Prayer requests in an English cathedral, and a new analytic framework for intercessory prayer.


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Abstract
A small but growing body of international research has begun to explore the rich resource of intercessory prayers posted on the prayer boards in churches, cathedrals and hospital chapels for illuminating the religious and spiritual quests of ordinary men, women, and young people whose sense of the transcendence has been enriched by these buildings. However, the integration of findings from these international studies has been frustrated by the absence of a recognised analytic framework through which the data have been analysed or by the means of which rigorous replication studies could be presented. It is within this context and in response to these issues that the ap Siôn Analytic Framework for intercessory Prayer (apSAFIP) was developed and tested.

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Some religions claim that praying for somebody who is sick can have positive effects on the health of the person being prayed for. Meta-studies of the literature in the field have been performed showing evidence only for no effect or a potentially small effect. For instance, a 2006 meta analysis on 14 studies concluded that there is "no discernible effect" while a 2007 systemic review of intercessory prayer reported inconclusive results, noting that 7 of 17 studies had "small, but significant, effect When we pray we become conscious of the reality of unseen things until they completely outweigh in importance worldly affairs, and then it becomes possible to us, and even natural to us, to live as "strangers and pilgrims." The connection with what precedes is tolerably clear. I. THE VARIETY OF PRAYER is indicated by the use of these differing phrases, " supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks." We may think of these phrases separately in order to get a clearer notion of the meaning of each; but one shades off into another; and you can no more exactly define each than you can say of the colours of a sea at sunset, "the blue begins just here, and the glow of crimson and the sheen of the gold just there." Intercessory prayer is not just for monks, but is a necessary component for every Orthodox Christian, for it is a wonderful way of remembering we are all connected together as the children of the Most High. Our Orthodox faith teaches that Jesus, in praying to his Father, prayed for his people. Jesus Christ is the only intercessor for mankind before God, for in His resurrected glory, He prays eternally to His Father on behalf of all. 13 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. 14 And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.