

# Guide to Altar Ministry

Below are guidelines to altar ministry, adapted from the book *Working at God's Altar* by Rev. E. Don Nordin. Rev. Nordin pastors Christian Temple Assembly of God in Houston, Texas, and serves as Assistant Superintendent of the South Texas District of the Assemblies of God.

## • Qualifications for Altar Workers

- Altar workers show clear evidence of salvation.
- Altar workers display a Spirit-filled life.
- Altar workers sense a call to altar ministry.
- Altar workers exhibit a genuine concern for others, a passion for helping, and a caring attitude.
- Altar workers are committed to a strong prayer life, the study of God's Word, fasting, and regular church attendance.
- Altar workers display submission to God, the senior pastor, and other church leadership.
- Altar workers are able to maintain confidentiality.

## • Goals of Altar Work

- Provide a comfortable, secure atmosphere by conveying a pleasant demeanor and a professional appearance.
- Seek to discover the person's need, doing so with gentleness, tact, and respect. Never push for details.
- Be specific in prayer with the needy individual, while displaying a sincere desire to intercede.

## • Techniques for Altar Workers

- Focus on prayer, resisting the temptation to counsel. Time is limited, and the needy person desires prayer. Furthermore, altar workers are not usually licensed counselors. If professional counseling is needed, the person can be referred to the head altar worker for further guidance.

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- Be prepared to lead someone to Christ. Below are four components of evangelism.
  - > Admit: Confessing our sinfulness is the first step in conversion.
  - > Repent: Repentance involves renouncing and turning from the sins of the past to live a new life in Christ.
  - > Believe: Recognizing Christ as the Son of God and Savior of the world is at the foundation of Christianity.
  - > Receive: The new believer is born again upon receiving Christ as Lord and Leader of his or her life.
- Be prepared to pray with those who seek the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Emphasize that this experience is a gift of power from God and available to all believers.
- Be prepared to pray with those in need of physical healing. Encourage the person's faith by affirming the power and goodness of God.
- Be prepared to pray with those in need of emotional healing. Emphasize that divine healing doesn't just apply to the body; God can also do the miraculous in our minds.

## • Follow Up

- Ministry at the altar extends beyond the church service. If those seeking prayer desire, information can be taken for a follow up visit by a church leader. Specific follow up procedures vary by church, and usually include a productive discipleship program for new believers.



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