

## **PARTNERING FOR PRAYER FOR LIFE IN CHRIST**

### *Why is it important to have a prayer partner?*

Prayer partners are two or three gathered in Christ's presence to pray for one another and for special needs on a regular basis. Prayer partnerships can develop into lifelong friendships where joys and sorrows and circumstances are shared with one another. It's the body of Christ coming alongside. Prayer partners often hold one another accountable for progressing through various struggles (health, diet, exercise, prayer, shopping, sin, etc.) on which time is spent in prayer.

### *Who should be prayer partners? Who should have prayer partners?*

Everyone! Perhaps a mature Christian can mentor a new believer through regular prayer sessions. Perhaps two of the same age works best, or two of the same circumstances (two moms, two career people, two single people, two single moms, etc.) are more appropriate. Here's a thought: Why not pray for a prayer partner and ask God to lead you to that person?

### *What do we do now that we're prayer partners? When should we pray? Where should we pray?*

The days, time, and place should be established, convenient to both partners. Each need to commit to this regular time. One excuse to cancel could lead to "easy outs" and dissolution of the partnership. Of course, circumstances might alter the day, time, or place, but the commitment to regular praying together is the important thing.

### *What should we pray about?*

Partners should praise and pray. What is God doing in your life? Who needs our prayers? What is the cry of your heart? Pray for family, friends, saved and unsaved. Pray for the church, our country. Some additional guidelines on what to pray can be found in the weekly Prayer Bulletin and Prayer Watch guide in the tract racks and also at <http://www.moodychurch.org/resources/PrayerWatchGuide.pdf>. Sometimes the Holy Spirit brings to mind or heart what to pray for.

### *How long should we pray?*

How long do both of you have? There should be time to share requests with one another and write them down. Ample time should be set aside for each to take a turn in prayer. Notes are handy when praying for the partner at other times in the week.

### *What about emergencies?*

From time to time a partner might have a deep need to pray at a time other than the set time. Partners should be able to work out boundaries as to when one would not be available to pray and what alternatives can be used if one is unavailable, so the partner with the emergency still has someone to turn to.

### *What if the partnership doesn't work out?*

New babies, moving out of town, changed circumstances, workload, personalities, or other essential things might impinge on the day/date/time of the prayer partners for a while or for the foreseeable future. Prayer partners have a tendency to draw close to one another over time, and an open, honest conversation about remaining friends but not prayer partners should not be difficult. If the partnership is failing due to personalities is God showing the partners something in themselves they need to change? Sometimes God uses other people to speak to us, and dissolving a prayer partnership should not be taken lightly.

May God bless you and your prayer partner(s). As you draw closer to Him together, He will draw closer to you.