



# SOUTH COAST LIFE CHURCH

## Prayer Policy

Adopted by the elders on 25 February 2020

We at South Coast Life Church believe that God hears and responds to our prayers. Throughout the scriptures believers are instructed to seek God's presence, comfort and intervention through prayer. To pray for someone who is having a hard time in any sphere of life is one of the most loving things we can do. In order to do this well we need to pray safely, confidentially, respectfully and powerfully.

There are three main avenues for prayer at SCLC; 'Prayer here' after each service, prayer whatsapp group and personal prayer sessions as requested.

### Safety

It is important that all people involved in prayer feel safe. This means prayer should happen;

- In the open as much is possible and appropriate.
- In 2s or 3s.
- With at least 1 other person of the same gender.
- If it is for a child with the permission and, if possible presence of a parent.
- Following the SCLC safe church policy.
- As much as possible assess what is also happening around you.

### Confidentiality

When people ask to receive prayer they are placing themselves in a vulnerable position. It is important that whatever they share with you is kept confidential. The one exception to this is if they disclose any illegal activity, including but not limited to abuse. In which case the prayer team is instructed to follow the SCLC Safe Church policy on reporting.

Confidentiality means **not sharing any information** with others unless given permission to do so by the persons who have asked for prayer or if they have described illegal activity. This means nothing goes on the prayer whatsapp or is spoken about publicly unless permission is given by the people involved in the prayer request. If people are found to be sharing information without permission they will be removed from the prayer team.

### Respect

Whenever people are receiving prayer it is vital they are honoured and respected. This means;

- We need to ask permission to lay hands on them (Philippians 2:3).
- We give them our undivided attention.
- We Do not council them.
- We listen to what it is that they actually want prayer for, not what we think they may need prayer for.
- Always remember to hand the what you have prayed about back to God, it's not yours to carry. And where necessary cut yourself free from the person and what they have received prayer for.

### **Power**

We believe that God is all-powerful and all-loving. This means that there is nothing He cannot do for us and nothing good that He does not want to give us. We also believe that Jesus has defeated sin and death on the cross. As His followers we are able to claim this victory in our lives today. This means when we pray;

- We do so from a place of VICTORY, not for a place of VICTORY.
- Expect God to intervene through healing, comfort and encouragement. We should ask after prayer what has happened for them.
- Don't give people excuses as to why they are not healed. Remember it is God who heals. He does so in many different ways it is our job to keep the faith. God is BIG, He has got it all under control.
- Always stay in a place of thanksgiving, give thanks at every step (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
- Remember you have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). Know who God is, know who you are in Christ.
- Remember Jesus healed people first and dealt with their issues later. God might be showing you a strong hold in the person's life, if that is the case, let them bring it up.... many strong holds have a root in unforgiveness, if the person starts to talk about the issue listen well, God will reveal how to pray through these issues without ever condemning the person.
- Speak Gods truth over the person/s.

Our 'Prayer here' and whatsapp group spaces are intended for immediate prayer needs. If you discern while praying for someone in either of these spaces that the person asking for prayer needs some more intense prayer ministry or counselling, please ask them if it is OK for you to refer them to any of the pastors or the prayer ministry leader. This applies if people come multiple times for the same request or if they keep pushing you to pray more for the same thing. Remember there may be others who also need prayer. It is ok to finish praying for someone even if no discernable difference is made. You do not have to carry it.