

A few years ago I took a class at Gateway International Bible Institute where Cheryl Saks of Bridgebuilders was teaching on prayer shields. Almost immediately after attending this class I was called to start pastor prayer shields at my church. I used what she teaches and trains on to model the prayer shields and they were a great success! Here is a list of different types of intercessors, this was part of the information Cheryl Saks used in her class. I found it to be of great benefit and hope you will as well.

Types of Intercessors

Personal Intercessors: Often the Lord will place a particular person on the intercessor's heart on a regular basis. This is likely the Lord's call to adopt the person in intercession. Mordecai is a biblical example of a personal intercessor as he went before the Lord on Queen Esther's behalf.

Mercy Intercessors: They seem to start crying every time they begin to pray. Like Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, they feel the heart of God for a person or situation. Their tears are as prayers. When we don't understand mercy intercessors, we may try to comfort them or shut down their emotional expressions. At such times in our attempts to quiet them, we may quench the Spirit's call to weep over the sins of our nation or some other issues upon the Father's heart. Even Jesus wept over Jerusalem and its spiritual fallen condition.

Crisis Intercessors: They love to pray in a crisis. It's not unusual for them to be awakened by an S.O.S. from God at 3 in the morning. Author Beth Alves calls crisis intercessors "the paramedics of prayer." You're most likely a crisis intercessor if every time you pass by an auto accident, you start praying for the people in the accident, the ambulance drivers, the doctors in the emergency room and the family of those in the accident.

List Intercessors: They function from structure and usually pray from an endless list. Their spiritual gift may be administration (1 Corinthians 12:28). They can pray over the entire church's prayer requests -- every health concern, financial crisis, and need for protection -- lifting each one individually and in detail. These are the intercessors to which you want to give the pastor's schedule when he goes on a trip.

Financial Intercessors: They have faith for large sums of money -- usually for other people. They may have little money themselves but can trust God for great blessing to be released into the kingdom. They may have the gift of faith (1 Cor. 12:9). These are the people you want to have pray over the offering or for finances to complete projects such as purchasing new buildings and property.

Global Intercessors: They pray for nations and people groups. They may have a burden to pray for missionaries across the world and for international organizations. Dick Eastman, president of Every Home for Christ, prays for nation by name every day.

Worship Intercessors: They often sing their prayers. Worship intercessors may want to sing continually in the prayer room. Other intercessors may be thinking "What's wrong with this person? We're here to pray."

Salvation Intercessors: Most Christians will intercede for the lost from time to time -- even regularly. However, some Christians pray much more and with unusual fervency for those who do not know Christ. In such cases, the person's prayer life may be fueled by their calling as an evangelist (Eph. 4:11).

Government Intercessors: Some people feel strongly led to ask the Lord to intervene in different kinds of government: church government, city and national government, court decisions and laws. They ask God to change nations. They also are informed. They know the names of government officials and what bills are coming up to be voted on.

I have found myself to be a crisis intercessor and have often been awakened by the Lord to pray for the Navy, military or schools and churches only to find out there were shootings or other mishaps and crisis that had some sort of shift in the story where it did not end as badly as it should have and I have come to believe that is because God awakes His crisis intercessors! It is very helpful to find out where you tend to be led in prayer and once you know this then ask the Father to increase your intercessory heart in that area. You will not only be blessed but you will bless the LORD.