PRAYER AS MEDICINE 
DURING A MEDICAL 
MISSIONS OUTREACH

The Seven P’s for Successfully Incorporating 
Prayer into Medical Missions Trips

Rev. David Harder

Draft 2
I dedicate this small book
to my father and mother,
Dr. Harold and Linda Harder,
who inspired me to a life of prayer and missions.

Harold Harder (in the water, near the elbow of the man standing) prays for a man who was lame and blind. The man was visiting a natural hot springs to get some relief. After receiving prayer, the lame and blind man walked away healed. This took place on Dr. Harder’s first missions trip, a medical missions outreach to Guatemala in 1980.
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Introduction

I have been traveling across the globe and participating in medical missions trips since I was twelve years old. In the early 1980’s, when I was a young teenager and my brother and sister were very young, my father, Dr. Harold Harder, the founder of Blessings International, drove our family of five from Tulsa, Oklahoma, to Guatemala and back in order to participate in a medical missions outreach. Since then I have served as a full time missionary myself based in the Middle East for nearly nine years and have also traveled across the world to participate in missions. Since 2005 I’ve also been a leader in a ministry called Healing Rooms. In Healing Rooms volunteer prayer ministers pray for the sick and hurting—people who need physical, emotional and/or spiritual healing.

I believe in supernatural healing. I have seen people nearing death survive after prayer; people get out of wheelchairs; and many other forms of healing. I have also prayed for many who were not healed. But since I’ve received training and experience, I now pray for people knowing that God will do something good every time I pray.

My father, a pharmacologist and former medical school professor, started Blessings International with the goal of providing quality medicines to help doctors, nurses and other medical personnel have the ability to treat the poor, sick and hurting around the world. He also wanted to bring the supernatural healing power of Christ to people.

As the Communications Director at Blessings, I’ve interviewed many medical personnel who have expressed frustration that they can only provide limited care and comfort during medical outreaches. Many Christian doctors
and nurses want to do more. They are often frustrated that the amount of medical care they can provide during a short term trip is limited or merely a temporary solution for a patient. But when they are able to integrate their medical training together with their faith and God’s power to heal through prayer, they feel they are making a much greater and more lasting impact.

Though I am not a member of the professional medical community, my goal with this booklet is to be able to strengthen the medical community as it avails itself to being used by God to provide whatever kind of healing He wants to avail in people’s lives.

In this booklet I include research results from a survey sent to people who have ordered medicines for their medical missions teams through Blessings International. The survey, conducted by Jennifer Park of Indiana Wesleyan University, offers a snapshot of how prayer is currently utilized on Christian medical missions teams.

Additionally, because my heart is to help the medical community become more confident to serve as ministers wherever God sends them, I’m including some of the spiritual lessons I have learned during more than a decade of praying for the sick all over the world.

I hope that these items will inspire you in your work to bring healing to the hurting and to believe that God can use you beyond your medical training and experience in mighty and even surprising ways to demonstrate His Love and His Power to those who need it, wherever they may be.
Research Study Synopsis

In September 2015, after months of planning, Jennifer Park of Indiana Wesleyan University, partnering with Blessings International, conducted a survey of medical missions participants who have ordered pharmaceuticals from Blessings International. Of the 2968 who were initially invited by email to participate, 609 responded.

Jennifer Walters, included these items in her MPH capstone paper, Prayer in the Medical Missions Setting, 2015:

*Studies have shown benefits of prayer for patients. One landmark study published in 1988 randomized patients in a coronary care unit to a group receiving intercessory prayer and a control group. The group being prayed for “had a significantly lower severity score based on the hospital course after entry” (Byrd, 1988, p. 826). Those prayed for needed fewer interventions like ventilator assistance and antibiotics during their time at the hospital.*

*Although there are many [recorded] benefits to prayer for the sick, some Christian medical workers shy away from implementing prayer in their practice. A nurse writing in the Journal of Christian Nursing named several “barriers and reasons that nurses don’t pray or address spiritual needs of patients such as lack of time, not feeling prepared, fear of what peers may think, fear in general, and the like” (Sweat, 2013, p 182). Another nurse writing in the same publication stated, “with the increasing amount of evidence that substantiates complementary and alternative treatments as beneficial to the health and well-being of patients, nurses need to*
be encouraged to offer prayer and spiritual care when appropriate” (Greer, 2015, p. 57).

