



EMERGENCY MINISTRY

A Collection of Prayers and Services
from Distinctive Faith Groups for use by
Chaplains and Clergy of all Faiths

This resource is provided to spiritual leaders who may be called upon to perform emergency ministry in situations of dying and death. It is intended to provide understanding about cultural practices and religious views of various faiths that will enable you to minister more effectively from your religious faith perspective to individuals of other faith traditions. It does not constitute theological endorsement of any kind.

GRIEF MINISTRY

CARING FOR THE DYING

Dying Is a Process of predictable or random dynamics. **Denial** protest, "No, it isn't me!" **Anger** asks bitterly, "Why me?" **Bargaining** postpones with "Yes, it's me, but..." **Depression** in discouragement concludes, "Yes, it is me." **Acceptance** finally acknowledges, "Yes, it is me, and I can cope." **Dying Persons'** needs include the following: a supportive environment, meeting spiritual concerns, knowing life made a difference, finding meaning, feeling needed, maintaining control as much as possible, completing developmental tasks, overcoming loneliness, "letting go" of life and dying with dignity and hope.

Ministry to the Dying. Treat the dying with dignity. Provide presence to the end. Encourage storytelling. Listen with sensitivity. Help with death planning as invited. Minister to felt needs. Assist with family needs. Model appropriate behavior. Employ religious ritual. Use spiritual resources to bring comfort and support.

CARING FOR THE BEREAVED

Grief is a process of tasks, including **shock** and **numbness**, with disbelief and painful acceptance of reality; **searching** and **yearning**, an intense longing for the deceased; **disorganization**, with

great distress as full reality hits home; reorganization, as later life again seems worth living and hope is restored.

Ministry to the Bereaved helps create a healing environment as we listen and encourage telling of experience and feelings, use words of faith and comfort, use religious ritual, care for felt needs, interpret normal grief reactions, never abandon during hard times, honor memory of the deceased, assist with new activities and relationships later on, and help discover meaning and hope. When appropriate to the faith tradition of the bereaved, use prayer and scriptural resources such as:

Psalm 23, 27, 42, 46:1-4

John 14:1-3 and 27

1 Corinthians 15:51-58

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Isaiah 41:10, 61:3

Romans 8:31-39

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

1 Peter 1:6-9

Revelation 21:1-5

BUDDHIST

If a dying person desires religious ministry, a priest or other authorized person may utilize the following prayers and ministrations.

Prayers. “Buddham saranam gacchami (I take refuge in the Buddha.) Dhammam saranam gacchami (I take refuge in the Dhamma). Sangham saranam gacchami (I take refuge in the Sangha).”

“And now I betake myself, Lord, to the Blessed One as my refuge, to the Truth, and to the Order. May the Blessed One accept me as a disciple, as one who, from this day forth, as long as life endure, has taken refuge in them.”

In Event of Death. Say this prayer: “Studying the same doctrine, under one master, You and I are friends. See yonder white mists floating in the air on the way back to the peaks. This parting may be our last meeting in this life. Not just in a dream, but in our deep thought, let us meet often hereafter.”

CATHOLIC

If a dying person desires religious ministry, a priest or other authorized person may utilize the following prayers and ministrations.

The Hail Mary. “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now in at the hour of our death. Amen.”

The Act of Contrition. “O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins, because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offended Thee, my God, who art all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more, and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.”

The Sign of the Cross. “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

In Event of Death. Say this prayer: "Eternal rest grant unto her/him. O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her/him. May her/his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen."

Baptism. Pour water three times on the brow, say-ing her/his first name and this: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HINDU

If a dying person desires religious ministry, a priest or other authorized person may utilize the following prayers and ministrations. The dying person is encouraged to recite the "Narayona" (name of the Lord Vishnu). If she/he is not able to do so, then anyone may whisper the name of the Lord Vishnu in her/his ear. A spoonful of pure water is then placed her/his mouth.

Reading for Comfort. The following passage from the Bhagavad Gita may be read to comfort the person: "Saith Lord Vishnu- 'Arjuna, of this be sure: None who pays me worship of loyalty and love is ever lost. For whosoever makes Me his haven, base-born though he may be, yes, women too, and artisans, even serfs, theirs is to tread the highest Way. On Me thy mind, for Me thy loving service, for Me thy sac-rifice, and to Me thy prostrations: Let thine own self be integrated, and then shalt they come to Me, thy striving bent on Me."

