINISTERING RESTORATION

- A. Ask them if they have ever received salvation.
- B. Show them what the Word says.
 1. Assure them of God's love for them.
John 3:17, Luke 15:12-32
 2. Assure them that God has not and will never forsaken them. Hebrews 13:5,
John 6:37
 3. Assure them that God will forgive and restore them.
I John 1:9
- C. Lead them in a prayer of repentance ending in a statement of faith.

Example prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, I thank You that as I come to You, You will love and receive me. I am Your child because I believe that You raised Jesus from the dead, and He is my Lord. I confess my sin to You now. I thank You that You are faithful to forgive me and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I am forgiven. I am washed and cleansed by the blood of Jesus. I thank You that I now have right-standing with You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

- D. Encourage them to draw near to God.
1. Exhort them that they are in right-standing with God no matter how they “feel,” and that they are to resist condemning thoughts.
 2. Encourage them to renew their minds with the Word of God. Don’t fear judgment of man. Believe what the Bible says about His love and mercy.
 3. Encourage them to spend time in worship and in fellowship with God and to pray in the spirit on a consistent basis. (This would be a good time to introduce the baptism of the Holy Spirit if they have not already received it.)
 4. Explain the importance of getting involved in a Bible teaching church.
- E. Ask them to fill out the Connection Card. Recommend reading the booklet on mercy. If they don’t regularly attend another church, invite them to come to the Discovery 101 class.

IV. MINISTERING THE WORD OF GOD

- A. Be careful not to offer your opinion, rather show people what the Word of God says.
- B. When we direct people to the Bible, it helps to keep them from seeking us for their answers and provides the proper channel for the power of God to work in their lives.
- C. Make the Word of God practical to people. Tell them that God's Word is God's will. With that viewpoint, we can give them directions from the scriptures about any situation they might find themselves in. This will also show them if their thinking needs to change so that they are in line with what God states in His Word.
- D. It is more effective to show people where scriptures are in the Bible than just to quote them. Also, after you have found scriptures, it is more effective to let them read the verses for themselves.
- E. Take time to give a brief explanation of the meaning of each scripture and how it will apply to them and to their situation.
- F. Familiarize yourself with the verses that you use the most, and get them in your heart. When ministering, you should be able to refer to these verses quickly and without hesitation.
- G. The New King James Version and the New International Version are recommended for use by Prayer Counselors.
- H. It is important to make the Bible come alive for the person you are ministering to by using simple illustrations when explaining the scriptures.
- I. As you are ministering in the prayer room, listen to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to lead you to particular scriptures that would be most effective at that moment for that individual.

REFERENCE SCRIPTURES

I. SALVATION

Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Romans 3:23 *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

Romans 5:8 *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

Romans 10:9,10 *“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

II Corinthians 5:17 *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*

I John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

Additional Scriptures:

John 3:16; John 3:3; Ephesians 2:8,9; II Peter 3:9; Acts 2:21; John 14:6; John 6:37; I John 5:11-13

II. HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

Luke 11:13 *“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”*

Acts 1:8 *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

Acts 2:4 *“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

Additional Scriptures:

Matthew 3:11,12; Acts 1:4,5; Acts 8:14-17; Acts 9:17 (I Cor. 14:18); Acts 10:44-48; Acts 19:1-7; Ephesians 5:19,20

III. RESTORATION

John 3:17 *“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”*

Hebrews 13:5 *“... He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”*

John 6:37 *“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”*

I John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

Additional Scriptures:

Jeremiah 3:22; Psalm 103:3,11,12

IV. OTHER SUBJECTS

A. BOLDNESS

II Timothy 1:7 *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”*

Proverbs 28:1; Ephesians 6:19

B. CARES

I Peter 5:7 *“casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”*

Philippians 4:6,7; Matthew 6:31-33

C. COMFORT

II Corinthians 1:3,4 *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”*

John 14:16; Matthew 5:4

D. DIRECTION

Proverbs 3:5,6 *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and he shall direct your paths.”*

Psalm 32:8; Psalm 37:23; John 16:13

E. DELIVERANCE

John 8:36 *“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”*

Colossians 1:13; Philippians 2:10

F. ENCOURAGEMENT

Psalm 42:11 *“Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God.”*

John 16:33

G. FINANCES

Philippians 4:19 *“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”*

Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; Proverbs 3:9,10; Matthew 6:31-33

H. FORGIVENESS

I John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

Psalm 51:7; Psalm 103:3; Isaiah 43:25; Hebrews 10:17

I. HEALING

I Peter 2:24 *“Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness - by whose stripes you were healed.”*

Romans 8:11 *“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”*

Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:17; Psalm 103:3,4

J. JOY

Psalm 16:11 *“You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”*

Psalm 30:11; Isaiah 61:3; Nehemiah 8:10

K. PEACE

Philippians 4:6,7 *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

Isaiah 26:3; Psalm 29:11; Psalm 3:5; Psalm 4:8; Proverbs 3:24

L. PROTECTION

Psalm 91:10 *“No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; for He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.”*

Psalm 34:7; II Thessalonians 3:3; Proverbs 29:25; Isaiah 59:19

M. VICTORY

I Corinthians 15:57 *“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

II Corinthians 2:14; Romans 8:37

N. WISDOM

James 1:5 *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”*

Psalm 119:130; Ephesians 1:17; John 16:13