The data of the Blessings International survey (see graphs on the following pages) suggest that

- Among Christian medical missions teams respondents, most (over 90% of in Q15) feel comfortable in praying for patients. But most of the people responding to the study were either volunteer team leaders (43% on Q3) full-time missions professionals (15%) full-time medical missions professions (9%) or part-time medical missions personnel (17%) or part-time medical missions leaders (11%). 91% of the respondents (in Q15) state that they are confident in praying for patients. Most of the respondents indicate a high level of experience in Christian medical missions which could lead to the reason why so many are comfortable in praying for their patients. But what about those lacking in missions experience?

The study seems to suggest that there is a need for more organized training in how to pray for patients. 58% of respondents (Q16) said that their group did not provide any kind of training in praying for patients. Only 47% respondents (Q9) indicated that they had people assigned to pray for patients. And 75% of the respondents (Q 17) said they would like more training in prayer.

It is with that last figure in mind that the rest of this booklet hopes to provide some basic training that will benefit anyone who would like to incorporate prayer into a medical missions trip.

Some details of the survey results can be seen in the following graphs:
Prayer in Medical Missions

Q3 What role best describes your involvement in medical mission?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Choices</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-time missions...</td>
<td>15.37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full-time medical missions medical professional</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part-time missions team organizer</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time volunteer medical mission professional</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer medical missions team organizer</td>
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<td>Volunteer medical mission team member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
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Total Respondents: 665

Prayer in Medical Missions

Q5 Have you received training about how to incorporate prayer into your care for patients?

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Total 585
**Q9 Does your team have individuals assigned to pray with and for each patient?**

Answered: 557  Skipped: 52

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**Q15 Do you and others on your team feel comfortable and confident in praying with patients for healing?**

Answered: 549  Skipped: 60

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<td>8.74%</td>
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Prayer in Medical Missions

Q16 Do you provide any training or preparation to help medical personnel pray for patients?
Answered: 552  Skipped: 57

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<td>No</td>
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Prayer in Medical Missions

Q17 Would you like to have training and resources available in how to pray for people in ways that are respectful and honoring and will work well with medical outreaches?
Answered: 546  Skipped: 63

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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The Seven P’s for Successfully Incorporating Prayer into Medical Missions Trips

1. Perspective

It’s important to remember that, regardless of your professional training and experience, as a Christian you are a minister of God’s healing power! By using your medical training, by organizing or helping medical teams, and through your prayers for patients, you can bring healing to the hurting.

Never underestimate the power of your prayers. James 5:15 states that we are to confess or sins to one another and to pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.

If you have come to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you have been made righteous in His sight and therefore your prayers can accomplish much! You are human like Elijah!

And if you are a follower of Christ, then you are one of his disciples. And Jesus commanded his disciples (and not just the 12 we know, but also the 72 others who get no specific mention) to heal. In Matthew 10:7 Jesus told them, As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. And in Luke 10:8 he says, When you
enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ So Jesus’ wants us to show that His Kingdom, His love and His healing power, have come near. The original meaning of the Greek in that phrase is that the “kingdom is available to them.” In your work to heal others through prayer and by sharing with them the Good News of Jesus, you are helping people see that the Kingdom of God is available to them.

I have been praying for the sick for many years and firmly believe that God uses us to bring healing. But it’s not always as I expect. Jesus healed in many different ways. Often he laid hands on them (Luke 13:13, 4:40). He healed by rebuking a fever (Luke 4:38) and a demonic spirit making a child act like an epileptic (Luke 17:18). Once he used spit to make mud to put into someone’s eyes (John 9:6). Sometimes people touched him (Luke 8:43-48). As Jesus is our example, we should expect to see him heal through us in many different ways. Sometimes just a kind word or a cup of water can bring healing. It also includes giving you supernatural insight and discernment to bring medical treatments to patients.

But we should expect to be used as supernatural healers! And we should expect to often see people healed when we pray!

