

Pray For Their Pressures, Discouragement, Loneliness And Fears: They are in the thick of the spiritual battle. They face emotional struggles with little or no help. Many times when missionaries have problems, they feel they can't share them with anyone. The devil can really use this fear to cause them to hold everything inside until they react wrongly or quit.

Pray for Godly Wisdom For Them: James 1:5 says, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." Certainly they need this to raise a godly family and do a work for the Lord.

Pray For Their Relationship With The Government Of The Country: Passports, visas, taxes, educating their children, etc. are real problems for missionaries as they deal with government officials.

Pray The Lord Will Give Them Broken Hearts For The People: "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy," Psalms 126:5.

Pray For Their Ministry And Converts: Pray the Lord will give open doors and hearts to be receptive to the Gospel. As people are reached with the Gospel, pray that the converts will become strong in the Lord, as well as the ministries and churches that are established.

Pray For The Power Of God On Them: It is easy to labor in the flesh, depending on one's own strength, wisdom and ability to accomplish a ministry, but how fruitless this would be. Only missionaries with God's power will see souls saved and a ministry that will stand the test of time.

Pray-Pray-Pray the missionaries will be continually filled with the power of The Holy Spirit. "When they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together: and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness...and with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all," Acts 4:31, 33.



Baptist Missions To Forgotten Peoples, Inc.
P.O. Box 37043, Jacksonville, FL 32236 Email: bmfp.org

How To Pray Effectively For YOUR Missionaries



Dr. Gene Burge
President
Baptist Missions
To Forgotten Peoples

The Apostle Paul says in II Cor. 1:11, "Ye also helping together by prayer for us..." You may ask "How can I effectively pray for missionaries?" People do all kinds of things to remind themselves to pray. For example, someone wrote the following using your fingers as a reminder of how to pray:

Thumb - Since your thumb is nearest to you, start by praying for the missionaries closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. C.S. Lewis said that praying for those we love is a 'sweet duty.'

Index or pointing finger - Let this finger remind you to pray for missionaries who teach, instruct, and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and evangelists. They need support and wisdom for pointing others in the right direction.

Middle finger - Our tallest finger reminds us of our church leaders. We can never pray too much for them. Pray for those who direct missionary outreach.

Ring finger - Surprisingly, the ring finger is our weakest finger (as any piano teacher will testify). This weak finger reminds us to pray for those missionaries who are discouraged, in trouble, or in pain.

Little finger - Our smallest finger is where we should place our individual wants and desires in relation to world evangelism. The Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for people of the world with the greatest need to find Jesus. Pray they open their eyes to see Him.

Here are some other suggestions from personal experience and observation, on "How To Pray For YOUR Missionaries."

1. Pray For A Missionary By Name. Get to know them and their family personally. Use their prayer card to make a family profile. Learn the names of the husband, wife and children. Write to them and ask for birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Read their prayer letters, make note of specific needs. Make a card on each family and pray for them.

2. Pray Regularly For Them. If you use a card system, you can pray for a missionary at mealtime, during your devotions, etc. The key is making it a part of your daily life. If the Lord puts special burdens on your heart, pray for them then and there.

3. Pray Specifically. Here are a few specifics to consider as you pray.

Pray For Their Family: They are invading the devil's territory and he will do everything he can to attack and destroy their family. Pray for their marital relationship; that their love will grow stronger towards each other. Pray for their children's spiritual growth, education, etc. Pray the Lord will use them as a family unit in His work.

Pray For The Single Missionary: They face a whole set of different problems on the field. They are alone and will constantly do battle against the flesh and the powers of darkness. Pray that they will not anguish over difficulties and opposition. Pray for their faith to be strong.

Pray For Their Finances: Money problems have always been one of the top reasons missionaries become discouraged and quit. The average missionary will lose a good deal of their needed support during a four year term on the field. Many go to the mission field with "just enough support to make it." So when churches drop their support, inflation hits, or currency devaluates, the devil will use these things to cause them great hardship. We should also pray for the churches that support our missionaries.

Pray For Their Cultural Adjustment: Culture shock is very real. Many missionaries have difficulty adjusting to new food, life style, value systems, and ways of doing things. To reach people in their own culture is a hard lesson for some missionaries to learn. Some react wrongly, encumbering their fellowship and witness for the Lord. Pray that the missionary family will be able to adjust in order to be happy and have an effective ministry.

Pray For Strength For Their Daily Tasks: Everyday living on the mission field can consume much of their time. Many missionaries have testified of their surprise at the amount of time it takes everyday just to do the daily routines of life in another country - even in a modern country. Multiply that frustration many times over with life in a third world country. Think of everyday frustrations like open markets, daily shopping, long lines in small, under stocked stores, lack of cars or appliances, problems with cooking, banking, mail, lack of electricity, no air conditioning or hot water, etc.

Pray For Their Ability To Learn The Language: Missionaries must not only adapt culturally, they must be able to share the love of Christ with the people they are seeking to reach. Communicating the Gospel is the reason they are on the mission field. If they are going to reach people, they must learn the language. Learning the language is the key to everything the missionary does. Languages are complicated to learn and only a superficial knowledge makes it very difficult to communicate the Gospel message.

Pray For Their Health: One of the main reasons missionaries leave the field is health issues. Many missionaries live and work in harsh climates where various diseases are wide-spread, and often little or no medical help is available. Frequently, they must leave that country to get good medical help.

Pray For Their Spiritual Growth And Walk With The Lord: They need to feed on God's Word, have a strong prayer life, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and grow in grace in order to have an effective life and ministry.