

National Days of Prayer & Appreciation

A CALL TO ALL THE CHURCHES OF INDIA

1. TO APPRECIATE & EXPRESS GRATITUDE TO THOSE SERVING THE COMMUNITY

2. PRAY FOR THE BLESSING OF OUR NATION AND FOR ALL THE AUTHORITIES

based on Genesis 12:2,3; Jeremiah 29: 7 & 1 Timothy 2:1, 2

When: September – Preparation
October – Visits by Church Teams to Community Leaders

How: Teams of Church Members going out to the Community Leaders to meet them at their place of work to appreciate and thank them and pray for them

Time: At a time suitable for the Community Leader

I. OBJECTIVE:

1. To mobilise the Church Members to be fully involved and participate in reaching out and know that as a core purpose of the Christian and the Church as given in 1 Peter 2:9.
2. To visibly demonstrate that the Church is here to bless, pray and intercede for people in Authority as instructed in 1 Timothy 2: 1 -3.
3. To create goodwill within the local community of which the Church is situated and part of, as instructed in Jeremiah 29:7
4. To make the Church activity more open and understandable to the local people and Community.

II. WHO ARE THE COMMUNITY LEADERS TO BE VISITED:

Government officials, people serving the community through NGOs & other Community Leaders. For example –

Government Officers	Allied Officers	NGOs working with
• Ward/Block Officials • Panchayat Leaders • Police Officers • Judges • Magistrates • Judicial Officials	• Government Lawyers • School & College – Principals, Professors & Teachers • Government Hospital personnel - Doctors, Nurses & Other Staff • Government Office Clerks	• Women • Underprivileged Children • The Homeless • Handicapped Persons • The extreme poor • Senior Community • Extreme sick people – Leprosy affected, Cancer, TB patients, Hospices etc

Church members could visit the Community Leaders they know, at her/his office or place of work to appreciate them and express gratitude for their service to the community; pray blessing on them, their work and their families. The Team could give them a Bible and the India Prayer Book (UCPI Theological Forum approved) if they feel led and is appropriate to do so.

The active involvement of all the members of the church will not only make the mobilisation for the ***National Days of Prayer & Appreciation (NDOP&A)*** effective but it is important in achieving the objective of the church to being a reaching out community as God intends his church and people to be.

The ongoing good relationship of the church members serves the call of God and his Biblical mandate to the church to be a blessing and to reach out to community around the church.

III. **SUGGESTED STEPS TO BE TAKEN:**

Here is an outline of the steps to be taken.

1. Envision the Church

When: In September

Church Leader envisions his church members about the objective of the National Day of Prayer & Appreciation with the appropriate scriptures - *Genesis 12:2, 3; Jeremiah 29: 7 & 1 Timothy 2:1, 2*. See Note 01 given below.

2. Form Visit Teams

When: By 3rd/ 4th week of September

Visit Teams of 4 or 5 Church Members are formed with the Church Leader's help and input. Age, gender, maturity and language can be considered for the team composition, keeping in mind the Community Leader the Visit Team will be meeting. Ladies from the church can be encouraged to go out as a Team to visit women Community Leader. The youth of the church can also go out as teams.

3. Identify Community Leaders

When: Immediately/ 3rd & 4th Weeks of September

Church leader asks and **encourages all the church members to identify Community Leaders** in authority and service as mentioned above **known to them personally**.

4. Contact Community Leaders

When: Immediately/ 3rd & 4th Week of September

Church Member contacts the Community Leader identified, tells her/him of the NDOP&A and requests a date and time for a Team to come to visit the Community Leader. A script is suggested for this purpose. See Note 02 below.

Attached is a sample letter from the Local Church/Parish Pastor/Priest to the Community Leader requesting time for the Visit.

5. Prepare & Train for the Visits

When: Last Sunday of September

List the Visit Appointments that have been fixed

Rehearsal/Training: At the Sunday Gathering, have a short drama enacting a visit to the Community Leader. Visit Script can be given to all. See Note 03 given below.

Prayer: Special time of prayer for the blessing of the NDOP&A visits can be made by two or three at the Sunday gathering. Pray a prayer of blessing on each Community Leader whose visit appointments have been fixed.

6. Pray & Remind all the Sundays in the month of October

When: Each Sunday of October

At every Sunday Church gathering in the month, have a different member pray

- For the Community Leaders in your area
- Specifically for Community Leaders who will be visited during the week.
- For the Teams going out from the Church during the week.
- For the Leaders of the Nation, the State and the District.

Hearing reports of those who have visited in the previous week will be an encouragement for all.

At each Sunday gathering of the month the October, the church members should be reminded to go as Teams during the week as per the plan of fixed appointments.

IV. POINTS TO REMEMBER AS WE GO OUT:

1. The presence of God goes with us where we go. We go as Ambassadors of Christ.
2. We approach and engage with people we visit with a spirit of humility and love.
3. Use the Prayers in this note book. **No extempore prayers should be done.** The words we use inappropriately can do much damage.
4. Avoid talking about sensitive, political and communal issues. Also Negative and provocative remarks of any sort.