



CHRISTIAN PRAYER MINISTRIES

CODE OF ETHICS AND PRACTICE FOR PRAYER MINISTERS

1. Status of the Code

Effective on 1st March 2006 until superseded.

2. Scope

Mandatory upon all Prayer Ministers accredited to Christian Prayer Ministries (CPM) and those in training.

3. Introduction

- 3.1 The purpose of this Code is to provide standards for Prayer Ministry based upon
 - (a) scriptural principles and good practice, and
 - (b) to inform and protect those receiving Prayer Ministry.
- 3.2 The Code provides a framework within which Prayer Ministers are free to be led by the Holy Spirit whilst maintaining the disciplines of good practice, integrity and safety for all parties.
- 3.3 The Code comprises two parts. The Code of Ethics lays down the principles relating to Prayer Ministry and the Code of Practice enables these principles to be applied.

4. The Objectives of Prayer Ministry

To enable Christians to have a deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus by being freed from the hurts, sins, bondages and oppression that hinder them from doing so. This will provide an opportunity for them to live in the victory which Christ has already won for us all on the Cross.

5. The Nature of Prayer Ministry

- 5.1 Whilst sharing some of the same disciplines as counselling, Prayer Ministry has a far deeper application, through the power of the Holy Spirit revealing areas of brokenness. The combination of healing prayer with the application of the Word of God, enables the recipient to be set free from the effects of deep wounding, sins, bondages and occult oppression.
- 5.2 It is important for those receiving Prayer Ministry to recognise their responsibility in working with God in the healing process. It is also important following Prayer Ministry for them to continue to walk in the light of the truth, which they have received

CODE OF ETHICS

1. Introduction

Those practising Prayer Ministry recognise the following important principles: -

- A. The unconditional love of God for all people.
- B. The unique relationship between God and His child.
- C. The truth and authority of the Word of God.
- D. That Jesus alone is the healer.
- E. The value of each individual.
- F. The dignity of each individual.

2. Safety in Prayer Ministry

Care must be taken to ensure as far as possible, the physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual safety of the person receiving Prayer Ministry.

3. Agreements to receive Prayer Ministry

A clear understanding will be established with the person receiving Prayer Ministry, as to what is being offered to them and how the appointment will be conducted.

4. Training and Competence

All those called to be Prayer Ministers should have received an appropriate level of training for the ministry which they are undertaking. They are responsible for ensuring that they are in a right relationship with God, recognising their own need for periodic ministry and for developing their own learning and competence.

CODE OF PRACTICE

Introduction

This Code of Practice applies the general principles contained within the Code of Ethics to specific situations which may arise during Prayer Ministry, wherever the ministry is conducted.

1. Responsibilities in Prayer Ministry

Prayer Ministers must recognise the responsibilities they have towards those receiving Prayer Ministry, to themselves as Prayer Ministers, to those they are ministering with in a Prayer Ministry Appointment, to the Ministry Team when ministering on a Prayer Ministry or Training course, to the wider community, including other carers or professionals who may be involved and to any organisation they may be working with or under.

2a. To those receiving Prayer Ministry

- Prayer Ministers should ensure as far as reasonably practicable, the physical, psychological, spiritual and emotional safety of the person receiving ministry.
- Prayer Ministers must always work in pairs, preferably one male and one female. Without exception one of the Prayer Ministers must be of the same gender as the one receiving Prayer Ministry.
- Prayer Ministers must recognise the independence and freedom of each person to make decisions affecting their own lives.
- Unless the person receiving Prayer Ministry specifically requests it, the Prayer Minister will not normally act on their behalf in any other capacity, whether professional or social.
- Prayer Ministers must always establish appropriate boundaries within which they and the person receiving Prayer Ministry will work. Touch, including the laying on of hands, should only be used after permission is given. Even where permission is given it should be recognised that it is inappropriate for certain parts of the body to be touched.
- Care should be taken to avoid any action that might exploit those receiving Prayer Ministry, financially, sexually, emotionally or in any other way.
- Prayer Ministry Appointments should be conducted in privacy with only minimal notes taken as appropriate to the appointment. Any discussion outside of the appointment should only be with the individuals consent.

