

Guidelines For Prayer Call Facilitators

First Things First

The most important thing is to make sure you are filled with the Spirit, and your heart is prepared so that God can speak/work mightily through you to touch the hearts of the others on the prayer call. Rushing into a prayer call after a hectic day and expecting the Spirit to flow through you does not work!

“Nothing is more calculated to inspire a spirit of prayer than to unite in social prayer with one who has the Spirit himself” (Charles Finney).

If the prayer facilitators have the spirit of prayer, the united prayer call will be powerful, and people will come back, thirsting for more. If the Spirit of God is not there, it will not be a sweet (half) hour of prayer, and the call will soon be history.

Thank you for your willingness to facilitate a prayer line. There is power in united prayer!!!

Short and Simple

Remember **KISSES (Keep It Short & Simple & Stick** to one topic). As the prayer facilitator, your prayers will be a bit longer since you begin the prayer, transition the prayer from one section to another, and will end the prayer session. (Please resist the temptation to make long prayers or sermonize when transitioning.)

Other than when you are beginning or transitioning the prayer, it is crucial that you model KISSES. If you pray long, it will encourage others to pray long (or fall asleep); before you know it, many people will start dropping out. Only the people who enjoy long prayers will be left. People who don't know how to pray long, beautiful prayers will feel intimidated and will not want to pray. But if you keep the prayers short, people who have never prayed or even youth will think, “this is simple. I can do this.” So do KISSES – Keep it Short & Simple & Stick to one topic!

Platform

There are several free conference call programs available. These include freeconferencecall.com, gotomeeting.com, freeconferencecalling.com,

nocostconference.com, etc. The Zoom app also works well. For specific instructions on how to use the Zoom app, click [here](#).

The Prayer Format

1. The united prayer team needs to be on chosen hosting platform before the meeting is scheduled (we suggest ten minutes because sometimes there will be last-minute issues that need to be resolved). Pray that your platform will have no problems. Make sure everyone is muted until it is time to pray.
2. **Introduction:** At the top of the hour (e.g., 6 am), unmute yourself and begin with the introduction: "A chain of earnest praying believers should encircle the world." Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. Welcome to _____ (the name of your prayer call). My name is _____. (You can say a few more words if you like.)

Note: If you have been playing music before the prayer call, fade it out as you begin so there is a smooth transition.

3. **Opening Prayer:** Have an opening prayer immediately after the welcome. If you would like someone else to have the opening prayer, ask them in advance and remind them to unmute themselves. (The opening prayer should be a short prayer to open the prayer meeting and not a long prayer about everything under the sun.)
4. **Inspirational Thought/Testimony:** After the opening prayer, share a two-minute testimony or inspirational thought related to prayer/revival. Ideal testimonies are those which are related to united prayer, fasting, or something you have been emphasizing in your ministry. (If asking someone to share, please remind them to keep it to less than two minutes.) As the facilitator, you can say, "I've invited _____ to share a short two-minute testimony." If you are sharing an inspirational thought, read a short passage from the Bible, Spirit of Prophecy, etc. Highlight any meaningful sentences or ideas from the reading.
5. **Sharing Time (Optional):** You may also want to allow 2-3 minutes for people to share their testimonies. Just be careful to keep this time short so that most of the call can be used for prayer.
6. **Share Guidelines:** After the testimony, explain the guidelines for united prayer if there are new people in the line or if you notice that the group has not been following the guidelines. You can use the slides [available here](#) to

share the guidelines if you are hosting on a platform like Zoom. Make sure to give the instructions in the correct order so they will match the slides.

- a. We will be praying through four sections:
 - i. We will begin with **praise**.
 - ii. The second section will be **confession**.
 - iii. The third section will be **supplication**. During our time of supplication, we will be focusing on (**Note:** If God has led you to another prayer focus for this prayer call, explain it at this time):
 1. The Latter Rain and the Holy Spirit
 2. The lost, especially our loved ones
 3. God's vision for our prayer ministry
 4. Other needs the Lord places on our hearts.
 - iv. And lastly, we will spend time in **thanksgiving** before we end our time of united prayer.
 - v. Please keep your prayers short (1-2 sentences).
 - vi. Silence is okay.
 - vii. Please stick to one topic each time you pray. Everyone is welcome to pray multiple times, but please make your prayers short and stick to one topic each time you pray.
 - viii. No singing (because there will be a delay or echo).
 - ix. Please mute yourself if there is background noise. Remember to unmute yourself when you want to pray.
7. **Pray Together!** Start united prayer immediately after finishing the instructions. (See instructions below about transitioning.)
8. **Close On Time:** A good way to end the united prayer is by saying, "We pray in Jesus' name, and all God's people said, 'Amen.'" Remind people when the next prayer call will take place.

