**Starting a prayer ministry in the local church**

The more time spent in prayer, when forming this ministry, the greater will be its strength. After the church board has selected the co-ordinator, the coordinator is to:

* Ask God to identify people to form a support prayer group.
* Start praying with this group about forming a team.
* Envision the ministry recognising God’s leading (2 Cor. 12:9).
* Prepare a one sentence mission statement e.g. “Our mission is to involve every member in finding out how prayer can be an integral part of their Christian growth.”
* Outline the goals and how to fulfil them e.g. for the above mission statement:

Teach members the ABC of prayer
form prayer groups or partners
work with the children and youth department in developing their own prayer ministry

* Share the vision of how the ministry can succeed with the pastor and church board—present to them the budget requirements as well as the goals and strategy.
* Prepare the congregation for the launch of this ministry through sermons, church bulletins and announcements, sharing resources, testimonies of answered prayer, etc.
* Form a job description for the prayer ministry team members.
* Learn for others involved in their church’s prayer ministry.
* Attend prayer conferences and training programs.
* Invite the conference/mission/union prayer co-ordinators to run prayer emphasis days and a weekend prayer conference.
* Be aware of church events e.g. evangelism that needs extra prayer support.
* Set up a network for receiving prayer requests.
* Evaluate regularly how this ministry is progressing so new needs can be addressed.
* Publicly praise sand thank God for all His marvellous acts.

**Prayer ministries and evangelism**

Since evangelism is launching out to win victories against the strongholds of Satan, it is important that spiritual warfare is planned to meet the resistance of evil forces.

* Prayer Walks—This ministry allows for church members—youth and adults—to conduct prayer walks in the vicinity of the local church or where the meetings are being held. Christians who prayer walk simply walk their communities, block by block, earnestly interceding for the people living on those streets. They may pray with people who are outside and may knock on doors to ask if the people want to have prayer.
* Prayer Training—Prayer warriors’ training should include the biblical foundation of spiritual warfare and methodologies in prayer ministries. Training enables prayer warriors to pray effectively and intelligently in evangelistic campaigns.
* Focused prayer—Focused prayer is designed to increase the visitors’ receptivity to the gospel. During an evangelistic campaign the evangelist encourages visitors to go to the prayer room for special prayer. After the prayer the visitors return to the meeting to listen to the preaching of the word. This has proven a major strategy for evangelism success in certain parts of the world where this is practised.
* Evangelistic prayer ministries team—Praying during the evangelistic meeting for the meetings success, unleashes the power of God in a greater way and counteracts the strongholds of Satan.
* Training—Prayer warriors may be trained to help people who are in the valley of decision to make decisions for Christ. They may help them with issues that they are facing as they consider following Christ.