2b. To Self

- Prayer Ministers have a responsibility to themselves as well as those to whom they are ministering, in monitoring their effectiveness in Prayer Ministry. They should withdraw if at any time they become aware of any deficiency and only return to Prayer Ministry when their confidence is restored.
- Prayer Ministers who are accredited will have received basic training and should continue the learning process, whilst practising Prayer Ministry.
- Prayer Ministers should be aware of risks to their physical safety when dealing with persons who show signs of being emotionally damaged or mentally disturbed. They should take whatever steps are necessary to ensure their own personal safety.
- Where appropriate, Prayer Ministers should seek indemnity insurance for professional risks unless they are covered by the organisation under which they are ministering.

2c. To other Prayer Ministers

Prayer Ministers have a responsibility to other Prayer Ministers and should not engage in any activities that might bring them or other Prayer Ministers into disrepute. If they become aware of misconduct by other Prayer Ministers they should seek at first to resolve this with the other Prayer Minister. If that fails, the matter should be referred to the Regional Committee as soon as possible to take appropriate action.

Under no circumstances must the addresses or phone numbers of other Prayer Ministers be given out to enquirers, without first receiving their consent.

2d. Competence

Prayer Ministers should be aware of their own limitations through practice or experience and their own Prayer Ministry Appointments, and Prayer Ministers should not seek to go beyond their limitations in Prayer Ministry.

They should refrain from Prayer Ministry if their ability is impaired by emotional or personal difficulties or for any other reason. If any of the above circumstances occur, appropriate referrals should be made and where there is an indication that the person receiving Prayer Ministry is suffering physical or mental illness, they should be strongly encouraged to consult their own General Practitioner, before returning for further Prayer Ministry.

2e. Under the Law

Prayer Ministers should recognise that they are not above the law and should always work within the requirements of the law. It is their own responsibility to be aware of which laws apply and how to interpret them in their own practice of Prayer Ministry.

2f. Mentoring

Where mentoring is provided, as may be the case for newly accredited Prayer Ministers, a clear understanding of how the mentoring process will operate must be established, including the maintenance of appropriate levels of confidentiality. This will also need to be communicated to the person receiving Prayer Ministry as specified in 3a.

2g. Confidentiality

Maintaining confidentiality is an essential part of Prayer Ministry practice and Prayer Ministers must avoid breaches in confidentiality apart from agreed exceptions as required by law. (See section 2h below). Where referrals are made to other agencies, the consent of the person receiving Prayer Ministry should always be obtained before disclosing private information.

2h. Confidentiality and the Law

Where information about the person receiving Prayer Ministry is being sought by any person or agency with proper legal authority to do so, Prayer Ministers should seek legal advice as to what is required by law, before any disclosure of confidential information.

3. Prayer Ministry Appointments

3a. Agreements to receive Prayer Ministry

A clear understanding of what is being offered and how the appointment will be conducted must be established before Prayer Ministry commences. Appropriate and clear boundaries must be laid down in agreement with the appointee. It is recommended that written agreements be used for all appointments as shown in Annex 1.

3b. Preparation for Prayer Ministry

Prior to meeting with an appointee, Prayer Ministers must spend time in personal Prayer and waiting upon God in preparation for the Prayer Ministry Appointment.

3c. Personal Appearance

Personal appearance will convey messages to the appointee and it is therefore important to dress appropriately for the occasion. Likewise personal hygiene must be attended to in order not to create distractions to the Prayer Ministry.

3d. Recognising Limitations

Where Prayer Ministers encounter problems within the Prayer Ministry outside of their experience and competence they should, subject to guidance by the Holy Spirit and with the consent of the appointee, seek advice from those Prayer Ministers with specialist experience.

3e. Disclosures

Where disclosures are made that indicate minors or vulnerable adults are at risk, Prayer Ministers should follow the procedure laid down in the CPM document 'Procedures to be followed where minors / vulnerable adults are at risk' as shown in Annex 2.