Our perspective should be like the friends of the lame man in Mark 2. They wanted to see their friend healed. Jesus was healing people. But Jesus wasn’t coming near their friend. So they brought their friend to Jesus by ripping through a roof and lowering him down! We should make that kind of effort also, and through our prayers we are are bringing people into Jesus’ presence.
Those guys on the roof wanted Jesus to heal their friend. But that’s not what he did (at least, not at first). At first Jesus’ forgave the man’s sins! That wasn’t his obvious need, or what his friends were requesting through their actions. But Jesus knew exactly what the man needed. And then Jesus healed him anyway! When we pray for people, it’s important to remember that we aren’t the healer, Jesus is. We are just bringing people to Jesus. If he heals them, we can rejoice. If he doesn’t heal them, we can expect that he is going to do something. One of God’s names is Healer. We need to believe that He does heal, but that it might come in ways we don’t expect, or at times we don’t always expect. It may come after we pray once, or it may take praying over years.

Sometimes Christians don’t pray for others because they haven’t always seen them healed. But that’s not the promise, that someone will always be healed. But they will always be touched in some way by the healing God.

After I pray for someone, I usually ask them if they feel any different, or if they can put a percentage on how they feel (I feel 80% better, 20% better, 0% better etc.). Sometimes people can test how they feel (if they can bend their back for example when they couldn’t before) but often they can’t. I encourage people to closely monitor their condition because it might be healed sometime soon or in the future. The Bible talks about lepers being healed, “as they went…” (Luke 17:14).

But sometimes people simply aren’t healed when we pray. I’ve prayed for numerous people who have been miraculously healed, and I’ve prayed for people who have died. Why? What’s the difference? Is it something I did? Something they did?
I don’t believe healing is about a formula. It’s simply about bringing people to Jesus and seeing what He does. Many people I’ve prayed for have come to know Jesus and therefore received spiritual healing, which is the most important type of healing. Others have received inner healing or emotional healing. Some have simply been encouraged or aided in some way as we prayed for them. Each one has been blessed, and it’s been wonderful for me to be a part of it.

I don’t know why some people I’ve prayed for were healed and some were not. But even John the Baptist, whom Jesus called “the greatest born of a woman” (Matt 11:11), and who recognized Jesus when they were both in the womb (Luke 1:41) and who was there to baptize Jesus and hear the voice of the Lord saying that Jesus was God’s son (Matt 3:17) had some things he did not understand about Jesus.

John the Baptist ended up in prison. I presume he prayed to be released, but he wasn’t. I presume he was upset and knew that his life was in grave danger. At that time, despite all John had previously seen, heard and experienced about Jesus, he questioned whether Jesus truly was the promised messiah. When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me. Some translations of the last phrase in that quote say, “blessed is anyone who is not offended
because of me.” I believe Jesus still heals, but why some are healed and others are not is a mystery. I must not become offended, must not stumble in my belief that God is good, that He does hear my prayers, and He does heal today, even when I don’t understand why someone isn’t healed.

Instead, I choose to trust in Jesus’ goodness and healing power and to bring as many people to Him to see what He will do (just like the lame man’s friends on that roof all those centuries ago). The more people I bring to him, the more who will be touched.

In my many years of praying for the sick I can report that while not everyone has been healed, everyone I have prayed for has been touched in some way by the living God.

We must have the perspective that God does supernatural heal at times, that our prayers matter and that he will often use us as the vessel to pour His healing power through.
2. **Priority**

If we believe that God does heal, and that our prayers matter, it’s important to make prayer a priority in our medical missions outreaches.

I once heard someone say, “I used to have a 100% success rate in praying for people to be healed.” “How can that possibly be true?” I asked. He responded, “I never used to pray for anyone, and no one got healed.”

We need to have the opposite view—that we will pray for anyone, and keep on praying, until we see people get healed. Many people who have witnessed dramatic supernatural healings have prayed for the sick for years before they saw anything miraculous occur. Sometimes they, and I, seem to go through seasons where we see many people get healed, followed by seasons when we don’t. The important thing is to bring people to Jesus and be excited about whatever he does.

But in planning a medical missions outreach we should ask these questions:

- **Do we train our medical team members in how to pray for the sick?**
- **Do we have team members, local pastors, ministers, spiritual counselors etc. available to pray for patients?**
- **Do we see prayer ministry as an integral part of our treatment process?**
- **Have we thought through what you need to effectively minister to patients?**
• Do we have time built into our outreach to pray (for patients, our team, our safety, etc.)
• What should we do to ensure that everyone on our team feels comfortable in praying for patients if they have the opportunity?

The answers to these questions will help us determine if prayer truly is a priority for your team.

