

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE HEALING MINISTRY

SUNDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2016

THEME : “Compassionate Care Towards Mental Health”

1. CALL TO WORSHIP: Open the gates that the righteous nation may enter, the nation that keeps faith. You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the Rock eternal (Isa 26:2-4 NIV).

2. WELCOME: In the name of our Lord and Savior we welcome each one of you to the Healing Ministry Sunday worship service. This day is set apart to remember and celebrate the healing that our creator God has made available to each one of us.

3. OPENING PRAYER: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, thank You for the mind that You have given us to praise and worship you. Help us reflect your image in this life as your children knowing the difference between good and evil. We thank you especially for the mind that can connect with you and enjoy the life that you have given to each one of us. As we celebrate your goodness in our lives help us to remember those who are challenged everyday with the realities of life. Bless the healing ministry, bless each one of us and enable us to truly fulfill your purpose in this life. Thank you for the leadership that your people provide in helping people to find wholistic healing in this life. Help us Lord to worship you in truth and spirit as people who are blessed with a sound mind. Help us Lord in our day-to-day struggles to experience Your healing touch and share Your healing with others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

4. OPENING HYMN : *Fear not I am with thee blessed golden ray*

5. Apostles Creed / Nicene Creed / Thanksgiving / Confession and Absolution
(as in liturgy)

6. Scripture Readings:

1st Bible Reading:	Lam	3:17-33
2nd Bible reading:	Mark	3:20-30
3rd Bible reading:	2Cor	5:1-15

7. Introduction to the healing ministry

The healing ministry of Jesus Christ is based on the compassionate care of Christ. He likes every individual to have abundant life. The healing is multi pronged and includes spiritual, mental, physical, emotional and social healing. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the source of every healing from the beginning till end. In India, the healing ministry formally began in 1905 by a group of missionaries called Medical Missionary Association(MMA) and in 1926 it was renamed as Christian Medical Association of India. Today, CMAI has about 300 Christian mission hospitals which include two prestigious medical colleges in Ludhiana and Vellore. It also brings together more than

ten thousand dedicated Christian health professionals in the ministry of healing. It has grown from strength to strength by contributing to the different health care needs of our country. CMAI members have done pioneering work in several areas like leprosy, tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS. The goal of CMAI is to serve the churches in India by assisting in its ministry of healing to build a just and healthy society in response to the love and command of Christ.

8. The Sermon : Theme “Compassionate Care Towards Mental Health”

Why the focus on Compassionate Care ? Why the focus on mental health ?

We need to make a conscious effort to understand and care for those who are struggling to keep mentally and emotionally healthy.

Introduction

As we reach out to those struggling with emotional and mental ill health, it is important for us to have the right attitude and perspective. This wisdom and knowledge can only come from God. From our foolish human understanding, we give labels to people and make damaging assumptions. Even Christ was not spared when he was considered to be different. He was judged by the religious leaders and pundits as the one possessed by Beelzebub and that he drove out demons with demonic power. When faced with people who are different what must be our response in the light of His love and grace? Let us look for some answers as given in the scripture.

1. He is out of his mind : (Mark 3:22) Do not assume or give labels.

Jesus provoked a strong reaction in everyone during His work here on earth. In this instance, His own family and followers questioned His sanity while the teachers of the law wondered about demon possession. Whatever be the assumptions, personal contact with Jesus left virtually no one unmoved. This is true even for today. The label that we paste on people distinctly separates them as those who are different or difficult. Unless we make an attempt to understand the person and the situation, we will lose out an amazing opportunity to show God's compassion and care.

2. A Feeling of loneliness and despair (Lamentation 3:17-18): Wait on the Lord

A feeling of alienation is very real and palpable for those suffering mentally and emotionally. By our actions and words we must be careful not to further traumatize them. It is difficult and challenging to help those with a serious mental affliction. We tend to distance ourselves from such individuals and stigmatize them mainly due to our own sense of helplessness. The passage from Lamentations remind us of the Lord's mercies, compassion and faithfulness (Lamentations 3: 22-23). When we ourselves or someone else is going through an emotional trial let us first remember to wait on the Lord. He has promised to see us through (Lam 3: 31-33). We must pass on this message of hope and encouragement to all those who are suffering due to mental ill health.

3. The temporariness of our earthly life : 2 Cor. 5:1-5) Life in Christ

In this life our bodies and minds are frail and often abused. We are affected by situations and relationships that overwhelm us. Some of us may cope but others

may not. We groan and long for something different. In II Cor.5: 2 the longing is for the heavenly dwelling. Christ promised those who believe in Him abundant life. This abundant life starts the day we receive Him as our personal savior. The abuse we brought upon our bodies and minds will be removed as we become new creations in Christ. This is an important truth to remember as we work towards developing a healthy mind and deal with those struggling with mental ill health. There is hope of redemption and restoration.

Conclusion

As we look at the theme - “Compassionate Care Towards Mental Health” let us remember to first renew our relationship with our Lord, ask Him for wisdom as we reach out to those who are in need. Let us be careful not to make assumptions instead let us understand. Give them encouragement and hope as they wait upon a faithful and loving God. We are new creations in Christ and the past has been erased. Let us pass on the message and promise of abundant life beginning today. Jesus wants us to help one another without condemning or marginalizing people as mentally ill. Let us compassionately integrate them and accept them as they are and build the Kingdom of God together.

Prayer

Loving Father, We thank You for showing us how to overcome challenges with regard to those who are struggling emotionally and mentally. We pray dear God for each one of these your children who go through such difficulties in life. Help us to understand and support them. We pray that your healing will prevail in their trial and that they may be restored through your healing power. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Intercession

Our loving heavenly father we thank you for creating us with a sound mind to understand, tend and nurture the world you have made for each one of us. Help us in our journey of life to care for each other and tend to one another especially those who need extra support and care.

Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord and heavenly father we pray for those who have fallen on the way due to stress, pressure and attack of the evil one. We pray that they will be accepted, nurtured and looked after. We pray for the health professionals who treat patients. Give them the grace, patience and skill to diagnose and to heal all those who come seeking for help.

Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord we pray for those who are in mental asylums and hospitals, unable to cope with life and its demands. We pray for the family, friends and neighbours who care them that they may find the strength to care and their loved ones be healed by your grace.

Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Almighty God we pray for all CMAI members and hospitals who help those who go through depression, discouragement, suicidal thoughts and loneliness. We pray for those from broken homes and families. We pray for organizations and centres who help them to

be healed and give them security.

Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord we pray for CMAI which is the health arm of the churches in India to truly help the church to address issues which make people unable to enjoy the abundance of life. Bless the work of the church and CMAI in unity to serve the people to realize your healing in every aspect of life.

Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen

(The Leader may add other prayer requests and conclude with a Pastoral prayer).

Song (Offertory)

(If the Eucharist is celebrated, kindly continue the liturgy of the communion service and conclude with closing prayer and Benediction).

Offering collected during the Healing Ministry Sunday

can be sent to :

Christian Medical Association of India

Plot No.2, A-3 Local Shopping Centre, Janakpuri,

New Delhi 110058

by Demand Draft

Translations of this Order of Worship are available on www.cmai.org after 29 January 2016. Please download the translation of your preference, and use it in your church service