How To Pray For Missionaries

Examples of passages where Paul solicits prayers from his friends and supporters to join him in his work:

Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me,… Romans 15:30

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. Colossians 4:2-4

Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you; and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith.
2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

…and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake. Philemon 6

We are encouraged to let our missionaries know we are praying for them:

- They would know the hope to which God has called them, the riches of His glorious inheritance, and His incomparably great power.
- God may strengthen them with power through His Spirit in their inner being.
- They would grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.
- They would know God's love that surpasses knowledge.
- They would fall deeper in love with Jesus, the lover of their soul.
- They would be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.
- They would be filled with the knowledge of God's will through all wisdom and understanding.
- Their love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that they may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless.
- They would be filled with the fruit of righteousness.
- By His power He may fulfill every good purpose and every act prompted by their faith.
- They would keep their eyes on Jesus and not their circumstances.

Pray for the specific issues they face by getting to know them.

Missionary prayer groups are encouraged.

- Must be diligent and disciplined to do the spiritual work to which they are called.

How To Pray For Missionaries – Suggested Topics

Relationship with God

- The missionary would continue to grow in their own relationship with God; Growing in love, faith and knowledge, becoming conformed to the image of His Son.
- They would experience His joy and peace, and that the fruit of the Spirit would be manifested in their lives.
- For sensitivity towards the Spirit's leading.
- Pray for perseverance when times are discouraging, and that they would not grow weary in doing good.
- They would stand firm against temptation and not compromise their moral integrity.
- For confidence in their call and that God would protect their hearts from envy towards those with a different call.
- They would not neglect their own prayer life or neglect time in scripture.
- For their spiritual refreshment and nourishment. (Some missionaries serve where there is limited or no opportunity to experience corporate worship and they may not have the benefit of pastors and teachers building into their lives.)

Relationship with Others

- Strong marriages and close friends.
- Their spouses and children, and that each member of their family would prosper. (Many missionary families have to leave the field sooner than they had expected because a child was not prospering.)
- For love and unity among teammates. (Conflict among team members is sometimes a great source of stress and ca be the cause for a missionary to return home prematurely.)
- For the missionary's relationship with those in authority over them in their work.
- For their relationship with national workers and church authorities.
- For their relationships with extended family and supporters, whom they may not see for years at a time.
- For God to give them a love for the local people and that the barriers of language and culture would be overcome.
- For an attitude of forgiveness. (opportunities to be offended and wronged abound on the mission field.)
- That love would rule all their relationships.

Specific Work

- For opportunities for the gospel to be presented and that God would lead them to those hearts He has been preparing.
- For people to come to Christ and grow in their faith.
- For God's church to be established.
- For the church plant to be a faithful witness to the community.
- For godly leaders to be raised up to serve.
- For men and women who will be faithful to take on the responsibility of teaching and discipling others.
- That God would give them words they need when they have opportunities to speak.
- The missionary be diligent about fulfilling their specific responsibilities.
- They would not depend on their own abilities but that they would depend on the power of God at work in them.
- For national helpers to come along beside them and help with the work.

- For new missionary teammates and for additional teams to join them in the broader work.

Wisdom

- For God to give them the wisdom they need (missionaries face very challenging situations, sometimes with little structure to guide them).
    - James 1:5 gives us confidence that God will hear and answer this prayer. *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."*
- Wisdom on how to partner with locals and how to entrust work to nationals.
- Wisdom for what strategies to pursue.
- Wisdom on how to use their time, what tasks to take on and when to say no.
- Wisdom on how to encourage and challenge disciples, and how to equip them for service.
- Wisdom on how to interact with governing authorities.
- Wisdom on how to live so that their reputation is not undermined among those to whom they minister, their ministry partners, and among those who send them.
- Wisdom in dealing with conflict of any kind.
- Wisdom on how to be a blessing without fostering dependency among those they serve.
- Wisdom for those in closed countries on how to represent themselves and how to conduct themselves and their work so as not to endanger themselves or others.

Practical Issues

- For spiritual protection for the forces of evil and from evil men.
- For Protection from disease. (Some live in areas where protection from disease and sickness is a very real issue.)
- For physical protection from religious and political enemies. Pray for changed hearts for those who oppose them.
- For favor from governing authorities.
- For language acquisition and the ability to communicate well in an unfamiliar language. (Their ability with a language can affect how people perceive them.)
    - Pray for ears to hear and tongues to speak unfamiliar sounds. Pray that missionaries who are in language study would invest the time needed to learn the language well and be free of distractions.
- For friends, but also pray for the ability to cope with loneliness.
- For the ability to figure out how to adapt and "do" life effectively on the field. (In some places in the world, the actual work of family life can just be hard and take more time than they are used to in the west.)
- For trusted national friends who can help navigate unfamiliar cultural practices. (Living in another culture can be challenging, bewildering and emotionally draining.)
- For faithful financial supporters. (Failing financial support is a stressful burden for missionaries to bear.)
- For new supporters who share their vision and would welcome becoming a part of their support team.

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