

NEW HOPE CHURCH OF GOD

ALTER WORKERS TRAINING

PRACTICAL POINTERS SET 2

Some of the material below was partially a presentation by a sister denomination. There are materials presented below that have been discussed in some of our lessons and are hereby presented as a means of review and reinforcement, as we work together in such an important area of the Church.

A. Qualifications of the Altar Worker

The Altar Worker's Qualification has been discussed in Lesson 2; you may refer to this lesson if you so desire.

1. Altar workers show a clear evidence of salvation.
2. Altar Workers display a Spirit filled life (*While some churches place emphasis on this matter New Hope does not especially as a requirement to be an Altar Worker*).
3. Altar Workers sense a call to ministry at the altar.
4. Altar Workers display submission to God, the Senior Pastor, Associate Pastors and other church leaders.
5. Altar Workers are committed to a strong prayer life, the study of God's Word, fasting, regular attendance.
6. Altar Workers exhibit a genuine concern for others, a passion for helping, and a caring attitude.
7. Altar Workers ought to be able to maintain confidentiality.

B. Goals for Altar Workers

1. Provide a comfortable, secure atmosphere by conveying a pleasant demeanor (conduct, outward manner of behavior) and professional appearance.
2. Seek to discover the person's need, do so with gentleness, tact, and respect. Never push for details.
3. Be specific in prayer with needy individual, while displaying a sincere desire to intercede.

C. Techniques for Altar Workers

Focus on prayer, resisting the temptation to counsel. Time is limited, and the needy person desires prayers. 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 (*currently we do not have a person identified as the head altar worker but we have leaders who are ordained ministers and we the senior Pastor and*

Associate Pastor who can give further guidelines as necessary or as possible. We do have professional counselors in our congregation and maybe in the future individuals will establish a ministry that are in need of such services).

D. Summarized Presentations to Help Seekers

Details will be found in all our lessons in particular Lessons 3 and 4 as well as the Supplementary material on Sharing the Gospel presented with lesson 3.

1. Salvation

- (a) **Admit:** Confess our sinfulness is the first step to our salvation (John 10:9-10)
- (b) **Repent:** Repenting involves renouncing (giving up; refusing to further follow; etc.). Repenting involves the person's sorrow for sins and stop sinning (2 Cor. 7:10)
- (c) **Believe:** Recognizing Christ as the Son of God and Savior of the world is the foundation of Christianity (John 1:12)
- (d) **Receive:** The new believer is born again upon receiving Christ as Lord and Leader of his or her life (1 John 5:11-14)

2. Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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.

3. Physical Healing

Be prepared to pray with those in need of physical healing. Encourage the person's faith by affirming the power and goodness of God.

4. Emotional Needs

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 to our minds.

5. Follow-up

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

I would like to close with some additional Practical Pointers:

1. Do not give way to doubt.

- (a) This is one of Satan's main method of trying to defeat the believer.
 - (1) Satan did not say to Christ, "Since You are the Son of God command that these stones . . ." instead he said: "If You are the Son of God . . ."
 - (2) He will do the same to you but hold on to your commitment and "Stand fast ... in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made you free ..." Never! Never! Never give in to the feeling of doubt! Abide in Christ and as He abides in you, you will be fruitful!!
- (b) **"Believe your beliefs and doubt your doubt but never make the mistake of believing you doubts and doubting your beliefs."**

- (c) **Beloved!** Remain steadfast, unmovable! Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of your faith.
- 2. Faithful attendance to services is vitally important.
 - (a) For some of us it may not be possible to be present at church services as we desire due to work or other situations but we should never use vain excuses for tardiness of irregular attendance.
 - (b) Remember, if we (**Altar Workers**) are not in service our needed help will not be available!!
 - (c) Do not remain in your seats when altar service is in session or when the need for Altar Workers are necessary.
 - (d) Those involved as ushers and other areas should give priority to the altar service . . . all available hands on deck are needed!!
- 3. Work with the pastor or preacher in-charge (This is worth repeating!!)
 - (a) Do not undo any arrangements in regards to functioning at the altar.
 - (b) Do not put in place your own idea and overriding the guidance of the Person-in-Charge.
 - (c) Do not pray verbally so you do not drown out or disrupt the voice of the person-in-charge (**Remember: At New Hope it's the Pastor/Preacher or Ordained Ministers who pray for seekers**).
- 4. Remember the end product.
 - (a) We are not conducting these classes are not done for public display.
 - (b) God has helped us to produce a manual but it goes beyond producing lessons and guidelines . . . your development and glorifying God is the ultimate end goal.
 - (c) All these materials and classes will avail to nothing if each Altar Worker has not **practically** applied what is being taught. In the teaching profession, it is said: ***"Students have not been taught if they have not learnt."*** We are also aware that education is development and your development will be seen as you minister as God would have you!

Stay committed, focused, holding on to God's unchanging hand. It's Satan job to oppose and it is our job to resist him! God is the same yesterday, today and forever and will keep what you have committed unto Him! GOD RICHLY BLESS YOU!!

Eph. 6:7 NKJV

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