



# Prayer Pastors

A guide for trainers



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## Introduction

The Street Pastor Initiative was born as a Christian response to anti-social behaviour in certain areas of the UK. It was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the hearts of those who wanted to make a difference in these areas on our streets. Prayer and the work of God, through his Holy Spirit continue to be an important prerequisite to the work of Street Pastors.

This Prayer Pastors course has four parts to equip the new recruit for the role of prayer pastors for the street pastor's ministry.

### **1. Preparation and reflection**

This is an independent activity to encourage the Prayer Pastor recruit to start thinking about their role.

### **2. Roles and Responsibilities training**

The requirement for the recruit to attend the Street Pastor Roles and Responsibilities course offers several benefits, including: becoming aware of the roles and responsibilities of the street pastor, as well as gaining an insight into the ministry.

### **3. Observation with a Street Pastors team in action**

In addition to attending the session on roles and responsibilities, the recruit will gain valuable first-hand experience during an observation with a Street Pastors team for at least one night or patrol session. Such an experience provides valuable knowledge of the locations and settings in which the street pastors patrol. In the event that the Prayer Pastors recruit is unable to do the 'observation patrol', the coordinator should consider providing an audio visual experience of the locality (or somewhere similar) so that the recruits can gain some appreciation of the contexts into which they will be praying.

### **4. Prayer Pastor training day**

This day's training covers a variety of topics as you can see from the table of contents that follows in this manual.

Throughout the course, it is expected that the following four learning outcomes will be achieved. Some will be achieved in the out-of-the classroom setting and at least two outcomes will be achieved during the Prayer Pastors training day.

1. To become aware of the roles and responsibilities of Street Pastors.
2. To reflect on the locations where street pastors patrol and consider how to pray in relation to these.

3. To consider 'diversity' in the context of the prayer base and how individuals contribute to it.
4. To identify different types of prayer and their appropriateness for situations that street pastors encounter.

The first learning outcome (*to become aware of the roles and responsibilities of the street pastor*) is achieved when the Prayer Pastor recruit attends and participate in the Street Pastors' Roles and Responsibilities training session.

Going out as an observer with a Street Pastors team for at least one night, or part of a night, helps the Prayer Pastors recruit to fulfil the second learning outcome (to reflect on the locations where street pastors patrol and consider how to pray in relation to these locations).

It is useful for you as the trainer to be aware of the role that the Prayer Pastors Coordinator will play in seeing to it that the recruit attends the Street Pastors' Roles and Responsibilities session, as well as facilitating the recruit's 'observation patrol' with the Street Pastors team. In the event that a Prayer Pastors recruit is unable to do the 'observation patrol', then the coordinator could run a short session based on page 10 (Visual presentation and discussion of the local area).

Learning outcomes three and four will be accomplished during the one day Prayer Pastors training.

## A suggested plan for the training day

The following is a suggested way in which to organise the day's Prayer Pastors training based on a start time of 10:00 am.

10:00 – 10:20	Devotion and prayer Share learning objectives
10:20 – 10:40	Video Warm-up activity and introductions.
10:40 – 11:10	'What is prayer?'
11:10 – 11:30	Visual presentation and discussion of the local area.*
11:30 – 11:45	BREAK
11:45 – 12:10	'Family fortunes': Prayer postures and ways of praying
12:10 -- 12:30	Ingredients for a good prayer base
12:30 – 1:30	LUNCH
1:30 – 2:10	Different types of prayer
2:10 – 2:40	The effects of the spiritual presence of street and prayer pastors
2:40 – 3:00	Concluding 'prayer stations' time
3:00 – 3:20	Q & A
3:20 – 3:40	Logistics



## Ideas for devotion

*Although God knows our every need,  
His work He wants to share;  
He takes us into partnership  
By calling us to prayer. —D. De Haan*

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This page provides some ideas for devotion and prayer as well as space for you to jot down your ideas for devotion and prayer. You may also refer to the newly compiled Prayer Book for prayer pastors for inspiration.

- Mark 10: 46 – 52
- Luke 18: 1 – 8
- Matthew 9: 35 – 38
- Psalm 102: 1 – 17
- Matthew 6: 5 - 15



# 1 Warm up activity and introductions

## Activity: Watching a video

Watch one of these humorous 'Funny Prayers' You Tube videos.