In our study we asked “What barriers do you or other medical personnel feel limit opportunities to pray with patients?” By far the biggest response was that time limited the ability to pray with patients. Cultural, language and religious concerns were also significant limiting factors. Read through these to see if they might influence the way you plan for spiritual care during your trip. Again, these are common barriers people listed as to why they feel their opportunities to pray for patients are limited (I underlined some things for emphasis):

• The sheer amount of patients that we treat makes me feel as if I can't pray for every single patient. Praying for every patient would prevent all the patients from seeing the doctors.

• Time constraints; insecurity about one's own spiritual confidence and cross-cultural confidence.

• Mostly time and lack of training. I believe medical providers have been trained to rely on their own skills and knowledge to heal the sick rather than on prayer. Even believers.

• Some of our volunteers are not Christian and are not comfortable praying with others. Since we work
in teams ie medical provider, interpreter, nurse there is usually someone in the group that is comfortable and they do it.

- some people are shy about praying out loud with patients

- We have just never developed this routine

- Time - I think sometimes we have so many people to see that we sometime rush through our prayers and assume treatment based on our knowledge, instead of taking enough time to wait on God to see what he wants to do in the situation. Sometimes training kicks in and we start treating, then someone will stop and ask "Hey has anyone prayed over this?"

- After reading these questions, I realize we haven't done it nearly enough. We pray prior to going and definitely in country before we depart to the clinics, but we should also incorporate into treatment as well.

- Most patients are very responsive to it and happy to pray with us. I think it gives them comfort.

- It gives the patients hope beyond their situation. It brings encouragement and renews faith

- would like to do it more

- The best thing we ever did was have a designated portion of the clinic visit devoted to prayer.
• I have seen it incorporated and it is powerful. But it is not done enough by medical providers.

• Great! People appreciate it, and it often brings peace and points people to Christ as the real and ultimate healer.

• None

• On a few occasions we experienced miracles happened after prayer. Sometimes we can see it on their faces or through communication by our translators that something happened inside them. Mostly they have a sense of peace after prayer or are encouraged.

• Prayer can soften otherwise confrontational patients or families Prayer can temper the physician's expertise with a healthy reliance on God's help for our patients

• It has been generally well received and is worth the time investment - even if it makes our day longer.

• I want all that we do to honor God and be a faithful witness of the love of Christ. When we take time to pray with patients we show them their soul is at least as important as their bodies. For believers that is an encouragement to their faith. For unbelievers we are seeking to point the way for them into relationship with Christ.

• I have seen it incorporated and it is powerful. But it is not done enough by medical providers.

• It changed the team
- I have been so busy I have not focused enough on incorporating prayer into something as simple as dispensing deworming meds. I plan to change that as a result of the questionnaire. Thank you.

- It seems easier for non medical team members to embrace and pray for people than those of the medical profession. It has been my experience that medical personnel can be overbearing and arrogant in the field, causing lots of problems, especially since they "know do much on how the body works."

- I have found that without that prayer, we are no different than any other organization that offers medical help. I have not personally witnessed any miracles, but I do believe they can happen. I also feel that many times there is nothing medically that we can do for people, but we can pray with them and minister to their spiritual needs and sometimes that is exactly what they needed.

- It is a critical component of the missionary experience. As a pediatrician I can only provide short-term relief to medical problems that will recur. Providing prayer for patients, their families, and their villages provides a lasting seal upon our missionary work, and is the true motivation and satisfaction of that work.

- Single most important and fulfilling part of medical missions. Over past 12 years of missions have progressively learned to be more intentional about doing so and always need to be reminded to keep it a priority.
3. Preparation & Practice

I have been on many missions trips and Christian outreachs to countries including Mexico, Malawi, Mozambique, Guatemala, Honduras, northern Cyprus, Russia, The Philippines, Myanmar, Egypt and Jordan. Every team was different. The preparation time was different. Some trips had almost no preparation or practice. Others required six weeks or more of meeting together, praying and practicing. I can’t say that the trips with greater practice went better (some of them were to very challenging areas), but I can say when I had more training or offered more training, the team was better prepared for whatever we faced.

