

Prayer stations

Kinnecting with God's heart on global poverty and injustice

Use these kinaesthetic prayer stations to help people engage with general prayer for global poverty and injustice issues. Each one details what if any equipment you need to get together in advance, instructions for setting up, and the text for the instruction signs you will need to display – (simply copy and paste these into a word document, enlarging the font so that the instructions are clear enough to read).

Used together, the stations should take 30-40 minutes to work round, but if you have less time you can obviously leave out a couple. You can use them within an intercessions slot, have them set up as an installation for a special service or day of prayer where people can come and go independently and/or use them individually as prayer or intercession responses.

They can be worked round in any order, but 'Answering Prayers' needs to come after several, or all, of the others.

You might also like to use mp3 worship tracks of songs celebrating God's love for people, and his heart for the poor to create a playlist or CD to play in the background as people are moving round the stations. (If you're stuck for ideas, check out some of our songs, or use our 'Outward focussed song index' at www.thesanctuarycentre.org/whereworldandworshipmeetl-songs)

1. Peace on earth

Equipment needed: An old atlas, fold-out world maps or print outs of world maps from online; scissors; dove templates; pens or pencils; and a print out of the sign you create using the 'For display' text below.

Instructions for setting up:

1. **In advance:** Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the 'For display' section. Then make some simple dove templates out of cardboard by tracing and transferring an image from clip art, a Christmas card or similar. (If you have a small group, and are using a number of stations, you will only need two or three, but if larger numbers are taking part, or everyone is using this station at once, you will need more.)
2. **On the day:** Lay out all the equipment needed, including the templates you have made, on the floor, and display the sign you have made using the text below.

For display:

Peace on earth

- Look through the maps here, and choose a nation, or area of the world, that you want to pray for – it might be somewhere you already have a heart for, have recently visited, or a place which has been in the news recently, particularly if it is in the midst of war or conflict.
- Use the dove template and scissors to draw round and cut out a dove from the map that shows the nation or area you want to pray for.
- Hold the map dove in your hands and pray for God's Spirit of peace to move in that nation to transform it.

- Leave your dove on the table, or take it away with you – put it in your Bible, or stick it up somewhere that reminds you to pray for this place during the coming week.

2. Good news

Equipment needed: Newspapers, headlines, images or articles from current news; a print out of Isaiah 61:1-3 and Luke 4:18-19 and of the sign you create using the 'For display' text below.

Instructions for setting up:

1. In advance: Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the 'For display' section, and print off several copies of the scriptures given above. Gather together newspapers, or print offs of online news, and cut out several stories, images and headlines that move you, or are prominent in the news.
2. On the day: Lay out, or stick up, the news items and print outs of scripture, and the sign you have made.

For display:

Good news

- Choose one or two of the news stories displayed. How do they make you feel? Bring your emotions, questions and thoughts to God in prayer.
- Now read the scriptures displayed and hold their truth alongside the world's stories. Use the scripture to pray that Jesus' love, light and compassion would transform these situations using the verses which show the Spirit's response to situations of suffering and need.
- Finally, offer yourself as part of the answer. Ask Jesus to help you follow him, through the love and power of the Holy Spirit, in bringing good news. Is there anything you feel led to do or pray in reference to these situations as a result?

3. Taste the difference

Equipment needed: A cake or similar visual aid which can be divided as set out below; and a print out of the sign you create using the 'For display' text below.

Instructions for setting up:

1. In advance: Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the 'For display' section. Then buy a cake.
2. On the day: Cut one slice out of the cake – roughly a seventh - but then stick this slice on top of another part of the cake, leaving just a few crumbs behind in the space left behind. Also stick up the sign you have made.

For display (N.B. the bullet points go over onto page 3):

Taste the difference

- 925 million people in the world do not have enough to eat – more than the populations of the USA, Canada and the European Union combined. *
- This means one in seven people doesn't have enough food. Even though there is enough food in the world to feed everyone.

- 98% of these people live in developing countries. And 65% of these people live in just seven countries (India, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Ethiopia.) *
- The cake in front of you should have been divided into seven, but as you can see, there's not much left for the seventh person – someone else has it all.
- Go ahead, taste a crumb if you want, but nothing from the main cake.
- How does it make you feel to realise that some people have so little, and that so few people have the amount we consider normal?
- Bring your thoughts and feelings to God; ask him to feed all who are hungry today; to change systems which perpetuate this problem, or our view that the status quo is normal or acceptable and ask God if there is anything you should be doing differently.

(* 2011 World Food Program)

4. Hear it first-hand

Equipment needed: A print off of a recent story from someone living in poverty; and a print out of the sign you create using the 'For display' text below.

Instructions for setting up:

1. In advance: Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the 'For display' section. Then visit the website of an organisation such as Christian Aid or Tearfund and print out one or two recent images and stories of people living in poverty, with details of how they are being helped too if these are provided. Also print off the names or logos off a number of different organisations working to help situations like this and/or that your church has specific links with.
5. On the day: Lay out, or stick up the stories and the sign you have made.

For display:

Hear it first-hand

- Read a story from someone who can tell you first-hand what poverty can be like.
- How does this story make you feel? What questions does it raise for you? Can you imagine what it would be like to be in this kind of situation?
- Bring your questions, and prayers for people living in poverty to God.
- Pray for all churches, organisations and individuals reaching out to help those living poverty. Ask that like Jesus they would be filled with both love and power to see transformation. Pray for ongoing wisdom, compassion and resources too.

5. Answering prayers

Equipment needed: A telephone as a visual aid; pens; paper; and a print out of the sign you create using the 'For display' text below.

Instructions for setting up:

1. In advance: Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the 'For display' section. Then gather together the other things you need.
2. On the day: Lay out everything, and stick up the sign you have made.

For display:**Answering prayers**

"I know that the LORD secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy. " (Psalm 140:12)

- Using the paper provided, make a list of situations, people groups or nations that you want to call on God to secure justice for, or uphold their cause.
- Either pick up the phone, or look at it, and imagine you are calling God – pour out your heart before him. Imagine he is a lawyer making a case for these places and people – what information, or truth, do you want to be in this case.
- Now take a few moments silence. Is God calling on you to be part of answering these prayers? How can you be part of his work to secure justice for the poor, and to uphold the cause of the needy?
- Take another sheet of paper to jot down anything you think God is calling on you to pray, do, or give as part of his answer.

6. We the nations

Equipment needed: A large world map for display; paper; pens; scissors; blue tack; and a heart shaped template or stack of heart shaped post it notes.

Instructions for setting up:

1. In advance: Enlarge and print out a sign using the text in the 'For display section. Then, if you don't have heart shaped post it notes, make some heart templates out of cardboard by tracing and transferring an image from clip art, or by drawing round a cookie cutter. (If you have a small group, and are using a number of stations, you will only need two or three, but if larger numbers are taking part, or everyone is using this station at once, you will need more.)
2. On the day: Lay out or stick up everything, including the sign you have made.

For display:

We the nations

"Therefore I will praise you, LORD, among the nations; I will sing the praises of your name." (Psalm 18:49)

- Take a few moments to consider the scripture, and your heart for the nations.
- Ask for God to grow your perspective, and your love, for people and nations that are different and/or far away.
- Then pray for justice, love and peace where you know that there is oppression, division and war. Take a few moments too to pray for the world-wide church, and for any areas you know are suffering persecution.
- If you find it helpful, write down these, or other prayers, for the nations, on to the heart shapes and stick them onto the map.