

Addendum A Guidelines for Altar Ministry Teams

During Service

- Be ready to go forward or do what was asked.
- We ask that you minister as a team with another Altar Minister.
- As people come to you or as you go to them, ask them what their needs are.
- Listen to what they say and listen to what Jesus is saying about how to pray for them.
- Encourage the person receiving prayer to close their eyes and not to pray with you but just relax and receive what the Holy Spirit wants to do in their life.
- Tell the person what you are going to do and ask permission to touch them when you pray by holding their hand or placing your hand on their head or shoulder.
- If you place your hand on their forehead, use a light touch and don't push them over if they are standing.
- Pray with your eyes open so you can see what God is doing.
- Be quiet for a moment before you begin to pray -- allow the person time to relax and be ready to receive. Check for any tension in their arms or shoulders.
- Speak in a normal voice or a low voice depending on what is happening around you. Please be mindful of others around you and not pray so loud that it becomes a distraction to others.
- If person begins to sway or to fall, reassure them of your presence.
- If they rest on the floor, continue to pray for them and stay with them as long as you sense you should.
- Be mindful that others may need prayer too (especially if many came forward), so don't spend too long with one person and don't let them monopolize your time.
- Cloths are available to cover the person who is lying on the floor.
- Please don't be shocked by what someone might say to you but if you don't feel comfortable praying with that person, pass them off to another ministry team.
- When you pray:
 - ◆ Pray with words that the person will understand.
 - ◆ Pray encouraging, edifying, life-giving words.
 - ◆ If you receive a Word of Knowledge or a Prophetic word, give only what you see or hear and not your interpretation or application of it. Ask questions – “This is what I believe the Lord is showing me. Does this word mean anything to you?”
 - ◆ The person you are praying for should be your primary focus and concern. Focus on your prayer for them and not on what is happening around you. Remember their name if they tell you and use it in your prayer.
 - ◆ No inappropriate touching.
 - ◆ Do not make the person feel that something is wrong with them if they don't seem to be receiving.
 - ◆ No matter what you hear, always pray positive – edifying things to the person. Don't lecture, preach, counsel or give advice. Please do not try to change their theology on healing or explain to them why they are wrong. Let God speak to them – You are not their Holy Spirit and they have come to you for prayer. Ask God – “How do I bless them in prayer?” If you really have an issue with them, have another team member pray for them.
- If you are sexually attracted to the person, stop and have another team member or someone else pray for them.
- Do not suggest that the person stop taking their medication rather encourage them to see a doctor to verify their healing.
- Keep confidential what you hear and see as you minister to others. They have opened their heart to you and have trusted you. Please don't wound them by talking about it later.
- If they have confessed child abuse, adult elder abuse or that they are suicidal, please immediately tell your leader.
- If you feel weak during the ministry time, sit down for a while and then return to ministry.
- If a person becomes disruptive during the prayer time, try to quiet them and if necessary move them to another room outside the sanctuary so they can receive ministry.
- If you realize that more in-depth ministry is required, refer the person to the appropriate provider – Pastor, Elder or medical doctor.
- Personal hygiene is critical during ministry. Be aware of body and breathe odor. Breathe mints, breathe sprays or drops, deodorant and clean clothes should be used. Do not use scented anointing oil because some people are allergic to that oil and it can cause strong reactions.
- Women should wear appropriate attire. Ministry may take place on the floor.

Addendum B **Cleansing Prayer After Ministry at the Altar**

“Lord Jesus, thank You for sharing with us Your wonderful ministry of healing and deliverance. Thank You for the healings we have seen and experienced today.

We realize that the sickness and evil we encounter is more than our humanity can bear, so cleanse us of any sadness, negativity or despair that we may have picked up. If our ministry has tempted us to anger, impatience or lust, cleanse us of those temptations and replace them with love, joy and peace.

If any evil spirits have attached themselves to us or oppressed us in any way, we command you, spirits to depart – now – and go straight to Jesus Christ for Him to deal with you as He will.

Come Holy Spirit: renew us – fill us anew with Your power, Your life and Your joy. Strengthen us where we have felt weak and clothe us with Your light. Fill us with life. Lord Jesus, please send Your holy angels to minister to us and our families—guard us and protect us from all sickness, harm and accidents. Stop any retaliation against my family or me. Give us a safe trip home and grant us a peaceful night’s rest.

Thank You for what You have done and will continue to do. Seal Your work in each life. Any praise or honor that man has given to me, I give to You for You alone are worthy to be praised.

We praise You now and forever, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and we ask these things in Jesus’ Holy Name that He may be glorified.”

Amen.