



# *Praying for YMCA Staff and Board Members by name beginning the first Monday of every month*

## Prayer, Care & Share

God is moving hearts through a three-fold process of—Prayer, Care, and Share.



## Pray

As you pray, you certainly want to pray foremost that staff/board members would come into a personal relationship with God in Jesus Christ, and that nothing would hinder that. With this as the primary focus however, we can still pray for God to B-L-E-S-S his staff/board and that they would see these blessings as from his hand.

- B** - Body—health, protection, strength
- L** - Labor—work, income, security
- E** - Emotional—joy, peace, hope
- S** - Social—love, marriage, family, friends
- S** - Spiritual—Salvation, faith, grace

Do some prayer research on these topics and find some scriptures for each one, and read those scriptures out loud and pray them for the staff/board member. Also, download the Scripture Prayer Tools from the [www.ymcacommission.org](http://www.ymcacommission.org) website and use them.

## Care

As you pray and begin to ask for any particular prayer needs, you can also begin to care for staff/board members. How can you build a bridge with them? What act of kindness can you show while on the job? What little extra effort could you show, that would meet a need in their life? What does it mean for you to be a care initiator with others? Ask God and he will show you and give you creative ideas.

## Share

You can be 100% confident, that if you pray in this way and care for others, God will open doors. Remember, anytime someone brings up the topic of spiritual things or emotional needs in their life, you can be confident that God is at work and this may be one of His open doors to a persons heart.

Believers simply need to be able to share two things when God opens these doors. First, how they placed their trust in Christ and what difference it has made in their life. Second—a simple gospel explanation of what does it mean to ask Christ into a person's heart. If you need help in these two areas visit [www.ymcacommission.org](http://www.ymcacommission.org) for help and resources.

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# George Williams Prayer Initiative



[www.ymcacommission.org](http://www.ymcacommission.org)  
Lifting up the "C" in the YMCA



*“We met, our numbers grew, and the room was soon crammed. In answer to prayer, the Spirit of God was present, and we had conversion after conversion. Scores of employees and even the firm’s president, George Hitchcock, professed faith in Christ.”*



## The George Williams Initiative

The George Williams initiative is a call back to prayer—specifically praying for staff and board members by name at least one time a month, beginning on the first Monday of the month.

### How to get started

Find one or two others who will meet with you for at least 15 minutes on the first Monday of every month to pray for staff and board members by name. Register your prayer cell to be part of the nation-wide George Williams initiative at [www.ymcamission.org](http://www.ymcamission.org). Print off copies of this brochure and share with others to give them the vision.

### Commitment to First Mondays

There are several ways you can approach this initiative. At a minimum, it is our desire to set aside the first Monday of every month to pray for staff/board by name. We believe there will be spiritual power and encouragement when YMCAs across the country are interceding on the same day in this way. God may lead and guide you to pray more frequently than that or to other prayer ideas that you might carry on throughout the month.

### What to do

- There are several ways to approach praying for staff/board by name. The emphasis to each of these approaches is to speak the persons name out loud so that we are praying for them in a specific, personalized way. Not “Lord, please bless our staff”, but “Oh Lord, here are the staff we bring before you by name....”
- Read out loud the list of names—This is simple and the least time consuming approach. Say Lord, here is our staff/board—read names—you know their needs today and we pray....(see back panel for ideas)
  - Pray for groups of names—Pray for groups of staff who have similar responsibilities and challenges. Again read out the names in that group and then pray for the needs that those staff/board members face.
  - Pray for individual staff needs—This can be an informal process at first, praying for special needs you are aware of as they become known to the YMCA staff family. However, as God leads, you can let staff know a team is praying for them once a month by name, and if they have a particular prayer need to let you know.

If you have a prayer team, you can break into 3 teams of two people and each team can pray for 10-15 staff. Using this approach, you can pray for everyone and still be able to finish praying in 30 minutes if you have time constraints. Remember, you need to treat all prayer requests confidentially, that you know are private, and your team needs to be mature enough to know and understand this as well.

## A Story of Personal Prayer

In 1841, George Williams arrived in London to work as a fabric manufacturer at the firm of Hitchcock and Rogers. Having recently begun to grow in his relationship with God, he was concerned about the spiritual condition of the 140 workers at his company. What he saw did not look good according to this journal entry.

*“I found no means of spiritual interest of any kind.”*

He then quickly thought to himself

*“What can I do for these young men?” And he began to pray.*

Shortly thereafter, he discovered that a fellow worker was an active Christian. They began to discuss something that God had put on George’s heart to help introduce the other staff to a relationship with God in Jesus Christ.

### Praying for Staff by Name

Their plan was simple. They prayed by name for each of their fellow employees and confidently expected them to become Christians.

Williams soon made this matter-of-fact entry in his diary:



An observer of the spiritual activity at Hitchcock and Rogers commented that when Williams came to the firm in 1841, it was almost impossible for a young man there to be a Christian. By contrast, three years later, it was almost impossible to be anything else!

## A Spiritual Movement is Born

Others became aware of the spiritual fervor at the fabric company and wondered why something like this should not be tried in other firms. In 1844, 12 men met in a small room and an organization was formed that would impact the world. The YMCA..

The YMCA as it initially grew, was a workplace prayer and outreach ministry that lovingly shared the message of Christ. It spread to several countries around the world and did not even have a building until 15 years after it’s initial founding- and this was to house a library and allow for Christian education.

