

Why Pray?

Spiritual Warfare

Missionaries face direct conflict with the enemy (Eph 6:12) and unbelievers whose minds are captive unless God frees them (2 Cor 4:4).

Frustration in Ministry

Cultural differences can interfere with accomplishing goals and lead to unresponsiveness to the Gospel. In addition to this, differences in language, climate, customs, and food can produce feelings of anxiety and frustration.

Loneliness

Being alone in another culture can cause loneliness and self pity which can lead to depression.

Relational Unity

One challenge facing missionaries returning from the field is renewing relationships with family members and co-workers. For this reason, we should pray for their relationships.

Impact

Prayer support is essential for the impact and spread of the Gospel to people groups worldwide.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

*"...all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."
Gen 12:3*



Praying for Missionaries

*Making a Difference
in the World*



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How to Pray

Spiritual growth and impact

- That a *busy schedule* will not crowd out the missionary's devotion to Bible reading and prayer.
- That the missionary will remain *obedient* to God and will continue to trust in Him.
- That the missionary will have *sensitivity* to God's leading.
- Need for stability, wisdom, compassion, self-discipline, boldness, power, love, and to be *filled with the Spirit* of God.

Unity

- In *family* relationships.
- In interpersonal relationships with *co-workers*.
- In relationships with the people being ministered to and the *leaders* of the country.
- In relationships with the *national Christians* and the leaders of the local churches.
- In dealing with one's own (and others') *prejudices, selfishness, etc.*
- In relationship to *supporters*, learning to depend on the faithfulness of others to meet one's financial needs.

Practical issues

- *Adjusting* to a new language, different foods, new customs and a different climate.
- *Protection* in travel, good health, freedom from accidents and other dangerous situations.
- *Parents' concerns* for their children's health, schooling and friendships.
- *Housing* accommodations, lack of privacy, differences in living standards, lack of accustomed conveniences.
- Loneliness, homesickness, lack of accustomed *fellowship* with others.
- That friends and family members not on the field will remain safe and not cause the missionary to leave the field.

Get Involved in Prayer

Make personal contact

- Carefully read newsletters for personal requests.
- Let your missionary know you are praying.
- Share your prayer needs with the missionaries.

Join others

- Join *World Changers*, a group of missions-minded believers who meet once a month to hear reports from missionaries and pray for various ministries around the world. For information on the date and location, contact the *Global Ministries* office, 330.315.5470.
- Hold prayer meetings with your ABF to pray for your missionary's needs.
- Watch the bulletin for announcements of additional prayer meetings—"catch the vision for the world."

Encourage others to pray

- Bring a friend to *World Changers* or ABF prayer meeting.
- Be accountable to someone for praying.
- Become the Missionary Representative in your ABF or offer that person your assistance.
- Pass out prayer cards in your ABF, asking others to display it on their refrigerator or dashboard and pray on a daily basis.
- Have sign-ups and have individuals or couples commit to pray on a certain day or time of the week. Once all the areas are covered, send the sheet to your missionaries so they know that people are ALWAYS praying for them.
- E-mail missionaries for current prayer requests and praises. Pass them on to others who are praying. Also send your class needs and concerns to the missionaries so they can pray for your needs as well.

Praying through Scripture

For entrance of the Gospel

- Openness and receptivity to the truth of the Gospel. (Col 4:3)
- Freedom from spiritual blindness. (2 Cor 4:4)

Spiritual warfare

- Resist the devil. (James 4:7)
- Bind the Strong Man. (Matt 18:18; Mark 3:27)
- Develop resilience. (1 Cor 15:57-58)
- Inhibit his activity among men. (1 John 3:8)

Consider Paul's prayer in Colossians 1

When Paul prayed, he petitioned:

- that we would discern God's will.
- that we might be filled with a knowledge of his will so we could possess true spiritual insight.
- that our behavior (life) would please the Lord.
- that we would exercise long-suffering.

If we pray these prayers for our missionaries, our prayers will be answered and our own prayer life improved.

