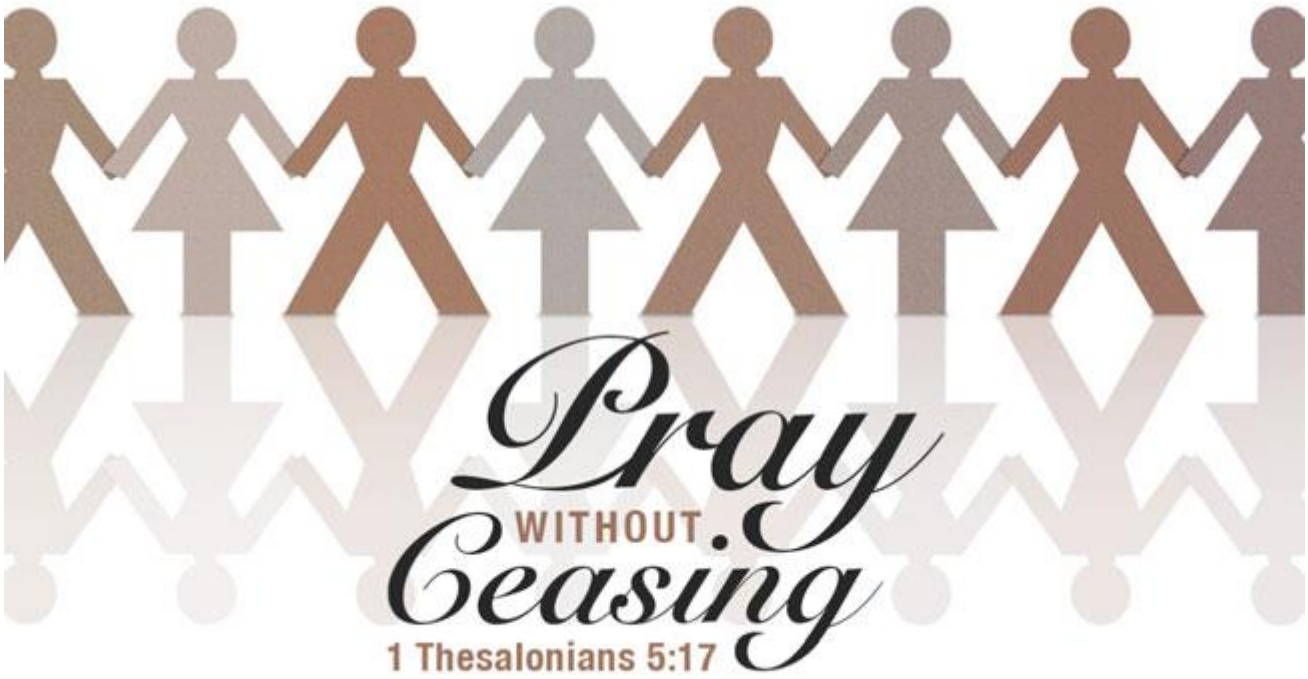
PRAYER MINISTRY

Tool # 6

PRAYER CHAINS

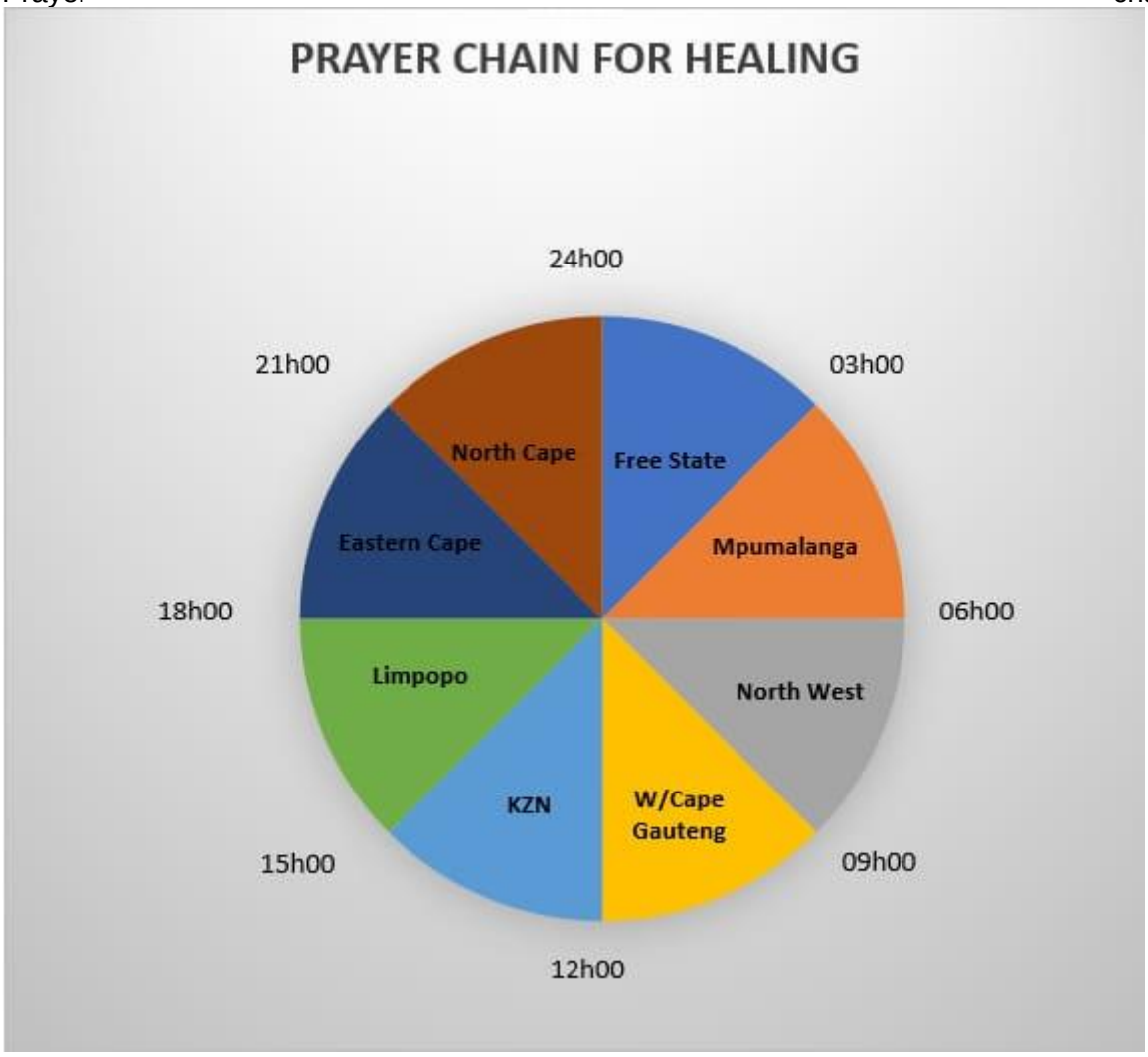


INRODUCTION:

A chain is made of a series of links connecting - in our case - brothers and sisters together to maintain prayer around the clock. There are many kinds of "Prayer chains" as the Lord is leading people to commit to prayer. A chain connects and binds people together for a united purpose.

There are many ways to start a prayer chain and keep it going. You can choose an email, letter, phone, conference, video chat, or in-person prayer chain. We've put together a step-by-step guide that includes unique prayer chain ideas as well as sample prayer chain messages to get you started.

Prayer chain?



WHY a prayer chain?

A prayer chain is keeping prayer going on without ceasing as Paul requested and even urged the people of Thessalonica to do, because it is our vital basic need as breathing is a physiological need to sustain life. But we have been created Spiritual and on the way we have to satisfy the first level to be able to attend the higher up needs that we have spiritually and this is done by the work of the Holy Spirit working in us (1 Cor 3:16)

HOW to plan?

- Emergency prayer chain: keep a list of the people to involve during crises / emergencies: call upon these members to labor in prayer via e-mail, SMS, WhatsApp, Viber, Skype, etc.

Step 1: Get permission.

If the person you are praying for is of sound mind and body, speak with them first. Make sure that a prayer chain is aligned with their values and is something that they would want and appreciate.

If they give you the green light, you can ask them if they have any specific requests. Maybe what they most wish for is prayers for health and well-being, but it's possible they may be ready and want prayers of hope for a peaceful transition from this world.

