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Divine Healing  
MINISTRIES

# **Ten Practical Ways to pray for other people and other situations**

**By Brother David Jardine**

## **Ten Practical Ways to Pray for other people and other situations**

The word intercession comes from the Latin word *intercedere*, which means to be present with God on behalf of the person or situation we are bringing to Him in prayer.

What a beautiful thought—that when we are praying for something or someone we are present with God on their behalf.

In this leaflet I want to be practical. I want to suggest some ways to pray for other people and other situations which are both practical and imaginative.

**1. An important request**—if you are praying for someone who is important to you and who is very sick, or if you are praying about a situation that really concerns you, put the request down on a piece of paper. Place the paper on the floor in a spot which you have to pass many times each day. Every time you pass it pray for the person or situation.

**2. Very important time to pray**—when you are sitting waiting for a funeral to start. Focus your thoughts and prayers on the bereaved family who will be sitting at the front. There will probably never be any time in their lives when they need prayer more. If the whole congregation

can focus their prayers on them at that time that will give an amazing strength.

**3. Pray at the very time something is happening**—if we are doing an exam, or having an operation, or doing a broadcast, or preaching a sermon or whatever, if people can pray at the very time the event is happening that can be a very powerful prayer.

**4. Praying for people who possibly could be touched in no other way**—at a Christian conference the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland said recently that he prayed every day, by name, for dissident republicans. He was asked later why he does this. He said it is because the Holy Spirit can get into places that he can't get into.

**5. Turning thoughts into prayers**—going about asking God to bless all the people whose names come into our minds. I know an old man who does this. He lives in a residential home. In the morning he goes to the dining room for his breakfast. When he comes back to his room he lies down on his bed and starts to pray. He prays for all of the people whose names come into his mind. When I go to visit him I always pray before I leave. I give thanks for the people and situations that have been blessed through God's generous response to the prayers that have been prayed in that room.

**6. Finding a tangible way to let people know we are praying for them**—I know another Anglican

Franciscan brother who has a ministry of post-cards. Every now and again I receive a postcard from him telling me that he prayed for me that morning at Holy Communion. Just recently a Roman Catholic lady sent me a card to let me know that she had arranged for me to be prayed for every day for a year in her local church. These are lovely gestures, and it is something all of us could do; just a little reminder to people that we are praying for them.

**7. Praying for people on the telephone**—a few years ago Rev Niall Griffin was coming to preach in St Anne’s Cathedral on a Monday evening. I caught the flu and was unable to go to the service. Next morning the phone rang. It was Niall enquiring how I was. Before we finished the call he said “Let me say a prayer for you.” That prayer meant a lot to me. Yet any of us could do this. I often speak on the phone to a man who is eighty-two years of age. He is lonely. He doesn’t get many visitors. Always before we finish the call he says, “Reverend Jardine, will you pray for me?” It means a lot to him. Any of us could do this.

**8. Surrendering people to the Lord at the beginning of the day**—every year I do a chaplaincy duty for the Anglican Sisters of St Clare, near Oxford. I remember talking to one of the sisters, telling her that if I

was really concerned about someone I would pray for them many times during the day. She said that not many of the sisters would pray that way. Rather, they surrendered a person or situation to the Lord at the beginning of the day, and left them there. I assume that if they thought of them during the day they would simply express their trust that the Lord had them in His hands and was looking after them. We could pray this way about anything.

**9. Sometimes when we are interceding, if the problem is a difficult one, we only get a breakthrough when we surrender everything unconditionally**—sometimes we can try everything in prayer. We can forgive. We can repent and say sorry. We can pray and pray and pray, but we cannot sort the difficulty out. What I do then is surrender the situation to the Lord unconditionally. I don't try to tell the Lord what the solution ought to be. I leave the person or situation entirely in his hands, whatever the outcome. That usually gets a breakthrough.

**10. Sometimes we need to pray intensively**—a minister went down to Pastor James McConnell, looking for advice because he was having difficulties in his church. It may well be that Pastor McConnell's response surprised the minister. He asked him had he ever tried getting up at 4 o'clock in the morning to pray. For most people this

may not be easy, but if we can do it I think it will help bring a solution to most problems.

These ten points are only suggestions. Maybe you will feel that you could practise some of them. All of them can help us to continue praying for people and situations that need God's help. What a blessing that will be to them through your prayers.

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