

IOM America **Better** **Engagement: Prayer** **Through Texting**

What is Prayer Through Texting?

Prayer through Texting is a new, intuitive way for IOM ministry staff, volunteer members, or team to serve the prayer needs of followers of the ministry and community with live, interactive messaging through the IOM App.

Here are a few tips for the IM Prayer Team

General Guidelines

- IOM corporate will customize initial requests for prayer.
- The manager of the IM Text App will review each request.
- The manager will assign the request to an IM Prayer Team member.
- In the meantime, a timely personal response is sent to the recipient.
- The manager may place you in one of two categories –pray for the need or an interactive role with the recipient. This will be up to the manager.
- The manager will keep you up to date regarding answered prayers.
- If the manager opens up direct communication between you and the recipient, never give them your last name or where you live. Our guidelines do not allow Prayer Team members to give out email addresses, social media links, or any other ways of revealing your private information. Your job is to pray and offer Scriptural support. That's it.
- If the manager decides to have you remain as an inactive (no direct contact with the recipient) prayer warrior –pray as led regarding the requests put before you.

Interactive Prayer Team Members

- **Never offer your private information.** If put on the spot, you tell them it is ministry policy to keep such information private.

- **Always be personal** by using their first name only. For example, "Hi [recipient's name]. My name is [Your first name only]. I'm so sorry to hear that you're struggling with that. That must be incredibly challenging..."
- **Don't be afraid to ask a follow-up question.** Prayer Request: "Please pray for me. This time of year is so difficult for me." Your Response: "Hi. My name is [Your first name only]. I'm so sorry to hear that this is a challenging time of year for you. May I ask what specifically is making this time of year so difficult?" Hopefully, in this scenario, the requestor will provide a little more information, and you can pray for them more specifically. If they say no, or if some time goes by and they choose not to respond, go ahead and say a prayer for them anyway.
- **Don't try to "fix" their problems;** it's not your job. If the situation requires legal or discipleship counseling, contact the IM Prayer Team manager immediately. While it may be tempting to provide someone reaching out for prayer with helpful advice or a solution to their problems, the heart of this digital resource is to pray with and for people in need and make a personal connection.

Follow-Up With Them In a Few Weeks. This is where you can really show people that you are sincere and that you care about their needs. Commit to praying for this person on an ongoing basis, and then set a reminder to follow up with them.

THE NEXT STEP

Take the seven-question IM Prayer Team member survey. Text "prayer survey" @ (833) 249-9731. The Prayer Team manager will get back with you after reviewing your survey. That's it.