

## **NEW HOPE CHURCH OF GOD**

### **ALTER WORKERS TRAINING**

#### **PRACTICAL POINTERS SET 1**

1. We cannot afford to limit these classes to the physical eyes or merely on a human perception.
  - (a) We are dealing with spiritual matters, with God as the one to whom we are accountable.
  - (b) We are reaching out to souls—who are being weighed in the balance—who are at the cross-road of decisions—who are struggling with different needs—etc.
  - (c) Our pastor in his presentation on Altar Workers, spoke of the dangers of seeing altar work as a routine. God’s work is never a routine but a divine call to service, which is above everything else, because of many reasons, including the fact that we are dealing with eternal matters.
  - (d) The wrong response always defeats what could have been and what should have been! (Matt. 13:53-58).
  - (e) These classes are not merely routine procedure; they are vitally important to your overall development as we prepare for a very important function in the service of our God. **Leaders are not born they are made!** One example can be seen as it relates to Moses . . . Note:
    - (1) He was destined to lead Israel but development was essential.
    - (2) He had 40 years training in Egypt.
    - (3) He had 40 years training as a shepherd.
    - (4) Then he was called and sent forth (and yes 40 years of service).
2. We cannot help others if we are incapable of rendering the assistance needed.
  - (a) The blind cannot lead the blind.
  - (b) Jesus had His disciples for three years but they had to be equipped before embarking on their assigned mission—**training and equipping**.
  - (c) Soldiers are not deployed until they are trained and proven qualified.
  - (d) When on a plane we are instructed that if a problem occurs we are to take care of ourselves first before assisting our children, for example when applying oxygen.
3. **As we serve it is very important to always display “professionalism.”**
  - (a) I do know that our service is voluntary.
  - (b) I do know that this is not a secular work.
  - (c) Nevertheless, **“professionalism”** is vitally important.
    - (1) We ought to watch our conduct.
    - (2) We ought to watch the attitude that we display.
    - (3) We need to be on guard how we respond to negative situations.

- (4) There will be other areas that will be discussed and will be done at the appropriate time as God leads.
4. Do not allow personal feelings to infiltrate your service.
    - (a) This is not as easy as it sounds ... but God is able to help us to be overcomers and with Christlikeness.
    - (b) Irrespective of what, we cannot allow personal feeling to thwart wisdom tact, etc. as it relates to our commitment and service to others.
    - (c) In our secular jobs we know that personal feelings, etc. adversely affect how we conduct ourselves and perform as required. It does not matter whether it is home problems, or problems on the job, we are expected to behave as **“professionals.”** Without doubt we can all see the importance of **professional conduct** and the need for the highest level as we serve in the kingdom of God. **Our Christian service is: *“With good will doing service as to the Lord and not to men.” (Eph. 6:7).***
  5. As noted above we must avoid the danger or regarding our ministry as a routine. It is very important to place emphasis on this important matter, because:
    - (a) These classes are not routine.
    - (b) Worship of God is not routine.
    - (c) The Altar Service is not routine.
    - (d) Prayer, fasting, Bible Study, etc. these are not just a matter of routine! **In our ministry we portray who we are because who we are is what we do!** As for the true believer our lives and everything else are given to God!! We are committed to the uttermost and where there is no commitment our dreams are only nightmares!
  6. As you minister at the altar remember to be sensitive as to how God is leading the preacher and work with whatever method being used for the altar service.
  7. We all need to consider the following pointers:
    - (a) Avoid praying aloud when the pastor or preacher is giving instructions or praying for seekers.
    - (b) Do not harass the seekers physically, mentally. etc. and protect them from unassigned individuals who are carried away and acting inconsistently with proper altar conduct. God expects us to use wisdom in all that we do.
    - (c) Keep your eyes on the person being prayed for and be ready to assist if they are falling out; we need to help them in order that they do not hurt themselves. Do not turn your back to them . . . BE READY TO HELP!!
    - (d) Do not avoid assistance from other Altar Worker. This is a team work affair and some of the seekers are heavy and may need more than one person to help when they are falling under the power of God.
  8. Respond to the need for service . . . sometimes we seem to run short of Altar Workers!
    - (a) If you are in doubt as to the role expected of you consult the person in-charge he/she will be able to assist.
    - (b) We have seen some Altar Workers responding appropriately (without being called by a leader) and we pray that all other will follow this example and get engaged.
    - (c) Currently we are limited with space and wisdom is needed as we minister at the altar.

