

Prayer at Campmeeting

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From the very beginnings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, camp meetings have played an important role in church growth. In the early days, camp meetings brought together Advent believers and were a major source of evangelism. Today, camp meetings are an important time of encouragement and fellowship for church members.

Life-changing campmeetings hinge on heartfelt prayer. In speaking of camp meetings in the early days of the church, Ellen White says, “The ministers would go away and pray together, and they would not let loose until the Spirit of God responded to their prayers. They would come away with their faces fairly lighted up, and when they spoke to the congregation, their words meant something. They reached the hearts of the people because the Spirit that gave the blessing to them prepared the hearts to receive the message.”¹

Referring to another campmeeting, she stated, “I feel so glad that we could hold our meeting in a place where there are so many quiet retreats in which to pray. O, I have longed for this when I have been on camp-grounds where there was no such opportunity! Get together in companies of two or three, and go off into some quiet place to seek the Lord. His promise is that where two or three are agreed together as touching anything, their prayer will be answered. Our God is close beside us. “Lo,” he declares, “I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” Yoke up with Christ. Do not yoke up with human beings, and then think that because they are not perfect, you need not be. Link up with the One who is perfect, and who has power to sanctify you and give you a fitness to receive the life that measures with the life of God.”²

Nine Practical Ways to Incorporate Prayer into the Campmeeting Experience

1. **Pre-Pray!** - Long before campmeeting begins, gather a team to pray for it specifically. If you have a conference prayer team in place already, they may be the ones to take on this task. This can make all the difference in a Spirit-led, life-changing campmeeting.

Work closely with conference leaders so that you can pray specifically for campmeeting needs. Some suggestions of things to pray for:

- Who to invite as speakers.
 - How to organize the meetings.
 - Children’s division leaders.
 - Finances to fund campmeeting.
 - God to bring the people who need to attend.
 - The life-changing presence of the Holy Spirit.
2. **Prayer Walk Weekend** - One or two weeks before campmeeting begins, hold a prayer weekend at the campmeeting location to intercede for God’s blessing. A few pointers:
 - Begin promoting prayer weekend one to two months in advance. Include invitations to the weekend in conference promotional materials and church bulletins. Personal invitations are especially effective.
 - If possible, provide free (or discounted) food and lodging for all who attend.

- Organize the weekend to include worship, prayer and fellowship.
 - Invite conference leadership to attend. Ask them to share how God has worked in preparation for campmeeting, and specific prayer requests for campmeeting.
 - Spend several hours prayer-walking the campmeeting grounds in teams of 4-6 people. Give each team a specific portion of the campground they are to pray over. If you need more information on how to prayer walk effectively, [click here](#).
3. **Welcome Prayer** - Have prayer partners pray with attendees as they arrive at campmeeting. A warm smile and welcome, accompanied by a sincere prayer, makes a huge impact on people.
- “People are so appreciate when we pray with them,” says Terri, a prayer partner in Central California. “Sometimes people come back during campmeeting and say ‘your prayer really blessed me’. I don’t remember everyone I pray with, or what I prayed about with them, but they remember and it means a lot to them.”
4. **Prayer Room** - Set aside a special space on the campmeeting grounds as a prayer room. Decorate it with scripture verses, signs about prayer and other items that will help to set a tone for meditation and prayer.
- Post hours for when the prayer room will be open and specific times for united prayer. If possible, have a prayer partner in the room to pray with people who stop by to pray.
5. **United Prayer Times** - Schedule time at least an hour of united prayer each day during campmeeting. If possible, offer more times so more people to come. A basic format is helpful, but allow flexibility so the Spirit can lead. Basic elements that can be included:
- **Singing** - A simple song book can be provided if desired.
 - **Sharing** - Build faith by letting people share what has God done today.
 - **Prayer for leaders** - Invite a conference leader to join the prayer time and surround them in prayer for their specific needs.
 - **Prayer for a specific group** - Is there a specific group, like the elderly, that needs special intercession? If so, invite one or two of them to join you and pray for their needs.
 - **Praise** - God dwells in the praises of this people (Psalm 22:3), so praise Him!
 - **Intercession** - Pray for the specific needs of campmeeting. Claim Bible promises and prepare to be amazed at what God can do.
 - **Confession** - Confessing and forsaking our sins opens the way for God to work. Take time for this important soul-cleansing work.
 - For more on how to lead united prayer effectively, [click here](#).
6. **Prayer Stories** - It is a great faith-builder to hear stories of answered prayers. If possible, have a small portion of each meeting (5-10 minutes) dedicated to sharing answer to prayer stories. It is helpful to line up people for these prayer stories before campmeeting begins. Listen to people’s stories beforehand and then interview them during the meeting. This helps to guide the story, bring out the important points, and keep it to the right amount of time. For more on how to successfully interview people, [click here](#).
7. **Prayer in Meetings** - Prayer during the daily meetings are an important way to demonstrate meaningful times of prayer that bring each person into contact with God. Each

meeting will likely have several prayer times, allowing for involvement of more people. Invite a variety of people to pray during the prayer times: children, couples, pastors, women, families, elderly, etc. If it is their first time to pray in public, you can give them [these guidelines for prayer in public](#).

8. **Prayer Ambassadors** - Give each prayer partner a “May I pray with you?” [pin-on button](#). They can be purchased inexpensively online. Then arm each one with [scripture cards](#) and send them out to pray with people. It is exciting to hear the divine appointments God sets up!
9. **Pray for Leaders/Divisions/Speakers** - Organize your prayer partners to regularly pray with and for specific people and groups:
 - Speakers and program participants before they go on stage.
 - Leaders of children and youth divisions.
 - Encourage all prayer partners to be praying for God’s presence and for specific people that God brings to their attention during each meeting.

Sincere prayer for the blessing and presence of God will make all the difference for a Spirit-filled, life-changing campmeeting. You may not be able to incorporate all of these ideas immediately. But as you prayerfully seek God’s will, He will show you exactly how best to incorporate more prayer into the campmeeting experience.

“Every campmeeting may be a love feast from the beginning to the end because God’s presence is with His people.”³

“Prayer, whether offered in the public assembly, at the family altar, or in secret, places man directly in the presence of God.”⁴

¹ Ellen G. White, *Manuscript 19b-1890*. eBook Copyright © 2010, Ellen G. White Estate, Inc. 1890. Paragraph 22.

² White, Ellen. *Review & Herald*, July 6, 1905,

³ Ellen G. White. *Loma Linda Messages*. eBook Copyright © 2010, Ellen G. White Estate, Inc. 1981. 537

⁴ Ellen G. White. *My Life Today*. eBook Copyright © 2010, Ellen G. White Estate, Inc. 1952. 18.