

Altar Workers Training

1. Have a breath mint or something to make sure that you have pleasant breath (not gum – makes more chances to spit on a person when speaking)
2. Don't wear (strong scented) perfume/cologne on days you are praying – may be offensive to the person you are praying for
3. Have a pleasant and welcoming look on your face and 'be present' (don't appear spiritual and like you are in some other world waiting to solemnly place your hands on them- scary)
4. Don't look too overeager, that 'please come to meeee!!!' look is not appropriate
5. Don't look too disinterested, that 'please DON'T come to meee!!' look is not appropriate
6. If they are not pleasant smelling– make sure your expression is still pleasant.
7. If you are using oil – ask them if it is ok first before applying oil on their head
8. Look them directly in the face while they are talking to you – show them that you are only interested in what they are saying, not their clothing or anything else about them.
9. If the music is loud – pray close to their ear so they can hear you
10. If someone falls on the floor and you see they need additional pray – get down on the floor to pray so they can hear you, if you are unable find another altar worker to pray with them.
11. If someone is overwhelmed and you see they may need additional help- politely escort them out of the sanctuary – be sure you come back in for the sermon
12. Evaluate your surroundings to see if it is ok for your to close your eyes or not
 - a. You may not know what to pray for so ask them if they have any special prayer requests. If not a request, here are some suggestions below:
 - b. Finances
 - c. Health
 - d. Family
 - e. Peace
 - f. Closer relationship with God

Remember that you are not praying to IMPRESS anyone. You are praying to God FOR that person on behalf of that person. This is one of the main reasons why people are uncomfortable when they are praying for someone.

1. Heart check – Don't pray loud and with words that people don't understand. Try to reframe from speaking in tongues when you are praying (it may confuse un-churched people or people who don't understand the heavenly language.)
2. Opposite sex praying tips - Men and Women be careful how you minister to the opposite sex – No rubbing – if the Holy Spirit lead you to touch on a certain area (chest, legs etc.) Place the person's hand there or get someone else to touch them in that place and put your hand over theirs.
 - a. Men pray with men

- b. Women pray with women
 - c. If a situation presents itself to pray with the opposite sex be mindful of body contact – (hugging –touching inappropriate) if touching is needed (besides hands) get someone of same sex to do it.
3. Never praying for someone alone when they look threatening or off balance (grab a partner)

ROLE PLAY 1

You are a person who is prolonging the time together after you've finished praying – in person (trying to make it a counseling session)

Politely say- God bless you sister/brother – please visit connect central so you can process this situation with one of the counselors, you will definitely continue to be in my prayers. Then move on to someone else. Or find another altar worker and ask them to take their name and show them where to go to get information for counseling.

ROLE PLAY 2

You are trying to get the person praying for you to put their hands on your chest, etc. (inappropriate behavior)

If this person is of the opposite sex - tell the person to wait a minute because you would like Bro-sister John to join you with praying for them. If it is the same sex – ignore them and place your hand on their forehead and continue to pray for them.