

Preamble.

Although this document is neither final or definitive or intended as a policy adopted for use within Andrews Farm Community Church, it is intended as a guide to those wishing to pray for others in public.

There will be times when we know of someone's personal circumstances and there is a desire to pray for them. By all means pray for them but do so in private.

To pray for them in public is to be only done with their specific permission as it may breach elements of trust and privacy.

Permission for prayer.

When we pray we are seeking the best for all those we pray for and so it can be troubling if we are NOT sure if someone has asked for prayer.

To ascertain permission to pray for them in public, we need to consider the following.

- Have you asked their permission to pray for them in public and they have replied in the affirmative?
- Has a leader (Pastor, Elder or group leader) prayed for them in public?
- Has anyone prayed for them in public by first saying "John/Joan has asked us to pray for him/her"?

What if I don't know if permission is given?

Unless you know for certain that their circumstances are general knowledge, then never pray using their name or be specific about their circumstances.

When a situation like this arises, a helpful way of responding might be to responding might be not to refer to them by anything other than "My brother/sister in Christ" or "my friend" or "my neighbor". In this way their privacy is not breached as they are not identified clearly.

What if they don't want public prayer?

As Christians, we want to pray for someone and not be free to have corporate prayer is difficult.

If we are to value these people, we should clearly obey their choice and not pray for them publicly. There is nothing preventing us from lifting them up with prayers in our heart when the church is praying. We should also take the challenge to remember them in our personal prayers so they may experience the touch of God in their lives.

Rationale of this guide?

Prayers have been offered in good faith but prayers such as "Help Bob with his gambling problem" or "Be with John & Joan as they get over the infidelity in their marriage" have been said. This has breached trust and is almost gossip.