While you can’t always meet together with a team for weeks before you go, you should ask some questions about your preparation, particularly when it come to incorporating prayer. Some questions to ask include:

- **Are you providing means for team members to learn about how they can pray for their patients?**
- **Is praying part of your team preparation?**
- **Are you practicing by praying for each other?**
- **Do you encourage medical practioners to practice praying for their patients when they are able to do so in the US?**
- **Do you have resources available for every team member in case, even to their surprise, they are called upon to pray for a sick person?**

In our survey, the majority of the teams did not provide training for teams. What will you do to help your team members prepare to be prayer ministers?
4. Prayer Basics

There are many ways to pray for people. As was mentioned earlier in this booklet, Jesus ministered healing to people in many ways. Sometimes language, culture, religion or local laws prevent us from doing more than praying in our heads. But that is still prayer!

Over the years of praying for people, in various nations around the world here are some things I have learned.

- **Praying is always about showing people the love of Christ and honoring them.**

- **Always ask for permission before you pray.**

- **Always ask for permission if you lay hands on people (and you don’t have to lay hands on them)** Acts 28:8,Mk 16:18, Heb 6:1-3,Acts 13:3

- **If you do lay hands on someone-tell them first. Ie: “I’m going to put my hand on your shoulder, forehead etc. Never push! Don’t stroke.**

- **It’s not about a formula. Jesus healed in many ways. It’s about listening to the Holy Spirit and praying/acting as He leads.**

- **If you feel led to lay hands on someone when praying: Men-avoid laying hands on a woman’s open skin. Good alternatives include: ask the patient to put their own hand on the area that hurts or is sick and then lay your hand on theirs.**
Or ask them to place their own hand on their abdomen if the sickness is a private issue.
• Praying with authority. Matt 10:1, Luke 9:1. Sometimes we need to rebuke an attack, cast out a sickness, but only as we are led. You don’t have to yell, but sometimes it might be appropriate if you are led that way by the Holy Spirit.

• Never pray totally alone with just one member of the opposite sex.

• It’s not about a formula. Jesus healed in many ways. It’s about listening to the Holy Spirit and praying/acting as He leads.

• Praying for children: Always ask for the parent’s permission. Get down on the child’s level. Be friendly and nice. Always pray for the parent also.

• Anointing oil. Sometimes you might be led to pray with it. Mk 6:13, James 5:14. If you are, just a dab is fine. Don’t put on clothes without asking permission. You don’t have to make the sign of the cross, but you might be led to do that.

• Incorporate scripture into your prayers. This is very powerful.

• It’s okay, and even very good, to pray for someone who isn’t yet a Christian. But we need to be respectful of them.
• Be prepared to explain the Gospel to someone. If possible, build in time because providing someone with spiritual healing is as important, or more important if they aren’t saved, than physical healing.

• Practice telling someone the basics of the gospel (using “The 4 Spiritual Laws”, Romans road, or 1 John 5:11-13 (memorize that verse). If you use that verse you can ask someone “What percent chance to you believe you have of going to Heaven?” If they say anything less than 100%, you can show them in that scripture that they can know 100% that they have eternal life if they know Jesus.

• Practice leading someone in a salvation prayer out loud (The Alpha Program uses: Sorry for my sins, thank you for dying for me and making a way to be in your family, please help me to walk with you.)

• Rebuking curses, general curses etc. You may feel led to pray for other spiritual things happening in their lives. Pray that Jesus will stop those things or cut off their power.

• Dealing with the demonic. Just know that this could manifest. If it does-tell it to be quiet in Jesus name and talk to the patient not the spirit.
  
  o Have them ask Jesus to become their savior and lord if they haven’t already
- Call for others to intercede with you if necessary.

- Most people simply need a salvation encounter or a truth encounter. You can provide them with truths from the Bible. In doing this interact with the person, not anything demonic that might manifest.

- Have person repent and renounce things (sins in their life, etc).

After prayer ends:

- Ask patent how they feel. Better? What percent? You will be surprised how many people either give a high percentage that they feel better after prayer, or say they feel “lighter” or “strengthened.”

- Encourage them to continue taking their medicine/medical treatment, but to get medically re-checked if they believe they are healed.

- Give them scriptures to encourage them.

- At the end of the day, pray a cleansing prayer- asking the Lord to wash away any spiritual uncleanness from you. Also put any patients that really touched your heart, and could become a burden (even a debilitating one) into God’s hands for him to finish the work He began in them.
5. **Prophecy**

Every Christian believes that the Holy Spirit is put into us as a seal (Eph 1:3) and that He teaches us and leads us into all truth (John 14:26 and 1 John 2:27). Therefore, if the Holy Spirit is in us, and He leads us into truth, He might also lead us to know how to pray for people. He might give us insight into their condition. I believe this is a prophetic answer to our prayers and one powerful way in which God leads us to pray.