A funny prayer: <http://youtu.be/NVBBpM-SXX4> (2.14 minutes)

(Key point for consideration: spiritual vocabulary)



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OR

The ways people pray: <http://youtu.be/DzaZZZsyVXI> (2.38 minutes)

(Key point for consideration: individuals' differences when praying in groups)



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## Activity: Introduce yourself

Introduce yourself to two people and say in one short sentence what you found funny about the video.

## 2 What is prayer?

Tell the training group that they are first going to consider what constitutes prayer and why we need to pray for street pastors. Ask them to get into groups of three or four, working with people who they have not met before and introduce yourselves.

Give out the extracts below. (Copies are in the appendix for cutting up and handing out to groups). Ask individuals to read the statements and verses about prayer and pass them around the group. Invite Individuals to write down or highlight key words or short phrases that 'strike a chord' with them about prayer or that they find inspirational: discuss these in the group.

'God does nothing but in answer to prayer...' (John Wesley).
The call to prayer is the Father's invitation to enter into His presence... into the throne room.
'Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need' (Hebrews 4:16, NKJV).
Prayer is our ability to stand in the gap and intercede for nations, cities, communities, churches, families and ordinary people so that the will of God can be enforced over and above the plans of the enemy.
Making our requests known to God allows us to experience the manifestation of God in our lives as well as discover what He is capable of doing.
Prayer is a tool and a weapon, which is available to anyone in Christ; in prayer we discover the authority of the Name of Jesus and how to use it.
Prayer is an opportunity to fellowship and commune with God. Your prayer life creates intimacy with God.
Prayer is the voice of faith to the Father.
Prayer gives a voice to our needs.
Prayer is a time when divinity meets with humanity for the fulfilment of divine purposes.
'Call unto me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things which you do not know' (Jeremiah 33:3, NKJV)

**Activity: Writing an acrostic poem**

Following their thoughts and discussion arising from the activity above, ask the small groups to, create a (non-rhyming) acrostic poem about what prayer is for street pastors (5 minutes).

P \_\_\_\_\_

R \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_

Y \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

R \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity: Summarising**

Take feedback from each group for 'one letter' then summarise the importance of real prayer as being:

- conversation
- expectancy (faith)
- by Father's children
- assisted by the Holy Spirit

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### 3 Visual presentation and discussion of the local area

#### Learning Objective 2

To reflect on the locations where street pastors patrol and consider how to pray in relation to these.

It is anticipated that the Prayer Pastors recruit will do an 'observation patrol' with a Street Pastors team. This section will give the recruit the opportunity to reflect on the locations where street pastors patrol and to consider how to pray for street pastors as well as the participants in the night-time venues.

#### **Activity:** Reflect on a night-time venue

*To prepare for this section, you will need access to photographs or short videos with commentary about the local night-time economy. Examples: club doors, outside of local pubs, etc. (preferably at night). Include taxi ranks, street furniture, alleyways – anywhere that street pastors patrol: where people might gather, be vulnerable, stop to talk or fight, etc.*

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- Display a set of night-time photographs of the local Street Pastors area or show short videos of night time meeting places. These may be uploaded into a slide show to talk through or as a video presentation.
  - Encourage the participants to observe and talk about the following:
    - atmosphere and mood of the street
    - the people
    - the variety of activities on the street
    - the workers in the night-time venues
    - the places where people are situated.
  - At the end allow and encourage new recruits to ask questions in order to fully understand what street pastors do in the locality.
  - Also share with them some of the stories of events on the streets at night and how the power of prayer has made a difference.
  - What are the emerging prayer points?
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## 4 'Family fortunes:' Prayer postures and ways of praying

### Learning Objective 3

To consider 'diversity' in the context of the prayer base and how individuals contribute to it.

**Activity:** Play 'Family Fortunes'.

'100 Christians were asked what posture or position they prefer to adopt when they pray. Listed below are the percentages. What were the four most popular postures mentioned?'

