

# HEALTHCARE SUNDAY

20<sup>th</sup> October 2024 @16h00-17h30

**“LET JESUS LEAD THE WAY”**



The Christian Healthcare Alliance (**CHA**) and its partners invite you to join our hybrid (in-person and online meeting) National Prayer Initiative, **20 October 2024 @16h00-17h30**. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3011943243?pwd=LFrun4EuW1pNhozveWxOwinMKItf1M.1&omn=85373688608> Meeting ID: 301 194 3243 Passcode: 677634

**Broadcast from:**

**The Healthcare Christian Fellowship International**

**Hebron Chapel,**

**6 Busschau Road, Fairleads, Benoni.**

**You can also follow the broadcast on our social pages.**

## WHAT IS HEALTHCARE SUNDAY?

This is a day when Christian communities celebrate, support and pray for the healthcare workers in their midst. Christian churches around the world celebrate St Luke's Day or Healthcare Sunday on the third Sunday of October.

### How to get involved?

- Take time to read the short devotional in this brochure
- Pray for the items listed in this brochure
- Dedicate the morning church service or part thereof to Healthcare Sunday
- Reach out to healthcare workers in your community and invite them to your Healthcare Sunday service
- Craft sermons to include a health and healthcare related theme
- Provide space for testimonies from healthcare workers about their work and calling
- Create special prayers for healthcare workers
- Create special prayers for the sick and infirm Invite a healthcare worker to share about their prayer needs and challenges in the work environment
- Join us in the afternoon for the Hybrid National Prayer Initiative as listed above

## A DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

### Dear Friends and Colleagues

One would ask, "why do we need a day to specifically focus on healthcare?"

It is not a secret that our healthcare system in South Africa is ailing and riddled with enormous multi-faceted challenges, both in the public and private sector. The many painful healthcare challenges experienced are often well expressed over social media, other commentaries and even through personal experiences. Many health workers and end users of the system are often disillusioned, demotivated, discouraged and overwhelmed by the state of healthcare in our country.

When the human body experiences great stress, that is mentally or physically terrifying, it goes into what is called the "acute stress response" - this is often known as the "fight or flight response". This response is triggered by a release of hormones whose aim is to prepare the body to either run away in search for safety or to stay, fight and deal with the threat. In difficult times like these one tends to be pushed into this form of "fight" or "flight" response. The common and natural human response to these highly stressful and challenging circumstances is often towards self-preservation and personal "safety". Despite the great challenges in our health system, there are many healthcare workers in our country who continue, in a very committed way, to show up daily and serve others sometimes at their own expense. It is, therefore, proper to acknowledge these selfless men and women and honour them as we celebrate healthcare Sunday.

The word of God in 2 Chronicles chapter 7 reminds us of how Solomon **PRAYED**, then "fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and **the GLORY of the Lord FILLED the temple**". Later in this chapter, we are told that the **Lord APPEARED** to Solomon and said, "I have **HEARD** your prayer and have **CHOSEN THIS PLACE FOR MYSELF** as a temple for sacrifices". Then the Lord reminds him that when they enter a difficult season where there is no rain from the heavens, locusts are devouring the land or people are being consumed by a plague, they must remember the following:

1. That we are **HIS** people who are **CALLED** by Him
2. We must act in **HUMILITY** despite the deep emotional drive not to
3. We need to **PRAY** over the difficult situations
4. We need to **SEEK** His face to find the solution to get out of the valley
5. We need to **TURN** from our wicked ways

Then He will **HEAR** from heaven, **FORGIVE** our sin and **HEAL** our land. In other words, we are challenged during stormy seasons, such as the one that our country's health care system is currently going through.

Our response as followers of Jesus Christ perhaps needs to be one of making an **INTENTIONAL DECISION** to **STAY, STAND** in the gap, and **FIGHT** so the Lord can heal our beloved land, rather than yielding to the temptation of flying away in pursuit of self-preservation and personal "safety!" The Lord Jesus is not just the hope for our ailing healthcare system, He is our **ONLY** hope! When one is diagnosed with a terrifying, storm-inducing condition that requires surgical intervention, one often consults a surgeon so that the cause of this pain, distress and turmoil can be skillfully removed so that restoration can happen.

The surgeon must be **CALLED** to intervene, and full consent given to them to proceed. The only way for a surgeon to work is if their patient is completely anaesthetised and "fully under". This speaks to complete surrender. Surrendering to the great surgeon does not necessarily mean fully understanding the pathophysiology of the disease process, nor mastering the intricacies of the surgical procedure itself and process of healing, but it does mean fully trusting in the capabilities of the surgeon and that his or her intentions regarding oneself are intentionally good. If there is, indeed, one thing that our country needs, in this season, it is the divine intervention of the great surgeon our Lord Jesus Christ in removing the weight that so heavily entangles and cripples our healthcare system.



As we prayerfully ponder on the state of our healthcare system and its challenges:  
Let us stand firm on the Lord our Shepherd's reminder to be strong, courageous, unafraid and not be discouraged, for He is with us, will be with us, will not give up on us and will never forsake us (**Josh1:9**).

