

Vision, Training & Safety Document

How to Steward God's Move, How to Love and Honor in Difficult Situations

Vision of the Prayer Tent

The vision of the Prayer Tent is first and foremost about **hosting the presence of God** on campus. We desire that our campus would become a dwelling place for God's presence, where He feels at home among us.

Secondly, our purpose is to pray for spiritual revival and transformation over the entire campus. As Isaiah 62:6-7 says:

I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.

We want to pray for the things that are in God's heart, and to see His kingdom come and His will be done "on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10).

Thirdly, our desire is to reveal the presence, power and heart of Jesus to students who walk by or enter into the Prayer Tent. We desire that each person would experience God in such a way that their lives would never be the same again.

Our aim is simple: Love God, Love One Another, Love Our Campus.

God Situations

Someone wants to come to Jesus

If there are those present who may be distracting from what God is doing in someone's heart, feel free to move the conversation away from the situation, so you can more effectively engage one-on-one to share Jesus with them (nearby). Keep the conversation focused on their own need for Jesus.

Share the gospel with them! Get their phone number and email, to follow up with them – within the next week, if possible. Get them connected to your church community. Woo hoo!

Someone wants to know more, get plugged into a community

There are two options: someone at the Prayer Tent can invite them to the community they are a part of (be mindful of guys inviting guys, girls inviting girls). If the person present is uncomfortable with that or it doesn't work out for some reason, direct them to the sign-in sheet, where they can leave their contact information. Be sure to send a message to the coordinators, to let them know to follow up with that person!

How to Handle Challenging Situations

With Humility, Honor, Love & Truth

Whenever a challenging or unexpected situation may arise, remember that these are people that God loves. Seek to have a genuine connection with them. We want to approach every situation with the heart of the Father and the love of Jesus. It's important to seek to honor every person who walks in, even if we have to redirect them. Ask their name and any other related questions.

Please be mindful of the environment you're leaving to the next person in the Tent. If the person present (or the situation at hand) could put the next person in an uncomfortable position or even be threatening in some way, please remain at the Tent to help address the situation until it's resolved. You may need to stick around until another safe person arrives, aid the next person in navigating the situation, or you may need to call for help. If you would need to leave soon but don't want to leave someone else unattended, call/text the Prayer Tent Help Line inconspicuously (phone number will be posted in the tent).

Below is a list of possible situations you may run into and some recommended responses.

Someone wants to pray to a different god or practice another religion

"We appreciate you asking. The focus of this event is to pray to and worship Jesus. I'd love to pray for you – is there anything I can pray for you right now?"

(If they're persistent – "Oh no, I don't want prayer – I just want to pray to my god.")

"Well, we're here to help pray for anyone who has a need. Is there anything I can pray for you later about?"

(If "no") RESPONSE: "Ok, no problem. Thank you so much for stopping by! Please feel free to stop by, if there's ever anything you could use prayer for!"

(If persistent) "Well, as I mentioned, the focus of this event is to pray and worship Jesus. You can definitely join us in that, if you would like! We're going to go ahead and pray right now."

Someone wants to have a distracting, perhaps theological, conversation in the Prayer Tent

If it is not leading to prayer directly, redirect them back to the focus of the event – to pray together.

Ask them if you can continue the conversation another time over coffee – but that you're here to pray during your time slot.

If needed, walk with the other person and direct them away from the Prayer Tent, so that others can continue to focus on the Lord in prayer.

Someone needs counseling

Personal ministry in the Tent is okay, if you're the only one in the Tent. If someone else is present also to pray or worship, please be courteous and continue the counseling away from the Prayer Tent.

Someone is having a phone conversation in the Prayer Tent

Kindly ask them to take their conversation outside of the Prayer Tent, so that those who are in the Prayer Tent won't be distracted from their prayer or worship time.

Someone comes in under the influence of alcohol/drugs and is disruptive

Offer to pray for the person. Let them know the focus of the time is not to talk or to have conversations, but to pray for one another and for the campus.

If necessary, you have the authority to courteously ask them to leave. Call the Prayer Tent Help Line if there are any persistent problems or if you feel uncomfortable dealing with it. If necessary, you may also contact the Campus Police to have them resolve the situation.

Doing homework in the Prayer Tent

In order to maintain the focus and purpose of the time, we're asking that everyone refrain from personal work, projects or entertainment while in the Prayer Tent. We want to keep the space set aside for talking with God, connecting with His heart and praying for one another.

Safety Information

Don't give away anyone else's contact information, without first asking and receiving permission.

Don't feel obligated to do anything you don't feel comfortable with – whether that's giving money to a homeless person or praying with someone who you don't feel safe around.

Don't accept any food or drinks from strangers, even friendly ones, and don't allow anyone to leave food or drinks in the Tent – for your safety and the safety of others. Depending on the campus, it may be considered a liability.

Please input the following important contact numbers into your phone:

1. Prayer Tent Help Line – _____
2. Campus Police – _____

You may want to put these contacts in an easy-to-access place. (Ex - if the name of the contacts were "A - Campus Police" or "A - Prayer Tent Help Line", it may be first on your list.)

Call or Text the Prayer Tent Help Line if you are in an uncomfortable or potentially unsafe situation. We will come to help and address the situation.