36%, 20%, 18%, 12% 14% ( Answers: sitting, kneeling, standing, walking, other, eg. bowed head, lying down)

Use the grid found in the Appendix. Photocopy one grid to share between two or three people to enable discussion about the ways people prefer to pray. Facilitate this session as a whole group discussion to encourage an appreciation of variety. Ask: what do most people do in your church? Acknowledge the fact that prayer posture is largely learned behaviour as are 'ways of praying'.

Prayer postures	
Percentages	Preferred posture
36%	
20%	
18%	
14%	
12%	

### Ways of praying

**Activity:** Your preferred ways to pray

List these 'Ways of praying' on the board. Number each of them. Ask participants to identify their 'top three' ways of praying and the context in which they would pray in this way.

1. Out loud
2. Quietly
3. Reflectively or silently
4. With a prayer book
5. Old English
6. Conversationally
7. Hands together
8. Eyes open.



## 5 Ingredients for a good prayer base

**Activity:** What 'ingredients' do we need to have a good prayer base?

Get participants to move into small groups to brainstorm and list on paper their answers. After a few minutes allow each group to feedback one item each (without repeating what others have said) until all ingredients from each group have been mentioned. List these on a board as they are said.

Alternatively (particularly if the group is large or has been sitting for a long time), get each group to stick their list on a wall and allow the whole group to walk around and read each other's lists. Identify and mention the items that appear on several lists.

Add to this, if not already mentioned:

- the importance of arriving on time
- spending at least 75% of the time together in prayer
- involvement of the street pastors
- dynamism, e.g. walking around, all participating, variation
- regular mobile phone or radio contact
- music
- a leader
- an opening devotional time
- food and drink!
- short prayers
- heating
- seating
- positive attitude
- expectancy (believing prayer).

And...the Lord's presence! 'For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them.' (Matthew 18:20, NKJV)

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# 6 Different types of prayer

## Learning Objective 4

To identify the different types of prayer and their appropriateness for situations that street pastors encounter.

There are a number of different types of prayer referred to in scripture each of which is appropriate for praying in different situations. It's good to have some understanding of these because these will be your 'tools' at the prayer base!

### Activity: Matching prayer types

Depending upon numbers, work as a whole group or in pairs. Give each group a copy of the appendix sheet 'Types of prayer'. Before the training session, cut the sheet into squares and place the squares into an envelope, randomly shuffled up. The aim of the exercise is to match the prayer type to the correct definition and the relevant scriptures. (Each group will need two bibles). When all the groups have laid out the pieces, tell them the correct order (some of the scripture references are relevant to more than one type of prayer). Allocate one type of prayer to each person or group to:

- be the 'expert' on that type of prayer;
- make a (maximum) 3-minute presentation to the whole group about it;
- include how or when prayer pastors might use this type of prayer during patrol at night time.

Summarise and emphasise the importance of the prayer of agreement. 'How could one chase a thousand and two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them and the Lord had surrendered them?' (Deuteronomy 32:30, NKJV).

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## 7 The effects of the spiritual presence of street pastors

Read this statement to the group:

One of the first observations that is often made by police, about the effects of street pastors in an area, is the significant fall in crime on the streets where street pastors patrol, and the reduction in other forms of anti-social behaviour. This can be explained in part by their physical presence, but we are sure that the most influential factor is the spiritual presence of street pastors. The bible speaks about 'light shining in darkness', consequently disturbing and disallowing the deeds of darkness /Satan. We believe that street pastors and prayer pastors are a dynamic team, who promote a spiritual change in the atmosphere of an area and this is translated into changes in people's behaviour in an area at night.

### Activity: Looking for themes

Ask the group to consider this statement. What over-arching themes should be included in prayer at the prayer base? Invite each group to come up with a maximum of five themes that could be prayed about through the night until prayer requests come in from the streets. Take responses.

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**'It is important to pray behind the façade of the night-time frivolity.'**

To this end consider these as ongoing prayer themes throughout the night:

1. safety
2. discernment
3. peace
4. divine appointments
5. wisdom.






# Questions and answers

## Logistics: Dealing with practicalities

- Establish a rota of prayer pastors for the new recruits.
- Ensure everyone can get home at the end of the evening.
- Discuss expected arrival time at the prayer base, or first contact time for home-based prayer pastors.
- Exchange phone numbers, etc.