- (1) Sometimes it's best to have seekers in a single row in the center aisle and they returned to their seats using the side aisles.
  - (2) Sometimes it may help to have the seekers in formation on both side aisle and they return to their seats using the center aisle.
  - (3) Sometimes we will have to use one or two workers regulating how many meet at the altar for prayer and whenever a space is created or observed it must be filled immediately. This calls for unity, attentiveness and professionalism.
  - (4) At other times the usual format of gathering around the altar is OK ... even then we need to keep the service orderly and making it more systematic for the pastor/preacher who is ministering. However, whatever is done should be according to the desires of the pastor/preacher ... **REMEMBER: God is NOT the author of confusion let us be professional in our service.**
9. We must avoid starting out in the Spirit and end in the flesh (Gal. 3:1-3). We have seen this over and over whereby individuals started with such zeal that it looked as if they would be an outstanding worker but they gradually lose steam and their engine ceased.
10. In lesson 3—The first main point, “The Hour Has come,” In Section B “Looking in a Mirror” . . . observe:
- (a) Division 1 (a) to (d) . . . what is being said here is that we need to present ourselves in such a way that we do not become a source of distraction.
  - (b) Division 2 (a) to (e) bad breath has been mentioned. We can brush our teeth two or three times daily and still have bad breath.
    - (1) We may not have cleaned our tongue, cheeks and gums that are responsible for more than 80% of the cause of bad breath. We should also use mouth wash, floss, tongue scraper, and proper dental care (as possible).
    - (2) Some of us even when the above is done may still desire to use breath strips or other types of breath fresheners.
11. We are all aware of what some refer to as the major sins but the fact remains that the small fox destroys the vine (Songs of Sol. 2:15) Beloved, sin is sin and there is no “*white sin*”, as termed by som. We must always be on guard because it's Satan's objective to destroy us by any means (example John 10:10; etc.). I am not able at this point to discuss the subject on “**Sins That We Tend to Overlook.**” However, I am listing some pointers without comments that you can use to research in this area:

### **Some Sins That We Tend to Overlook**

- (a) Ungodliness
- (b) Anxiety and Frustration
- (c) Discontent
- (d) Un-thankfulness
- (e) Pride
- (f) Selfishness
- (g) Lack of Self-Control
- (h) Impatience and Irritability
- (i) Anger

- (j) The Weed of Anger
- (k) Judge-mentalism
- (l) Envy, Jealousy and Related Sins
- (m) Sins of the Tongue
- (n) Worldliness.

### **Points of Observation . . . Special Service Trenton Campus October 30, 2022**

*The following are some things noted during the Altar Service*

1. The color coordination and the reintroduction of Altar Workers Badges was a plus. Hereafter badges should be strictly restricted for use in our campuses and proper record kept; any outstanding badge remains contact should be made to have it returned unless we have decided on a different plan. Congratulations for the effort and diligence in obtaining these badges, such act is truly commendable.
2. It is obvious that we are desperately in need of many Altar Workers. We do not only need recruits but there are members who once served have not been functioning.
3. There is a need not only for training but for periodical meetings where evaluation, recommendations, commendations, etc. are made and acted on.
4. This comment is not meant to be discouraging yet the facts must be faced. The procedure of the altar service (10/30/22) was chaotic and such chaos must be avoided in the future.
5. There were individuals with badges on but remained at the extreme back of the church while the action was at the altar area and we were experiencing such drastic shortage of workers.
6. It also seemed as if there were so many persons in charge of directing the altar service and each seems to be more concerned about doing their own thing and totally ignoring those who were in charge as well as overriding their decisions. This was so frustrating and disappointing that we wonder do we really know that this is about God and not the exaltation of self! **Altar Workers MUST work as a TEAM united under leadership to the glory of God!!!**
7. Seekers were not properly gathered for prayer especially that we have had set patterns which have proven effective in the past and without the chaos in performing such delicate and vitally important work of God. Most likely we need to review the ways in which we gather at the altar.
8. **Crowd management will have its challenges but do not have to be what it was like October 30, 2022.**