In Event of Death. After death, the body is to

be cleansed and dressed, and the mark of Vishnu placed on her/his forehead. Then the body is to be cremated and three days later the ashes are to be immersed in a river. It is believed the soul will rest with the ancestors of the person's family at the feet of God in peace.

ISLAMIC

If a dying person desires religious ministry, an imam or other authorized person may utilize the following prayers and ministrations.

The Allah Ekber. "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is God's apostle."

The Al-Fatihah. "In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. Praise be to Allah, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds; Most Gracious, Most Merciful; Master of the Day of Judgment; Thee do we worship, and Thine aid we seek. Show us the straight way, the way of those on whom Thou has bestowed Thy grace, those whose portion is not wrath, and who go not astray."

The At-Tauhid. "In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. Say: He is God, the One! God, the eternally besought of all! He begetteth not nor was begotten. And there is none comparable unto Him."

The An-Nas. "In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. Say: I seek refuge in the Lord of mankind, the King of mankind, the God of mankind, from the evil of the sneaking whisperer, who whispereth in the hearts of mankind, of the jinn, and of mankind."

Following the reciting of the above passages from the Qur'an the patient's mouth is to be moistened with water.

In Event of Death. An imam must be summoned to perform the ritual washings and wrappings of the body to prepare it for burial.

JEWISH

If a dying person desires religious ministry, a rabbi or other authorized person may utilize the following prayers and ministrations.

The Shema. "Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One."

The Confession for the Critically Ill. "Lord my God, God of my fathers, before Thee I confess that in Thy hand alone rests my healing or my death. If it be Thy will, grant me a perfect healing. Yet if my death be fully determined by Thee, I will in love accept it at Thy hand. Then may my death be an atonement for all sins, transgressions, and for all the wrong which I have committed before Thee. Amen."

The Twenty-third Psalm. "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me to water in places of repose; He renews my life; He guides me in right paths as befits His name. Though I walk through a valley of deepest darkness, I fear no harm, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff – they comfort me. You spread a table for me in full view of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my drink is abundant. Only goodness and steadfast love shall

pursue me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for many long years." Psalm 23, Tanakh

In Event of Death. Say this prayer: "Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended. Amen."

ORTHODOX

If a dying person desires religious ministry, a priest or other authorized person may utilize the following prayers and ministrations.

The Trisagion. "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake. Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen."

Psalm 51. Read from Scripture.

The Nicene Creed. "I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light;

true God of true God, begotten, not made, of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; of His kingdom there shall be no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, Who proceedeth from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets. In one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church; I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen."

The Lord's Prayer. "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." Matthew 6:9-13, KJV

In the Event of Death. Say this prayer: "O God of spirits and of all flesh, who has trampled down death and destroyed the devil, and granted life to Thy world: Do Thou, O Lord, give rest to the soul of Thy servant (**name**), who is fallen asleep, in place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose,

where all sickness, sorrow and sighing have fled away. Pardon every sin which he/she has committed, whether by deed, word, or thought, for Thou art a good God and lovest mankind: because there is no person who lives and does not sin. Thou alone art without sin. Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Thy law is truth. For Thou art the resurrection, and the Lord, and the repose of Thy servant (**name**), who is fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, and good and life-creating Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen."

Baptism. Pour water three times on the brow, using the person's name and these words: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

PROTESTANT

Regardless of the denomination, if a dying person desires religious ministry, a pastor or other authorized person may utilize the following prayers and ministrations.

The Lord's Prayer. "Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." Matthew 6:9-13, NKJV

The Apostles' Creed. "I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to hell. On the third day He rose again; He ascended to heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."

Psalm 23. Read from Scripture.

In Event of Death. Say this prayer: "Depart, brother/sister, out of this world in the name of the Father who created you, in the name of the Son who redeemed you, in the name of the Spirit who made you whole. Amen."

Baptism. If a dying person desires baptism and no clergy is available from her/his faith group, another baptized person may administer the form of baptism used by the dying person's faith group (immersion, pouring water on the forehead three times, etc.) using the person's name and saying "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

The facts of the event should be reported to an appropriate clergy-person as soon as possible.

This resource is provided as a service to fellow chaplains, clergy, and spiritual leaders of all faiths by Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, a department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

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