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## The need for sensitive responses

New recruits, during training, may raise questions related to the subjects of:

- speaking in tongues/ an unknown prayer language
- prophetic utterances
- visions and ‘pictures’
- other manifestations of the Holy Spirit moving in an individual.

These will not be dealt with explicitly in the prayer pastor’s training. It is expected that the coordinator will deal with such situations, if they become an issue at the base. The priority of the prayer pastors is to provide united prayer for the street pastor patrols. Individuals who (unintentionally) distract from this purpose will need to be approached sensitively.

Guiding principle: 1 Corinthians 14: 32 ‘And the spirits of prophets are subject to the prophets.’ (NKJV)

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# Appendix 1

## Preparation and reflection


Read this extract from Faith on the Streets (pp 160 - 161).

*'Most of my fears came from the fact that before I became a prayer pastor I had hardly ever prayed out loud. I'm not a great one for public speaking. But as a prayer pastor I found I was among people who were quite happy to open their and just pray. The mixture of traditions helped me to see that there is no strict formula to praying in a group. I heard some people praying so freely that it helped me to just open my mouth and speak what the Lord was bringing to my mind. Previously I would have analysed what I wanted to say until I completely lost confidence in saying it at all. I know this is also true for another prayer pastor who, before joining the team, had only prayed words from a prayer book.*

*I think I can pray with much more boldness now. We're all focused on the same thing, and I find the flow of information from the street pastors really useful, even if they are saying the town is quiet tonight. Somebody might pray for something that leads us onto something else. It's like throwing a stone into a pond – the prayers get wider.'*

Think about the variety of people who choose to become prayer pastors. Each comes to the role with their personal challenges.

1. Do you identify with this person?
2. Can you appreciate how they might have felt when they first joined?
3. Consider the issues that could arise from the fact that the group consists of people who come from a variety of church and prayer traditions.

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## Appendix 2

### Observation and reflection form

This is a record of feedback following an evening as an observer with a Street Pastors team which can be used for discussion with the Street Pastor Coordinator.

Team/area route:

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Were there any main stopping points?

Location?	What was happening?	Intervention?

Did you observe anyone who you would regard as 'vulnerable'? Who? In what ways were they vulnerable?

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Did you observe any location that seemed to you unsafe? In what ways was it unsafe?

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Given what you have seen and felt, what would be your five main prayer points for the evening? Why?

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Appendix 3

### Statements about prayer

What do you think?

<p>'God does nothing but in answer to prayer...' (John Wesley)</p>
<p>The call to prayer is the Father's invitation to enter into His presence... into the throne room.</p>
<p>'Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need' (Hebrews 4:16, NKJV)</p>
<p>Prayer is our ability to stand in the gap and intercede for nations, cities, communities, churches, families and ordinary people so that the will of God can be enforced over and above the plans of the enemy.</p>
<p>Making our requests known to God allows us to experience the manifestation of God in our lives as well as discover what He is capable of doing.</p>
<p>Prayer is a tool and a weapon, which is available to anyone in Christ; in prayer we discover the authority of the Name of Jesus and how to use it.</p>
<p>Prayer is an opportunity to fellowship and commune with God. Your prayer life creates intimacy with God.</p>
<p>Prayer is the voice of faith to the Father.</p>
<p>Prayer gives a voice to our needs.</p>
<p>'Call unto me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things which you do not know' (Jeremiah 33:3, NKJV)</p>
<p>Prayer is a time when divinity meets with humanity for the fulfilment of divine purposes.</p>

## Appendix 4

### What is prayer?

Write an 'acrostic' non-rhyming poem about what prayer is.