If the person would rather you not start a prayer chain, it's important that you respect their wishes. You can always say a private prayer for them.

If the person can't speak with you, and you are a close family member, you'll know whether it's appropriate or not to start a prayer chain.

If you are not a close family member, but a friend or health aid, consider privacy when starting a prayer chain. You might say something like, "please pray for a dear friend who was just diagnosed with cancer" or "please say a prayer for a man who has transitioned to hospice care this week." If it's kosher to say the person's name, but not the reason for the prayer, it's totally okay to request a prayer chain with a simple, "please pray for my family" or "we are requesting your prayers for Aunt June."

Step 2: Detail your prayer chain request.

Here are some things to consider before sending your prayer chain to your network:

Consider how you will send out your request and what medium you want to use.

- Perhaps you want to use social media or a website where people can post their prayers. You might want to send out an email to alert people of the prayer chain with a link.
- You can share the prayer chain through word of mouth or the phone.
- Snail mail is another great option.

Consider what details you want to share and how specific you want to be.

- Do you want to share details of the person's illness or struggle?
- Are you asking for prayers of health, hope, or something else?
- Check in with the person to see if they would like you to share their name and contact information so that people can contact them directly to offer prayers and/or send healing gifts.

If you are setting up the prayer chain for someone else, create a draft of your post, email, letter, or phone message and share it with the person. Get their feedback before you hit send.

Step 3: Decide who to include

Decide how far and wide you'd like your prayer chain to extend. If you are making a post on social media, consider if you want just your 'friends' to see it, or if you'd like to make the post public to really get the word out.

If you are sending the prayer chain over email or spreading the message over the phone, you'll need to collect emails or phone numbers. If you're using the phone, you can split up the numbers among some friends or ask each person you call to let a friend know.

When you think about who you want to include, think about who is important to the person you are praying for. If you are making specific requests, consider who will be reliable, who can help you organize, keep the chain going, and let others know. You can choose to include family, friends, colleagues, neighbors, faith community, and even strangers.

Pro Tip: If you are setting up a service or prayer line, make sure to invite the person that the prayers are for and let everyone know they will be attending. Be thoughtful about the best way to include them during the prayer session.

Step 4: Ask for confirmation

Once you've sent out your prayer chain request, and it's gathered some momentum, ask for updates on people's prayers.

Keeping track of people's beautiful prayers can be of great comfort to you and/or the person who the prayers are for. Plus, requesting confirmation of prayer can help to keep the prayer chain going.

» MORE: Honor a loved one with an online memorial. Create one for free with Cake.

Step 5: Communicate updates

Make sure to share updates as soon as they become available with the members of your prayer chain.

Let people know that their prayers are working! Whether it's healing, hope, or peace that's happening, make sure to communicate it.

If things take a turn for the worse, make sure to share these changes as well. You can always ask for more prayers.

How to Start a Prayer Chain

Here are some guidelines that will help you and others in your sphere have an effective prayer chain — one that's ready to pray for any person, or any care, at any time.

1. Decide Whom to Include in Your Prayer Chain
They should be dependable and willing to join in prayer, at a moment's notice. These individuals can also expand the chain, even more, with like-minded people they know. Think about including your faith community, family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

2. Communicate Prayer Requests
You used to be limited to phone calls and word of mouth. Now you can post requests on someone's CaringBridge site or other social networks or build an email list that allows you to send prayer requests to everyone with one click.

3. Respect People's Privacy
Prayer requests may not always come with an explanation. A patient or caregiver may prefer privacy. A request can just be a top-line explanation, such as, "Please pray for a woman who's moving into long-term care on Monday." Or "Add Kathy to the prayer list."
Being discreet is important if that's what your loved one wants.

4. Share Information Right Away
If you get word that the situation of one of your prayer recipients has changed, communicate it to everyone on your prayer chain so they can adjust their prayers.

A prayer chain can also be mobilized to cover an event in prayer, e.g. for an HCF conference/ seminar, training. Each hour/ half an hour could be covered by at least two people so that the chain is not broken in case of crises (Ecl. 4:12).
For the prayer chain to be effective, there should be a facilitator who gives feedback/ updates to the group as they continue to pray.