3f. Concluding the Prayer Ministry

Each Prayer Ministry Appointment should be complete in itself within the time available. Where it is obvious that there are other matters that need to be dealt with, Prayer Ministers should leave the appointee to make the decision about if, when and where to have further Prayer Ministry.

3g. Conflicts of Interest

Where Prayer Ministers discover any conflicts of interest with the appointee, these should be made known to the appointee immediately before deciding whether to continue with the appointment.

3h. Expressions of Suicide or Violent Intentions

Where expressions of suicidal or violent action against themselves or others are made, Prayer Ministers should ensure that those with the pastoral care of the appointee are informed, as explained in the Agreement to Minister. Referred to in 3a above.

4. General

4a. Ministry to Young Persons

It is recommended that Prayer Ministry is only offered to persons over eighteen years of age. If in exceptional circumstances it has been agreed to pray with a young person, it should only be with a parent or guardian present.

4b. Receiving Gifts

Prayer Ministry offered in the name of CPM is free to all those receiving Prayer Ministry. Where there is a desire expressed to financially support the work, a copy of the form 'Making a donation to CPM' should be given. These forms are available from the Treasurer of CPM.

4c. Complaints Procedure

In the event of a person receiving Prayer Ministry, being dissatisfied with the way the Prayer Ministry was conducted, every effort should be made to ensure a satisfactory conclusion. If this fails, the CPM document 'Complaints Procedure for those receiving Prayer Ministry', as shown in Annex 3, should be followed.



Annex 1

AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE PRAYER MINISTRY

Declaration to be made by the Person receiving Prayer Ministry:

1. I understand that I am to receive Prayer Ministry and not counselling and that in most circumstances, the persons providing me with Prayer Ministry will not be professional counsellors or psychological practitioners.
2. I understand that apart from the condition in clause 3 below, everything I share in this and subsequent Prayer Ministry Appointments is in confidence and will not be disclosed without my permission being granted.
3. I understand that in the event of my sharing information which might indicate that a young person or vulnerable adult is at risk from abuse, or if I am a danger to myself or others, the appropriate authorities will be informed.
4. I understand that I am here voluntarily and that I am free to leave at any time.
5. I understand that I am under no financial obligation in respect of this or subsequent Prayer Ministry Appointments.
6. I recognise that it is my responsibility to work with God and co-operate with my Prayer Ministers in the healing process.
7. I understand that my Prayer Ministers will follow the Christian Prayer Ministries 'Code of Ethics and Practice'.
8. I understand that if I am unhappy about any aspect of my Prayer Ministry I may make a formal complaint using the procedure described in the 'Code of Ethics and Practice'.
9. If during my Prayer Ministry Appointment I disclose information which indicates that I might cause harm to myself or others, I give my consent to contact the person who is responsible for my pastoral care.

(Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode _____

Phone: _____ (daytime) _____ (evening)

Signed: _____ Date: _____

this part to be filled in by the Lead Prayer Minister

Name of Lead: prayer minister: _____

Name of Support prayer minister: _____

Date: _____

Annex 2

Procedure to be followed where minors / vulnerable adults are at risk

Introduction

It is essential for the integrity and credibility of Christian Prayer Ministries that this procedure is followed if, during a Prayer Ministry Appointment, disclosures indicate that minors / vulnerable adults may be at risk. This policy places a duty on anyone who has knowledge of such persons at risk to ensure that this information is reported to the authorities.

It will need to be handled sensitively and with the knowledge, and hopefully, the co-operation of the appointee. It will also be necessary to ensure that the appointee has adequate support on return home.

Whilst it is recognised that such disclosures by someone who admits abusing children or vulnerable adults is extremely rare on prayer ministry courses, it is more likely to occur in a local situation. More commonly there may be a disclosure by someone who experienced abuse as a child. This procedure will provide boundaries within which such disclosures can be handled in a way that ensures compliance with the law and minimises the risk of feelings of rejection being felt by the appointee. It is important to remember that a person who committed sexual abuse years ago may still be abusing today.