Transitioning

When transitioning into united prayer or transitioning from one section to the next section, please remember these three things:

- Say a few words
- Remind everyone

More Seventh-day Adventist prayer coordinator resources are available at:
www.ministerialassociation.org/prayer

- Set an example

Praise

- **Say a few words** to begin the prayer. For example, “Father in heaven, we thank You for the privilege of prayer.” Or “Thank You for bringing us together to pray and seek Your face.”
- **Remind everyone** that we will begin with praise. For example, “We want to begin our season of united prayer by giving praise to You.”
- **Set an example** so the newcomers will understand how to praise God. For example: “I want to begin by praising You, for You are our God, and you are worthy of praise.”

A Common Mistake

A facilitator will begin by saying only, “Father in heaven, I praise you, for You are our Creator,” and then there is silence. (Or a facilitator will say a super long prayer of praise which is worse.)

1. This is fine for private prayer in the prayer closet.
2. If you begin like this in united prayer, there will be a long pause, especially if you are praying with people who have never experienced united prayer before. And the newcomers will feel awkward not knowing what is going on.
3. It is vital to transition well so that the prayer will flow smoothly and the participants can understand what is happening. This will help all to be united in prayer.
4. The preacher does not just go to the pulpit, open His Bible, and begin preaching. He starts with a greeting, prayer, and an introduction before getting into the body of the sermon. In the same way, prayer facilitators need to remember to 1) Say a few words, 2) Remind everyone, and 3) Set an example for each transition.

Confession

- **Say a few words** to transition from praise to confession. For example, “We praise You for Jesus who shed His blood on Calvary so that we can have forgiveness of sins.”

- **Remind everyone** that we will now be going into confession. For example, “At this time, we want to enter a time of confession. Please send your Holy Spirit to search our hearts.”
- **Set an example** of what a prayer of confession is like. For example, “I want to begin by confessing that I am so unlike Christ who is so meek and lowly in heart. Please forgive me.”

Supplication

- **Say a few words** to transition from confession to supplication. For example, “Father, we thank You for Your promise that if we confess our sins, You are faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
- **Remind everyone** that we will now be entering the time of supplication. For example, “At this time, we want to come boldly to Your throne of grace with our many needs. And we want to begin by praying for the latter rain and the Holy Spirit.”
- **Set an example** like this, “I would like to begin by asking that You would prepare our hearts to receive the Holy Spirit.”

The Four Subsections of Supplication

When transitioning through the four subsections, please keep your prayers very short. Simply remind everyone and set an example. The goal of the prayer facilitator is to lead everyone from one section to the next section and to model short prayers.

Prayer for Latter Rain and Holy Spirit

- Remind everyone what you will be praying about next. For example: “At this time, we want to come boldly to Your throne of grace to ask for your Holy Spirit...”
- Set an example like this: “I want to begin by praying that You would rain down the Holy Spirit upon us.”

Prayer for the Lost, especially our Loved Ones

- Remind everyone what you will be praying about next. For example: “We want to pray for our loved ones who don’t know You...”
- Set an example like this: “I want to begin by praying for _____ (specific person who needs to know Christ)...

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From Lost to God's Vision for Your Church / Conference

- Remind everyone what you will be praying about next. For example: "At this time, we want to pray for God's vision for His church...."
- Set an example like this: "I want to begin by asking that You give us a clear understanding of Your plans..."

From God's Vision to Other Needs

- Remind everyone what you will be praying about next. For example: "At this time, we will pray for other needs we may know about...."
- Set an example like this: "I want to begin by praying for _____ (need that you are concerned about)..."

Thanksgiving

- **Say a few words** to transition from supplication to thanksgiving. For example: "Father, we thank You for hearing all our prayers, including the unspoken ones."
- **Remind everyone** that we will now end with thanksgiving. For example: "Before we end our time of united prayer, we want to spend the last few minutes giving you thanks."
- **Set an example:** "I want to thank you for hearing every prayer request, including the unspoken ones."

