

Care

“Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.” John 21:25

Jesus role-modelled for us how to take time to ‘be there’ for our neighbours, whatever their need.

Praying means not only talking to God but building up relationships by talking to those in our street and community. Ways to show care:

- join a local charity project
- look after a house for those on holiday or in hospital
- help stressed carers with their child or elderly relative
- give a bunch of flowers or home baking
- invite round for a ‘cuppa’
- spend time with those housebound
- remember joys and sorrows by sending a card or note

Let the love of Jesus touch your neighbours because He lives in you.

Share

“... in your hearts set apart Christ Jesus as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...” 1 Peter 3:15.

When Jesus is Lord of your life you have a heartfelt care for those He died to save. A natural result of your ‘pray and care’ life is that the Holy Spirit will enable you to share about how the love of Jesus has touched your life.

With gentleness and respect, by word of mouth, DVD, leaflet or an Adventist Discovery card, share your faith. Not everyone will immediately accept Jesus into their life but do not let this hinder you from continuing to pray, care and share.

Recommended reading:

Radical Prayer	D Morris. Publisher, Review & Herald
Revive us Again	M Finley. Publisher, Pacific Press
Ministry of Healing	E G White. Publisher Review & Herald
Prayer is Ministry	British Union Conference (free from website)

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PRAYER IS MORE THAN TALKING
PRAYER IS CARING AND SHARING

My road is a



AREA



NEIGHBOURHOOD PRAYER WATCH



“Devote yourself to prayer, being watchful and thankful... Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt so that you may know how to answer every one.”
Colossians 4:2, 6.

What is the Neighbourhood Prayer Watch?

Although this name echoes that of the community care scheme, Neighbourhood Watch, its directive comes from the heart of Jesus. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul... and mind... Love your neighbour as yourself.” Matthew 22:37-39

The Neighbourhood Prayer Watch is formed by an individual like yourself, or with two or three people, who are motivated by the Holy Spirit to live out, in a prayerful & practical way, loving your neighbour.

- You come together on a regular basis to pray for those living on your street and for things happening in your community.
- By caring about your neighbours you soon become aware of those who need help.
- While responding to these neighbours’ needs you are able to share a message of hope too.

By praying, caring and sharing the Neighbourhood Prayer Watch Ministry will be like that light on a hill, described by Jesus, that all “may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16.



Pray for You, Who, How and What

You

“Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in...” Revelation 3:20.

To be effective in your prayer, care and sharing there is one prerequisite, to have Jesus abiding in you. Many have found the PART model a helpful way to have such a close relationship with God.

Praise—Begin your prayer time with praising God as this lifts us up to a great God and helps us to forget our weakness. The book of Psalms can be a good resource of finding topics of praise.

Admission—Ask God to humble your heart and show you what is out of harmony with His ways. Admit your wrong doings and ask Him to change you to be more Christ-like.

Request—In Philippians 4:19 and James 1:6 we read “ask in faith without doubting.” “God shall supply all your need.” Bring to God the desires of your heart and allow Him to respond in the ways He alone knows best.

Thanksgiving—Do not take God’s blessings for granted but remember how He has recently done specific things for you.

When you spend time prayerfully reading the Bible this PART model will make a significant difference in your devotional life. You will come even closer to the heart of Jesus and be more receptive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Who

“First of all, I urge you that prayers, petitions and thanksgiving be made on behalf of all people.” 1 Timothy 2:1

The neighbourhood prayer ministry focus is primarily on those you ‘neighbour’; those in your street, your community; those you work or study with, as well as family and friends.



How

“They all joined together constantly in prayer...” Acts 1:14.

- Pray on your own, or in twos or threes (Matthew 18:20), at a specific time and place.
- Share in church how God is working through the Neighbourhood Watch ministry and ask for prayer support.
- Keep a list of the names and addresses of those for whom you are praying.
- Read the local newspapers so you can pray over those needing help, worthy projects, local events including those connected to churches, etc.
- Walk around your neighbourhood inviting the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of those in each home.
- As you travel around your community, take time to present to the Lord those working in offices, factories, council buildings, the police and fire stations as well as those caring for the sick and hurting.

The result of such praying is that God will guide you to those who need your care.

What

“This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father...’” Matthew 6:9.

The Lord’s Prayer includes all aspects of daily life which can be summarised, while praying for our neighbours, using the BLESS model.

Body	health and prevention from illness.
Labour	secure employment and income.
Emotional	joy and inner peace.
Social	loving relationships.
Spiritual	trust in Jesus and protection from evil.