*Here are some ways that we have decided on in the past and successfully implemented to the glory of God. Let's use the Trenton church as our example.*

- (a) The preacher may want to have all or certain people gather at the altar and pray for the as he decides; either at the start of his altar service or during or at the close. This is his/her decision to make as he determines and we must comply. Altar Workers are still needed and to respond as necessary no matter what format decided on.

Individuals will return to their seats, as possible ... Altar Workers remain in place in case they are needed (**We DO NOT leave until the entire service closes**).

- (b) **Forming Lines:** Orderly lines should be formed either in the center aisle or using both side aisles. Two Altar Workers stays at the head of the lines and control the flow of seekers to the altar. Other Altar Workers are already at the Altar in an orderly formation and sheets readily available or in some instances a few workers are located within the congregation in case they are needed (They should also move forward to help if such help is necessary).

The first set of seekers to be prayed for are gathered at the altar with attending Altar Workers ... one to each seeker. **One person working with the preacher in case he needs oil or any other support and another or two persons move along with the preacher at ALL times.** Those controlling the flow to the altar must remain vigilant and keep all empty space filled in an orderly and timely fashion.

The flow to the altar continues until all seekers are prayed for. Sometimes we have an issue with space and **if possible** Altar Workers should try to get the front pews cleared so prostrate seekers can sit there until they can go to their original seats. We may have to also use the pulpit area or any area available. Keep working with folks who are down and as possible make room for new seekers. This can be challenging but ministering to souls is the most blessed thing we can do in life!!!

I made mention above about forming orderly lines to go to the altar ... **NOTE:** (a) If the lines were formed in the center aisle, the seekers returned to their seats using the side isles which means that we must keep those isles free at all times during the altar service. (b) If the lines were formed using the side aisles the seekers return to their seats using the center aisle (*this can have issues as the preacher may just walk down that center aisle and pray for folks and some will be lying there prostrate ... however with efficient Altar Workers we can get people back to their seat still using the center aisle or even the side aisles ... we just have to be vigilant*).

The reality is Altar Workers must stay vigilant and alert ready for whatever action that is necessary! We must at all times have Altar Workers with the ministering preacher (preferable male and female these are to help those being prayed for) and those who are with him in case of any specific needs that he may have ... he should NEVER be alone!!

9. Obviously, too many of our workers **do not know how to use sheets effectively!!** This is a brief review and will need practical demonstration which will be done in one of our classes. **NOTE BRIEFLY:**
- (a) Special attention must be paid to ladies especially when dressed a certain way, Ladies in short dresses and of similar categories **SHOULD** be wrapped **BEFORE** they are prayed for. Just be courteous and calmly explain to them why; if you need help please get it. We must not wait until they are down before wrapping them and **do NOT fold the sheets wrap and tie gentle!!!**
- (b) Do not throw sheets as if you are scared of the person be affectionate and caring.
- (c) As noted above wrap before the seeker is prayed for especially the ladies in certain dresses. **I still do not understand why some workers stand there holding the sheets**

- when the person is standing there getting ready to be prayed for!!** You don't have to cover men until they are down and only as custom and for modesty.
- (d) There is also the need to keep our sheets clean and our supply intact. Too often I have seen soiled sheets or situations where we had so many sheets and they simply disappeared. **This is our ministry!! LET'S UNITE AND GET THE JOB DONE TO THE GLORY OF GOD!!**

*We have extended this discussion and some matters noted here will be repeated which I think is an effective way of teaching/learning. OH! BELOVED! MAY GOD BE PRAISED IN ALL THAT WE THINK, DO AND SAY!!*

**Eph. 6:7 NKJV**

“. . . with goodwill doing service as to the Lord, and not to men, . . .”