

SESSION 7 GOOD PRACTICE IN THE HEALING MINISTRY



Reading: I Thessalonians 3.12-13 and 5.15-25

7.1 Prepare the ground to give a solid foundation for the healing ministry

- Review of church life - Personal
 - Vocational Discernment
 - Personal Spiritual Growth
- Review of church life - Relationships
 - Between Members
 - Between Churches
 - With the community
- Review of church life - Mission
 - Welcome
 - Willingness to change
 - Integrated part of the church's mission and ministry
- Prayer and listening to God
 - Every context is different
 - What is right here, now?

7.2 How to begin a ministry of healing

- Start with an interest group

- Small but open
- Invite people with experience and appropriate maturity
- Involve doctors, nurses, social workers and counsellors where possible
- Talk and pray together

- Visit / Learn from other churches

- Run a basic teaching course

- Teach a sermon series

- Discussion with Leadership Team or Church Council to discern appropriate methods
 - Intercessions in Sunday Worship
 - Link with Pastoral Care
 - Listening Ministry (eg Acorn Christian Listeners)
 - Laying on of Hands (How? Where? Who?)
 - Anointing with oil (Who? How often?)
 - Sacramental confession / Ministry of Reconciliation
 - Public and/or private ministry
 - Ministry to the sick & dying (home/hospital)
 - Deliverance Ministry
 - Ecumenical cooperation
 - Ordained and lay
 - Oversight?

7.3 Making a Start

- Use a Prayer Board or Book

- Start a Prayer Chain
 - Confidentiality
 - Close the loop to ensure accuracy

- Start a Prayer Group
 - Clear purpose – listening & praying
 - Confidentiality
 - Time limited, structured meetings

- Identify a Healing Ministry Team with
 - People you trust
 - Open to learn
 - Growing spiritually
 - People who don't need to be needed too much
 - Will work under authority
 - Discernment of Gifts
 - Gender / cultural / age balance

- Form the Healing Ministry Team
 - Learn / train / pray together
 - Collaborate with others
 - Review, Reflect, Plan
 - Accountability, Reporting
 - Ring the Changes – people and methods
 - Start small

7.4 Before helping others...

- Sawdust and planks (Mt 7.3)!

- Our needs or their needs

- Never think you are indispensable!

- Receive and give

- Collaborative not solo

- Be true to yourselves - Pray as you can, not as you can't!

- Be open to receive Supervision / Spiritual Direction

7.5 Good Practice

- Don't minister alone or when tired
- Set boundaries
- Keep learning
- Be accountable
- Ask for help / refer to others
- Stay in touch (discreetly)
- Equip others to develop the ministry
- Welcome people - make it easy to receive ministry
- Don't abuse or embarrass them
- Seek consent before praying/touching
- Pray in male – female pairs
- Use light touch if appropriate
- Don't accuse others of lack of faith
- Listen, don't assume
- Be sensitive to Gender/Cultural/Disability issues and needs
- Keep confidences, don't gossip
- Beware of collusion
- Pray now and later
- Release responsibility to them and God
- Share testimonies, but not too quickly

7.6 Standards and Policies to protect the ministry

- Children and Vulnerable Adults
- Prepare a policy document
 - Confidentiality & Good Practice
 - Handling emergencies
 - What records are kept
 - Complaints Procedure
 - Health & Safety
- Denominational Standards
- Insurance

7.7 Deliverance

Always ensure that where deliverance or exorcism may be needed you adhere to your denominational guidance and always get advice and support. For Anglicans, the Bishops' Guidelines state that deliverance is to be carried out:

- By experienced and approved people (all dioceses have skilled advisers to assist)
- In the context of prayer and sacrament
- In collaboration with medical resources
- Followed up with pastoral care
- With minimum publicity

The House of Bishops' Guidelines for Good Practice in the Deliverance Ministry 1975 (revised 2012)

7.8 Staying Healthy while helping others

Have regard for your spiritual, intellectual, social and physical health, development and well-being. As someone once said: *If your output exceeds your input then your upkeep will be your downfall!*

Seek to maintain a good balance.

*Self-care is never a selfish act –
it is simply good stewardship of the only gift I
have, the gift I was put on earth to offer to
others.*

Parker Palmer, *Let your life Speak*,
Jossey Boss, 2000, p30

The Sabbath

*'For one day a week, the Sabbath is a reminder
that we are dispensable to work and the world,
but not to our families, community and God.*

*We need to set an example
and by our use of our precious time,
show that God is Lord.*

J John "Ten"

Toki Miyamisha's version of Psalm 23

*The Lord is my pacesetter, I need not rush,
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals.
He provides me with images of stillness, which restore my serenity.
He leads me in ways of efficiency through calmness of mind.
His guidance is peace.*

*Even though I have a great deal of things to accomplish each day,
I will not fret.*

*For his presence is here, his timelessness, his importance
will keep me in balance.*

*He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of activity
by anointing my head with oils of tranquility.
My cup of joyous energy overflows.*

*Such harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruit of my hours,
For I shall walk in the peace of the Lord
And dwell in his company for ever. Amen.*