1 Corinthians 14:1 states that we should *Follow the way of love, and eagerly desire the spiritual gifts especially the gift of prophecy*. And verse three states that, *He who prophesies edifies, exhorts and brings comfort to men.*

Isn’t that what we want in prayer? We want to “follow the way of love” and to love people. We want to edify (build up), exhort (encourage) and bring comfort to people, don’t we? Often, especially in tragic or desperate situations, there is often nothing we can do for people medically, but we can build them up, encourage them and bring them comfort. And the Holy Spirit can help us do this in ways that will cause people to know that the Lord loves them. Even if they aren’t healed, if you are the vessel God uses to demonstrate His love, people will go away rejoicing.

Here are some things to know about being a vessel through whom the Holy Spirit might speak:

**When God speaks to you, via the Holy Spirit, for someone’s sake He might give you:**

- Pictures
- Words
• Impressions

• Pain in part of the body (word of knowledge)

• Emotions

What do you do when the Lord, through the Holy Spirit, gives you some insight into how to pray for someone?

• Don’t declare something (ie: “God says _____) Instead, lay out what you are sensing in the form of a question such as:

“I get a sense of this...or a picture...or a word...etc., does this mean anything to you?

Three things can happen when you get these prophetic promptings from the Lord:

1. The person says, “yes” that they have an understanding of what that impression/word/picture etc., that you sensed means to them. They will often explain it further. That enables you to pray for the issue.

2. The person says, “no” but it reminds them of something else and that leads you to something else to pray for.

3. The person says “no” and the issue doesn’t go any further. Don’t be discouraged if this happens. You may be right on target, have heard correctly form the Holy Spirit but the person doesn’t want
to deal with it now. But they know God is aware of an issue and they can deal with it with Him later.

- Never give names, dates, very specific items.

- Never give negative items. You may sense, for example, something negative. If you do, turn it into a positive. Ie: Instead of saying, “I sense something very dark in your life.” change it to “I believe the Lord wants to bring some light and hope into you life. Does that mean anything to you?”

- Try to avoid giving the interpretation of something you sense from God. You can say, “I’m sensing this, does it mean something to you?” and let them give the possible interpretation, if it does mean something to them. If neither of you know what it means, have them pray about it.

- Tell them that you got something prophetic, but it doesn’t mean it is true. They need to pray about it some more.

- Prophetic acts: you might have them take a step, or you might symbolically cut something negative off off them (like symbolic chains of depression), symbolically remove fiery darts of the enemy, etc.
6. PRACTICALITIES

Think about your upcoming medical mission trip. Plan for the needs. Things to consider:

- Do we have local misters how can help with whole person/spiritual care?
- If ministers and lay ministers aren’t available, is everyone on the team comfortable in providing some level of spiritual care?
- Do we need to recruit/train more people to help with this important aspect of our work?
- Do we have spiritual follow up plans? Scriptures, Testimony sheets, etc.
- In the religious/cultural/political situation what level of prayer should we expect and how do we prepare?

PRACTICALITIES- Potential Problems:

Things to consider and plan around:

- How will prayer be received in this area?
- What about denominational issues?
- What about issues with other religions?
- Are we deliberately telling people (in written form if possible) that if they believe they are healed that they need to keep taking their medicines but be rechecked (to avoid creating greater problems)
7. **PROCLIMATION** (testimonies)

- In your medical missions, you might have a testimony form that someone can fill out after they receive their prescription, or after they prayer with a spiritual minister, to see if they have any testimony to write or tell someone.

- Testimonies are very powerful. They encourage the entire team that God is working in many ways. Try to have a way to distribute testimonies about people being touched spiritually to your team and people supporting your team.
Remember—God hears our prayers and it’s important for us to pray for the sick whenever we have the opportunity!

Here’s one more “P.” It’s God’s Presence, manifested through our prayers, that brings healing!

Linda Harder prays for a TB patient in Myanmar
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www.HealingRooms.com

For information on ordering medicine for medical missions trips go to Blessings International’s website:
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