

## IN OUR MINISTRY TEAMS

### WHY?

- Prayer is essential if our ministry is to bear 'fruit that lasts'. We need God's love, wisdom, power and resources to do his work—because this is HIS work, not simply 'our ministry'! John Wesley said, 'If the church will not pray, God will not act.'
- We need to be 'in agreement' (in harmony) to hear God and receive his empowering together. If we cannot pray together, our ministry and service will not bear fruit.
- We need to encourage each other to keep prayer at the top of our list, not as an afterthought.
- There are 'all kinds of prayer' for all sorts of situations, so we want to learn to pray in many different ways both for our needs, and the needs of those we serve (**Ephesians 6:18**).

### TIPS

#### 1 Encourage prayer champions

- Who among you carries a heart for prayer (it could be someone who is not a leader)? Ask them to keep reminding others to pray and to listen to the Lord—especially those who are more focused on plans, practical work, or people.
- Ask them to keep a prayer journal of requests and answers, and to note words and Scriptures the Lord gives them.
- Enlist others to be prayer supporters to your church's ministry. Keep them informed so they can pray specifically.

#### 2 Ask the Lord for a Scripture for your group

- Pray for a Scripture that depicts your calling to serve in this ministry. Pray it by declaring it out loud, by pondering on its various words and aspects, and by thanking the Lord for his leading and provision. He may bring other Scriptures later on that you can add to this one. Keep a journal of these.

#### 3 Pray over your plans and work

- Lay hands on your papers and organisational work, asking the Lord to inspire, adjust, reveal and re-work these as necessary. He promises us wisdom and insight. (See **James 1:5** and **3:17-18**.) Fresh ideas or insights can come at any time as we keep our faces and hearts towards him. Keep flexible and open for a 'better way' in your planning.
- Pray for your practical work each time you serve. He can help us do it 'as unto the Lord', with the right heart and mind and with zeal and energy as we see it is not just for people, but for him. Encourage each other to say, 'This is for Jesus' in whatever way you minister.

#### 4 Expect the empowering of the Spirit

- This is when you see with more than natural eyes; you hear God's inner promptings and are able to offer 'what you have' from him.
- As a team, ponder and pray over **Acts 3:1-7** and **6:1-3** and ask the Lord to empower you to bring Jesus' love and power into your areas of service.
- Leaders need to teach the team how to receive the compassion of Jesus and hear the prompting of the Spirit.
- Pray over each other for boldness and insight.

#### 5 Use prayer to create a positive atmosphere for your ministry

- Our prayer and worship can change the atmosphere of the place we minister in, especially if people come in who are burdened and needing the Lord. Walk around and praise Jesus, read a Psalm, sing and fill the atmosphere of the room with God's presence. Do this often.

#### 6 Pray for the individuals in your team

- Speak blessings over their lives, pray Scriptures for them, encourage each other to persist in prayer—and expect God to intervene in people's lives!
- Make a time to pray specifically for individuals each week. This is a vital part of your work for God. If you feel the Lord giving you an encouraging word for them—write a little card and send it to those you pray for.