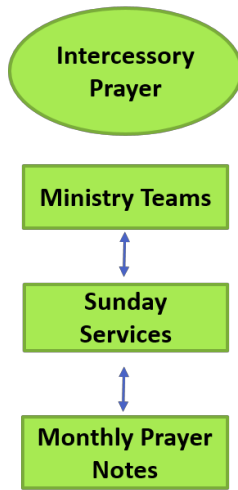


## Intercessory Prayer - What is it?



Quite simply, intercessory prayer is the act of praying on behalf of others. An intercessor is one who takes the place of another or pleads another's case. One study Bible defines intercession as "holy, believing, persevering prayer whereby someone pleads with God on behalf of another or others who desperately need God's intervention."

God instructed us to pray not only for our own personal needs but to reach out and pray for others as well.

In 1 Timothy 2:1-6 we are told to pray and make intercession for all people

*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—<sup>2</sup>for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. <sup>3</sup>This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, <sup>4</sup>who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.*

The Greek noun, "enteuxis" in the Bible is the word for "intercession". It basically means a "meeting with", a conversation, or "petition rendered" on the behalf of others. Intercessory prayer, then, is seeking the presence and audience of God on behalf of someone else.

When we pray for the needs of others it is called "intercession", or we are said to be "interceding" for them.

It is also very important to note that Christ is pictured in the New Testament as the ultimate intercessor, and because of this, all Christian prayer becomes intercession since it is offered to God through and by Christ.

Jesus bridged the gap between us and God when He died on the cross. Because of Jesus' mediation, we can now intercede in prayer on behalf of other Christians or for the lost, asking God to grant their requests according to His will.

*"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim 2:5).*

And as Romans 8:34 says

*"Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."*

We should also note that the Bible is clear that all Christians are called to be intercessors.

As Christians, we all have the Holy Spirit in us and, just as He intercedes for us in accordance with God's will (Romans 8:26-27), we are to intercede for one another.

This is not a privilege limited to an exclusive Christian elite.



## Intercessors for a Lakeside Ministry Team.

### Ministry Teams

With that brief overview of "intercession" lets now look at what it means to be an **Intercessor for a Lakeside Ministry Team**. We want to saturate all of the ministries at Lakesides with prayer. We know that unless the Lord builds the house we labour in vain (Psalm 127:1). Therefore, we want to have at least three Intercessors assigned to pray daily for each ministry area, to intercede on behalf of that ministry, to cover, uphold and saturate with prayer.

The intercessors will pray in a general sense for both the ministry area and the ministry team leader. But will also liaise with the ministry team leader on a weekly basis to receive specific prayer points and areas of focus. We hope that there would be a developing relationship between the intercessors and the ministry team leaders as they partner in ministry.

JH Jowett once said:

*It is in the field of prayer that life's critical battles are lost or won.*

Intercession is warfare, and is key in the battle plan of God. The battleground is not on earth "We are not fighting against humans. We are fighting against forces and authorities and against rulers of darkness and spiritual powers in the heavens above" (Eph. 6:12). Intercessory prayer takes place in this spiritual world. We know that the enemy does not want Christians praying, he does not want Intercessory prayer saturating the ministries of Lakeside.

### Responsibilities and Expectations of a Ministry Team Intercessor.

#### Discipline and commitment to pray:

- As a ministry team intercessor you are committing to pray daily for your ministry team and team leader.
- As a ministry team intercessor you are committing to this ministry for at least year.
- As a ministry team intercessor you are committing to attend our "Intercessors" encouragement nights – 2 per year.

#### Communication

- As a ministry team intercessor you are committing to regularly communicate with your ministry team leader. This will be the responsibility of the ministry team leader in developing a process that works for your team.

#### Confidentiality:

- As some of the information that your ministry team leader may share will be of a confidential nature there is a necessity for confidentiality. As a ministry team intercessor you are committing to being faithful in upholding the trust of others by being confidential.

#### Spiritual Health

- As a ministry team intercessor your own spiritual health is of high importance and therefore you are committing to "loving the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind." You will practice your own spiritual disciplines of abiding in Him.



## Sunday Service (Morning Gatherings) – Intercessory Prayer

### Sunday Services

As with our **ministry team intercessors**, the role of the **Sunday Service Intercessors** is to uphold, cover and saturate our morning gatherings with prayer.

The Sunday Service Intercessor role is to pray regularly during the week for our Sunday gatherings, that families and individuals would attend, that God would move during the service. Praying for the people involved in planning the service – that they would be led by the Spirit.

During the Sunday service – the intercessor's role is to:

(This will be on a roster format – Free to come as much as possible. We would love to have at least 1 to 2 intercessor's each service)

- Arrive early (9am) and pray throughout the auditorium. Praying over the seats throughout the building. That God would move in people's hearts, minds and souls.
- During the service – The Sunday Service Intercessors role is to pray continually throughout the worship service.

What are they praying for?

- That the message would not fall on deaf ears or hard ground.
- That the Holy Spirit would work through all aspects of the service – singing, prayer, community, preaching.
- That people would connect with God.
- That people would respond – say 'yes' to Jesus.

This intentional prayer for the Sunday gathering has sometimes been referred to as "the boiler room prayer". Back in the age of steam, the unglamorous boiler rooms powered everything from large machines in factories to household heating systems. There is an extraordinary story told of the great preacher Charles Spurgeon regarding "boiler room prayer".

*Five young college students were spending a Sunday in London, so they went to hear the famed C.H. Spurgeon preach. While waiting for the doors to open the students were greeted by a man who asked, "Gentlemen, let me show you around. Would you like to see the heating plant of this church?" They were not particularly interested, for it was a hot day in July. But they didn't want to offend the stranger, so they consented. The young men were taken down a stairway, a door was quietly opened, and their guide whispered, "This is our heating plant." Surprised, the students saw 700 people bowed in prayer, seeking a blessing on the service that was soon to begin in the auditorium above. Softly closing the door, the gentleman then introduced himself. It was none other than Charles Spurgeon.*

As we stoke the fires of intercession in our modern day-boiler rooms, that power is released to extend and grow God's Kingdom "...It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the LORD... (Zechariah 4:6)."



## Prayer Notes – Everyone Interceding

### Monthly Prayer Notes

As we have already mentioned the Bible is clear that all Christians are called to be intercessors. As Christians, we all have the Holy Spirit in us and, just as He intercedes for us in accordance with God's will (Romans 8:26-27), we are to intercede for one another.

So, while not everyone will be called to join either the **ministry team** or **Sunday service intercessory teams** the Monthly Prayer notes provide a resource/guide for the people of Lakeside to pray for the ministries of Lakeside whether individually or as a part of their Life group.