A COMMON MISTAKE

Some people love to pray long prayers, and prayer facilitators are no exceptions. Please avoid making your prayers super long or trying to sermonize when transitioning. Please keep in mind the following quote: "The smallest duty (prayer) done in sincerity and self-forgetfulness is more pleasing to God than the greatest work when marred with self-seeking" (Christ's Object Lessons, p. 402).

Time Management

Always begin on time and end on time. Suggested schedule for 30-minute prayer call:

- **0-5 minutes:** Welcome, opening prayer, inspirational thoughts, or testimony. Our goal is to finish within 5 minutes.
- **5-7 minutes:** Sharing time (if included).

- **7 minutes:** Share united prayer guidelines.
- **8 minutes:** Aim to begin praying by the 8-minute mark, but NO LATER than 10 minutes after if running late.
 - Spend 1-2 minutes on praise.
 - Spend 1-2 minutes on confession.
 - Spend about 15-20 minutes on supplication.
- **27 minutes:** Transition to Thanksgiving.
- **30 minutes:** Close the prayer time.

Of course, there will be times when it won't be exactly as suggested above. We must make room for the Holy Spirit to move; however, the recommended time schedule is what we are aiming for.

If there are only a few people on the prayer call and people seem to be struggling to pray, do not feel like you have to go the full 30 minutes before ending the prayer call. It is better to bring the prayer session to an end earlier than scheduled.

Organization

If you have multiple people helping you to lead the prayer time, it is helpful to have a shared Google Docs document with the dates of who is scheduled to lead each day/week and the prayer focus for that day/week. One person can always lead, or you can take turns leading. On a daily call, you may want to schedule each leader every few weeks for three days in a row. If there are scheduling issues, suggestions for improvement in the call, etc., it is best to schedule a separate time to discuss these so that the prayer time is not lost.

In Closing

The most critical thing is to let the Spirit lead and do your best to follow this simple format. Sometimes there will be WIFI issues and distractions. The devil will do everything he can to disrupt the prayer calls, but we must press forward!

Once again, please remember to be Spirit-filled and set a good example. As the prayer facilitator, when you are not beginning or transitioning the prayer, please pray for one topic and then land the plane; in other words, make your prayers short.

The Importance of Keeping Prayers Short

“All should feel it a Christian duty to pray short. Tell the Lord just what you want, without going all over the world. In private prayer all have the privilege of praying as long as they desire and of being as explicit as they please. They can pray for all their relatives and friends. The closet is the place to tell all their private difficulties, and trials, and temptations” (Prayer, p. 203).

“Long, prosy talks and prayers are out of place anywhere, and especially in the social meeting. They weary the angels as well as the people who listen to them. Our prayers should be short, and right to the point. Let the Spirit of God pervade the hearts of the worshipers, and it will sweep away all formality and dullness” (Prayer, p. 201).

“In the small meetings of our people there is danger of killing the interest of the meetings by imprudence. Let there be no long prayers; save your long prayers for the closet. Let not your prayers be all over the world. Pray right to the point, for the blessing of God upon yourself and those assembled then and there. When you pray alone in your closet, then lay out before God all the burden of your heart; but in the assembly met to worship God, such prayers are all out of place. They kill the interest of the meetings, and make them tedious. Look at the sample prayer given by Christ to His disciples. How brief, how comprehensive, that prayer!” (3rd Manuscript Release, p. 3.3)

Cold prayers and long testimonies cast a shadow over the prayer meeting—

“There are some, I fear, who do not take their troubles to God in private prayer, but reserve them for the prayer meeting, and there do up their praying for several days. Such may be named conference and prayer meeting killers. They emit no light; they edify no one. Their cold, frozen prayers and long, backslidden testimonies cast a shadow. All are glad when they get through, and it is almost impossible to throw off the chill and darkness which their prayers and exhortations bring into the meeting. From the light which I have received, our meetings should be spiritual and social, and not too long. Reserve, pride, vanity, and fear of man should be left at home. Little differences and prejudices should not be taken with us to these meetings. As in a united family, simplicity, meekness, confidence, and love should exist in the hearts of brethren and sisters who meet to be refreshed and invigorated by bringing their lights together” (Testimonies, Vol 2, p. 578).

Adapted from *Prayer Facilitator Guides* prepared by 24/7 United Prayer, and Melissa Paige Miranda, MENA Prayer Coordinator, and Global Pioneer Missionary.