Scope

All Prayer Ministry and Training courses held under the auspices of CPM, both National and Regional, and where Prayer Ministry is carried out in local situations.

Procedure for Prayer Ministry and Training Courses

- Course leaders should ensure that all team members are aware of this procedure before the course commences.
- The Lead Prayer Minister must take responsibility for the appointment. If such a disclosure is made, the Lead must ensure that the appointee is made aware of the requirements of the law. This should be done sensitively and as part of the ministry to the appointee.
- As soon as possible after the Prayer Ministry Appointment the Lead Prayer Minister must bring this matter to the attention of the course leader, who must decide whether the matter should be reported immediately or at the end of the course. This will depend on the level of risk and whether or not the abuse is by the appointee or another person.
- The decision as how to report should be done prayerfully and involving the appointee.
- Ideally the reporting should be made by the appointee, with or without the support of the Lead or Support Prayer Minister, whichever is the same gender as the appointee.
- It is the responsibility of the course leader, to ensure that the report has been made.
- It is important throughout this time to ensure that prayerful support of the appointee is maintained. As far as possible the course leader should ensure that there is support available to the appointee on their return home.
- Apart from the authorities, strict confidentiality must be maintained.

Procedure for Prayer Ministry carried out in local situations

- The Lead Prayer Minister should ensure that the Support Prayer Minister is fully conversant with this procedure.
- The Lead Prayer Minister must take responsibility for the appointment. If such a disclosure is made the Lead Prayer Minister must ensure that the appointee is made aware of the requirements of the law. This should be done sensitively and as part of the ministry to the appointee.
- As soon as possible after the Prayer Ministry appointment, the Lead Prayer Minister must agree with the appointee the way in which the report is carried out and whether the risk is serious enough to be reported immediately or whether normal procedures can be followed.
- The decision on how to report should be done prayerfully and involving the appointee.
- Ideally, the reporting should be done through those with pastoral care of the appointee.
- It is the responsibility of the Lead Prayer Minister to ensure that the report has been made.
- It is important throughout this time to ensure that prayerful support of the appointee is maintained. As far as possible the Lead Prayer Minister should ensure that there is support available to the appointee on their return home.
- Apart from the authorities, strict confidentiality must be maintained

Further advice

Further advice can be obtained from the Children's Services Department of the Local Authority or from the Police Department. Expert advice can also be obtained from the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service, which has a twenty-four hour telephone help-line. 0845 120 45 50.



Annex 3

Complaints Procedure for those receiving Prayer Ministry.

1. Where you, as a person receiving Prayer Ministry from a Christian Prayer Ministries accredited Prayer Minister, feel that you have been unfairly or inappropriately treated and you have been unable to resolve the matter satisfactorily with the Prayer Minister concerned, you should make an official complaint as this procedure outlines.
2. If the appointment was conducted as part of a Prayer Ministry / Training course, you should make your complaint to the Course Leader.
3. If the Course Leader is unable to resolve the matter, or if the appointment was carried out by an Accredited Prayer Minister in a local situation, you should complain in writing to the Regional Administrator, using the form provided.
4. The Regional Administrator will bring the matter before the Regional Committee, who will appoint a representative to hear your complaint.
5. If all the above steps fail to find a satisfactory solution, the Regional Administrator will refer the matter to the CPM Executive Committee, who will take whatever steps are necessary to conclude the matter as quickly as reasonably possible.
6. Whoever of the above is responsible for concluding the investigation must report their findings and any action taken, in writing to the complainant and the Prayer Minister concerned. A copy of this report must also be provided to the Regional Administrator and if appropriate to the Executive Committee. (See 5 above).



CHRISTIAN PRAYER MINISTRIES

Reporting a Complaint

(Please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name of Lead Prayer Minister: _____

Name of Support Prayer Minister: _____

Date of Prayer Ministry Appointment: _____

Nature of Complaint:

Signature: _____ Date: _____