## PRAYER

**P** \_\_\_\_\_

**R** \_\_\_\_\_

**A** \_\_\_\_\_

**Y** \_\_\_\_\_

**E** \_\_\_\_\_

**R** \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix 5**

**Prayer postures**

100 Christian were surveyed. What were their preferred prayer postures?

<b>Percentages</b>	<b>Preferred posture</b>
<b>36%</b>	
<b>20%</b>	
<b>18%</b>	
<b>14%</b>	
<b>12%</b>	

## Appendix 6

### Types of prayer

<b>INTERCESSION</b>	<b>PRAYER OF FAITH</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>
<b>BINDING AND LOOSING</b>	<b>AGREEMENT</b>	<b>PRAISE AND WORSHIP</b>
<b>Adoring and exalting God for who he is</b>	<b>Acting in prayer on behalf of someone else</b>	<b>Articulating gratitude to God for what he has done</b>
<b>Asking God or petitioning for a change or particular outcome</b>	<b>Joining with others to pray for a person or situation</b>	<b>Asserting spiritual authority through Jesus</b>
<b>Matthew 18:19 - 20</b>	<b>Mark 11:24</b>	<b>Hebrews 11:1 Matthew 13:58</b>
<b>Philippians 4:6</b>	<b>Luke 11:2</b>	<b>Luke 11:41</b>
<b>Ephesians 1:15 - 18</b>	<b>Matthew 18:18</b>	<b>Philippians 4:6</b>
<b>Ephesians 6:18</b>	<b>Psalm 95</b>	<b>Colossians 4:2</b>

## Appendix 7

### Prayer Pastors commissioning statements

Ideas for commissioning prayers for prayer pastors.

#### 7.1 An order for commissioning to Christian service

Dear friends, today we recognise the ministry of *Name(s)* and commission *him (her, each of them)* to a special task in the service of Jesus Christ.

*Name*, in the name of this congregation I commission you to this work and pledge to you our prayers, encouragement, and support. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in this and in all things you may do God's will in the service of Jesus Christ.

Almighty God, look with favour upon *Name* (these persons) who today (re)affirm(s) commitment to follow Christ and to serve in his name. Give him (her, each of them) courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

[Source] <http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/an-order-for-commissioning-to-christian-service>

## 7.2 A commissioning prayer

God our Father, as disciples of Jesus, we accept our commission from you to invest our lives in others.

Give these workers in your harvest the power, wisdom and courage to boldly live the Kingdom life in all the places of your choosing.

May Jesus be seen in their lives and may they always and everywhere model the life of Christ with authenticity and great zeal.

Give them eyes to see the path of service you desire for them and ears to hear the cry of the world's needs that you have equipped them to meet.

Father, as your Son modelled for us what it means to be a servant by washing the feet of the disciples, may they exhibit a servant attitude in all they do.

May you be their Lord, light, and guardian in the work you call them to. Grant them perseverance when tired, that they would not grow weary in doing well.

We commission them into your service, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

[Source] <http://www.soul-purpose.info/userfiles/file/commissioning%20prayer.pdf>

### 7.3 A commissioning prayer

Almighty God, we praise you, we give you our thanks for your grace toward us in Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose again, through whom we have life, hope, and purpose.

We thank you for your gift to us of the Word of God, witnessing to us of your everlasting love and truth.

We thank you for the gifts of service that you by your Holy Spirit have given to all your people, so that we may each serve you, and serve others.

We thank you this day for \_\_\_\_\_, for your love and Holy Spirit life toward him/her, for the work of the Holy Spirit in his/her life, for his/her service for you, for all the gifts and graces you have given.

As \_\_\_\_\_ takes up this additional role of praying for street pastors, we pray that your Holy Spirit may give him/her a renewed joy and assurance in the knowledge that you will lead and enable him / her.

We pray that you may refresh \_\_\_\_\_ from on high, that you may equip and empower him/her for ongoing service.

May he/she always worship you with sincerity and wholeness of heart, as he/she join in prayer with other prayer pastors.

May he/she have a sensitivity to your leading, and to the needs of all your people through prayer.

May he/she have the humble attitude of a true servant of God.

Deepen us all in the experience of your grace. Make us more aware of the tasks you have for us all, within your church, and especially within your world beyond this church. May we all be more aware of the gifts you have given to each. Strengthen prayer pastors together. May your peace be in their midst. Empower the witness and the service of them all.

For we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Taken in part from: <http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/for-ministers/worship-resources/special-services/celebrating-communion/chapter-7-a-prayer-of-commiss>

