GUIDE TO ALTAR MINISTRY

ALTAR WORKER
DEFINITION:
An altar worker is one whom God has chosen to touch the personal lives of those who come forward in response to an invitation to come to God – for salvation or for God’s answer to a need. The altar worker is the channel through whom the Holy Spirit works. The Altar worker therefore has the responsibility to keep that channel open.

EXPERIENCES AND QUALIFICATIONS EXPECTED OF AN ALTAR WORKER
☐ Clear evidence of salvation.
☐ Spirit-filled life, baptized and continually filled with the Holy Spirit
☐ Readiness and sensitivity in the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit
☐ Has a sense of calling to altar ministry.
  ➢ Has genuine concern for others
  ➢ Has passion for helping and caring attitude for others
☐ Committed to a strong prayer life
☐ Have regular study of God’s Word, fasting, and church attendance.
☐ Submission to God, the senior pastor, and other church leadership.
☐ Able to maintain confidentiality.
☐ Conveys a pleasant and professional appearance. The default countenance of an altar worker is friendly, light spirited, calm but full of faith.

GOALS OF ALTAR WORK
1. First to provide a welcoming, comfortable and secure atmosphere for the respondents.
2. At the altar, seek to discover the person’s need, doing so with gentleness, tact, and respect. Never push for details.
3. Minister to respondent through prayer. Be specific in prayer with the needy individual, while displaying a sincere desire to intercede.

TECHNIQUES FOR ALTAR WORKERS
1. Focus on prayer, resisting the temptation to counsel. Time is limited, and the needy person desires prayer. (Usually) You are NOT licensed counselors. If professional counseling is needed, the person can be referred to the pastor or other designated person/s for further guidance
2. Always pick up any instructions given by the minister or service director.
3. Be prepared to lead someone to Christ. Below are four components of evangelism.
   • Admit: Confessing our sinfulness is the first step in conversion.
   • Repent: Repentance involves renouncing and turning from the sins of the past to live a new life in Christ.
   • Believe: Recognizing Christ as the Son of God and Savior of the world is at the foundation of Christianity.
   • Receive: The new believer is born again upon receiving Christ as Lord and Leader of his or her life.
4. 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.
5. Be prepared to pray with those in need of physical healing. Encourage the person’s faith by affirming the power and goodness of God.
6. 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 in our minds.
7. Be yielded to God for the operation in the gifts of the Holy Spirit

FOLLOW UP
Your ministry at the altar extends beyond the church service. Take information for a follow up visit. Work in coordination with the designated person. Make person aware of the discipleship program of the church

CONCERNING OPERATION IN SPIRITUAL GIFTS
1 Cor. 1-11; 1 Cor 14:1-12