

Seven Ways to Pray for Missionaries

1—Pray for open doors.

"Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains." Colossians 4:2-3 (NKJV)

Open doors can't be taken for granted. Many missionaries work in restricted access countries, or areas which are resistant to the Gospel. And even where there are open doors, hearts may still not be open.

- Pray that God will lead missionaries through the barriers to find hearts prepared to receive His Word.
- Pray that the Lord will open doors of ministry, blessing, partnership and friendships.
- Pray that those who serve will be led by the Holy Spirit and recognize these opportunities.

2—Pray for boldness in witnessing.

[Pray] "for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel." Ephesians 6:19 (NKJV)

Why should we pray that missionaries will have boldness? They need it to:

- Minister effectively in other cultures and languages.
- Overcome the opposition of evil forces.
- Overcome the fear of embarrassment and fear of failure.

3—Pray that the Word of God will spread without hindrance.

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you." 2 Thessalonians 3:1 (NKJV)

Obstacles must be removed if the Word of God is to flow freely. Satan, who is determined to obstruct it, must be resisted (James 4:7). Just as Aaron and Hur supported Moses' arms in the battle against the Amalekites (Exodus 17:12), you can support the weary arms of missionaries through your prayers. Remember that the struggle is against spiritual forces which can attack in any area (Ephesians 6:10-18).

4—Pray for protection.

[Pray] "that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith." 2 Thessalonians 3:2 (NKJV)

- Pray that God will keep the Christian workers safe from those who might seek to harm them.
- Pray that God will change the hearts of those who are resistant to His Word and those who share the gospel.

5—Pray that their ministry will be accepted by believers.

[Pray] "that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints." Romans 15:31 (NKJV)

Cooperation and partnership are essential to ministry and vital to the progress of the work. Pray that the missionary's ministry and attitudes will be worthy of acceptance and that fellow colleagues and believers will be supportive.

6—Pray for God's guidance and assistance in travel.

[Pray] "that I may come to you with joy by the will of God." Romans 15:32 (NKJV)

Many missionaries travel frequently and the mode of transportation varies. Traveling often involves stressful situations. Pray for the protection, provision, timing, and permission needed by missionaries as they travel.

7—Pray for refreshment.

[Pray] "that I may be refreshed together with you." Romans 15:32 (NKJV)

- Pray that missionaries will seek and receive refreshment from the Holy Spirit.
- Pray that they will be disciplined in and rewarded through the study of God's Word and through faithful prayer.
- Pray that they will experience rich, spiritual fellowship with other believers.

Adapted from www.wycliffe.org.