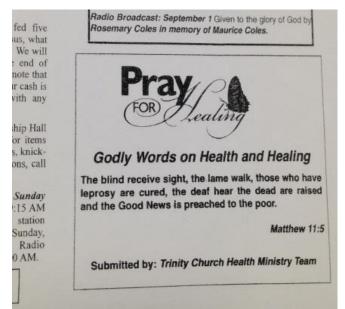


Godly Words on Health and Healing: An Overview of Intent and Use

Dr. Mike Augustson
Director of Congregational Partnerships
Church Health Services

- 1. Godly Words on Health and Healing are excerpts of our holy scriptures that contain a health and/or healing message. For an example of how one church uses Godly Words on Health and Healing, see next page.
- 2. Godly Words are intended to appear before a congregation frequently. The best format may be in a church's weekly bulletin. Other formats to consider using include a church's newsletter or various forms of electronic communications such as a church's website.
- By reminding a congregation the emphasis our holy scriptures place on health and healing, it may help a congregation better understand they too are to place an emphasis on health and healing.
- 4. Godly Words also allow the power of God's word to work in a congregation or a person. There is power in the Word alone!
- 5. People worshipping at churches who use Godly Words have been known to cut them out of the bulletin and place on their refrigerator.
- 6. In order to draw attention to God Words, consider placing the content in a box ad. Consider using the bottom part of the box ad to highlight the health ministry team of your church. For example consider use of the text Submitted by the Health Ministry Leader Team of St. Mary's, St. Andrew's, and St. Theresa's.
- 7. One verse passages are ideal. The idea of Godly Words is that they be brief pieces that can be quickly picked up as a person scans the document Godly Words are contained in. In this situation, less is more. There may be times however when for the purposes of better communication, Godly Words may need to be extend to two or three verses.

- 8. Use of the particular bible translation accepted or used most by a congregation or denomination is suggested.
- 9. Select passages that:
 - a. Directly or indirectly communicate a health (i.e. maintaining what is well) and healing (i.e. restoring what is broken) message.
 - b. Are comforting to those who are hurting, suffering, or struggling.
 It may be best to avoid those passages that come across harshly.
 - c. Highlight the healing activity of Christ, his disciples, or accounts of other people of God as contained in our Holy Scriptures
 - d. Are from the Old and New Testament



- e. Remind of us of our call to care for the poor, oppressed, and vulnerable.
- 10. Decide on a process by which various verses will be selected as well as the means by which they will be published.