



# SOUTH COAST LIFE CHURCH

## **Prayer Policy**

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 (James 5:13-16; Philippians 4:6; Mark 11:24). To pray for someone who is having trouble 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: the "Prayer Here" area after each service; the Prayer WhatsApp Group; and personal prayer sessions as requested.

For the purposes of this policy, the prayer team includes the Pastors, Elders, Service Leaders, Prayer Ministry Leader and Prayer WhatsApp Group members.

## **Safety**

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

1. In the open as much as is possible and appropriate;
2. If in the "Prayer Here" area or a personal prayer session, in twos or threes;
3. With at least one other person of the same gender;
4. If it is for a child, with the permission and, if possible, the presence of a parent;
5. In accordance with the SCLC Safe Church Policy; and
6. In accordance with any other relevant SCLC policies.

## **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:

1. Confidentiality means not sharing any information with others unless given permission to do so by the person or persons who have asked for prayer. This means nothing should be placed on the Prayer WhatsApp Group or be spoken about publicly unless permission is given by the people involved in the prayer request;
2. The one exception to this is if they disclose any illegal activity, including but not limited to forms of abuse. In this case they are to follow the SCLC Safe Church Policy on reporting; and
3. 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:

1. We give them our undivided attention;
2. We listen to what it is that they actually want prayer for, not what we think they may need prayer for;
3. We do not counsel them; and
4. We ask permission to lay hands on them (Philippians 2:3; 1 Peter 2:17a).

## **Power**

We believe that God is all-powerful and all-loving. This means that there is nothing that He cannot do for us and that He always has our best interests at heart (Jeremiah 29:11-13). We also believe that Jesus has

defeated sin and death on the cross. As His followers we can claim this victory in our lives today. This means when we pray:

1. We do so from a place of victory, not for a place of victory;
2. We expect God to intervene through comfort, encouragement and healing;
3. In regard to healing, we must remember that it is God who heals;
4. We encourage people that God works for good in all things (Romans 8:28); and
5. We should give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18),
6. If God gives you a word of wisdom or encouragement share it with the person;
7. If God shows you a strong hold of sin in the person's life (Mark 3:27) wait and see if they bring it up first. If not, then ask about it respectfully and if they are willing then pray through the issue; and
8. Use God's word to speak Gods truth over the person.

### **Finishing and Follow-up**

1. Remember there may be others who also need prayer;
2. Ask how they feel after the prayer;
3. It is okay to finish praying for someone even if no discernible difference is made;
4. Remember that the "Prayer Here" and Prayer WhatsApp Group are for immediate prayer needs. If the person being prayer for needs further help, seek the guidance of the Pastor, Elders or Prayer Ministry Leader;
5. Remember to hand what you have prayed about back to God; and
6. If you need further help, seek the guidance of the Pastor, Elders or Prayer Ministry Leader.

Adopted by Elders 07/11/2023.