

ENCOURAGING PRAYER FOR MISSIONS

Theme: Prayer

Devote yourself to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly as I should.

Colossians 4:2-4

The Apostle Paul knew how much his ministry depended on the prayer of others. He actively enlisted the prayer support of as many people as possible, confident that unless God worked, his labors were in vain. His friends knew they were a meaningful and vital part of his ministry through their prayers. In the same way, our church members can “do the work of missions” without even leaving their home, by praying on behalf of missionaries.

The following suggestions for encouraging prayer will help your members become active participants in world missions:

1. Model prayer. Others will see and follow your example of praying for missions as part of your regular life.
2. Create a prayer book or pamphlet listing all the missionaries your church supports. Include basic information about them and their ministry and general prayer goals. As you produce this material, be mindful of any security guidelines for missionaries serving in sensitive contexts.
3. Encourage regular prayer for missions and missionaries in the worship service. Provide worship leaders with information on the missionary and prayer requests.
4. Plan a church-wide prayer emphasis. These could include a month or a week of praying through a prepared guide, an all-night prayer meeting, or a 24-hour prayer time with members signing up for a 30 to 60 minute commitment.
5. Schedule special times of congregational prayer.
6. Participate in the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. More information on this worldwide event can be found at www.idop.org.
7. Encourage existing groups to include prayer for missions. Such groups include Sunday school classes, men’s and women’s ministries, youth groups, and home Bible studies.
8. Teach people how to pray for missionaries. The topics on the following page will help people expand their prayers. Feel free to copy and distribute them.

PRAYING FOR MISSIONARIES

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.

- 2 Thessalonians 1:11

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

- Matthew 9:37,38

☀ **RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

Delight in God's Word
Walk in repentance, faith, and obedience
Protection from flesh, world, and devil
Holy Spirit renewal
Greater dependence upon God in prayer

☀ **FAMILY**

Husband and wife relationship
Parents and children relationships
Children's growth in grace
Contentment in singleness

☀ **TEAM RELATIONSHIPS**

Fellowship with other missionaries
Relationship with leaders
Humility and submission to one another
Spirit of peace and unity
Patience
Understanding in differences
God to raise up laborers

☀ **CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING**

Language learning
Cross-cultural insight

☀ **NATIONAL PARTNERS**

Growth of national church
Development of leaders
Relationship of church to community
Safety and protection

☀ **RELATIONSHIPS WITH NON-BELIEVERS**

Depth of relationships
Boldness in evangelism
Words of truth and love

☀ **PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL NEEDS**

Safety in travel
Protection against illness
Financial support

☀ **DAILY MINISTRY**

Heart of love for all people
God-given insight into other's needs
Wisdom and discernment
Open doors for discipleship

☀ **COUNTRY OF SERVICE**

Political stability
Currency exchange rate