May we not forget that indeed the Lord is good, and His love endures forever (Psalms 100: vs 5).  
May we be reminded that the battle against the many Goliaths surrounding us, belongs to the Lord (**1 Samuel 17:47**).

May we come together as a nation and fully surrender ourselves, our healthcare and training institutions and our country and may we come together as a nation and fully surrender ourselves, our healthcare and training institutions and our country and continent to the Lord Jesus Christ and trust

in Him with all our hearts and lean not on our own understandings regarding how “impossible” things may seem. May we acknowledge Him in all our ways, in all we think, say and do, as He directs our paths (**Proverbs 3**).

May we not be distracted by the raging storms around us but **STAND STRONG** in the **GRACE** that is IN Christ Jesus. Like good soldiers, may we not find ourselves entangled in “civilian affairs” and ungodly chatter but rather **FOCUS** on **FIGHTING** the battle as **CALLED** and **DEPLOYED** by our commanding officer (**2 Timothy 2:1-4**).

As we thoughtfully celebrate Healthcare Sunday, may we **INTENTIONALLY INVITE Him to LEAD us**, as the great Physician and Surgeon, in removing the cancerous cause(s) of our ailing Healthcare system. Let us invite Him to speak to each one of us on where our **POSITIONS** must be so that we can **INDEED GO** and efficiently **REBUILD the broken walls of our BELOVED Jerusalem**.

## **IN JESUS NAME!! IN JESUS' WAY!!**

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### **PRAYER AND PRAISE ITEMS**

#### **PRAISE ITEMS**

- Praise God for national and provincial health leaders and managers who want to see prayer rooms or chapels in every health facility.
- Healthcare facilities are still open despite challenges of human, financial and material resources.
- Healthcare management and workers who are still dedicated and provide compassionate care despite difficult circumstances and especially for those who encourage a spiritual component in health.
- Praise God for Christian organisations working with the local church in health facilities.

#### **PRAYER ITEMS**

- The Lord Jesus to have His rightful place in healthcare and through his power the spirits of darkness will not be prevalent in healthcare.
- Government of National Unity, especially the Ministers and Deputy Ministers to have conviction and boldness to do what is right for healthcare.
- All managers in healthcare facilities to have courage to address the shortage of human, material and financial resources.
- Healthcare managers to be good examples to their staff, and for fellow Christian workers amongst them to emerge as God-fearing individuals.
- That God will grant healthcare workers wisdom to share their faith wisely and appropriately in their workplace.
- Pray that available strategies will be utilised by the church to support Healthcare e.g. adopt a hospital. Alliance partners can be contacted for more information on this.
- Institutionalisation of training of healthcare professionals to include spiritual care and not only focus on the biopsychosocial approach.

**THIS PAMPHLET WAS CREATED BY THE CHRISTIAN HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE (CHA)**

**Christian Healthcare Alliance**

Chairman Dr Keith Michael Tel: +27824327517

Email: [drkeithmichael@gmail.com](mailto:drkeithmichael@gmail.com)

**Healthcare Christian Fellowship**

Ms. Thembi Mngomezulu Tel.: +27 011 7451695

email: [hcf@lantic.net](mailto:hcf@lantic.net)

**TEASA Health Commission**

Convener: Prof Risenga Chauke Tel.+27 83 829 5686

Projects: Mrs Nombuso Ramokgopa Tel. +27837492013

**The Exceptional Nurse Campaign Director**

Sr Teresa Basson

Tel.: 021 712 1218 (w) +27 82 825 6252

Email: [tere@theexceptionalnurse.co.za](mailto:tere@theexceptionalnurse.co.za)

**Christian Medical Fellowship**

Dr Mfanelo Sobekwa Tel.: +27 84 242 0263

Email: [office@cmf.org](mailto:office@cmf.org)

**Community Health Evangelism**

Mr Kevin Pippert Tel.: +27 76 053 3174

Email: [kevin@360.org.za](mailto:kevin@360.org.za)

**Matters of the Soul**

Christian Psychology Ministry Erich Schoeman

Tel: +27 72541 6689

Email: [erich@mattersofthesoul.org](mailto:erich@mattersofthesoul.org)

**Hospivision**

CEO: Dr Annemarie Oberholzer

Tel: +27 82 562 5912 or 012 329 9492

Email: [annemarie@hospivision.org.za](mailto:annemarie@hospivision.org.za)

**Radio Pulpit**

Kedibone Rayner

Email: [kedibone@radiokansel.co.za](mailto:kedibone@radiokansel.co.za)



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Limited space is available for pastors, Christian healthcare workers and organizations based in and around Gauteng wishing to attend the in-person event.

For those unable to travel to the venue, you are encouraged to host prayer hubs in your workplace such as a health facility, college/university, churches/community centres or homes from where you can follow the online program. Online participants can join the live stream via TEASA social media account, Radio Pulpit, and media pages of our partners.

For details and booking please contact: **Thembi Mngomezulu** 082 772 5417 (CHA) or **Nombuso Ramokgopa** 083 749 2013 (TEASA)