

A GUIDE FOR PRAYER PARTNERS: FOCUSING ON YOUR VOLUNTEER TEAM MEMBER
(TO BE COPIED AND GIVEN TO PRAYER PARTNERS)

Why do mission workers need so much prayer?

Did you know that more Christians have been persecuted in this century than all centuries combined? No doubt the enemy of darkness is not pleased with the present mission effort to get the gospel to every tongue, people and tribe. The light and hope that Jesus is bringing to hundreds of thousands for the first time is unprecedented.

The apostle Paul, a man of deep prayer, begged believers to pray for him. He pleaded with the church, "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" (Rom. 15:30, NASB). Like Paul, every mission worker needs prayer for their personal needs, for spiritual wisdom and power, for their family and for the ministry to which they are called. The choice to serve, to go abroad, to leave family behind is not an easy one. They have chosen to go because the Lord has broken their hearts over the things that matter, and they are consumed by the desire to see the lost be found.

How can you pray effectively?

First of all, be committed to him or her as a person. Seek to interact with him or her, and find out some of his or her key prayer needs. Ask the person for details of his or her prayer needs. Get the itinerary and seek to get any updates throughout the trip (via e-mail or FAX). Write down specifics! Then, ask the Lord specifically how He wants you to pray for him or her. Perhaps He will lay it on your heart just to pray for one facet of their life or ministry. Let Him guide you. Remember, you are called to pray for the burden that God lays on your heart.

Take time to journal what the Lord impresses on you as he or she is on the journey. Upon your team member's returning, compare notes as to what the Lord was doing during your days of prayer. Also, just a reminder, don't forget to pray for your team member's family and loved ones at home while he or she is traveling.

As you look at the categories below, they serve only as a guide or tool that might help to spur you on. But, first ask the Lord to show you how to pray. If you choose to read through the Scriptures to supplement your prayer time, you can insert your team member's name in the passage as you pray for him or her.

PRAY FOR THEIR PERSONAL NEEDS

- True humility and stability—Proverbs 15:33; Colossians 3:12; 1 Peter 5:5; Ephesians 3:17; 6:14
- Relationships—Romans 14:19; Ephesians 4:3
- Joy—2 Corinthians 4:7-18, James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-9
- Health and safety in travel—2 Timothy 4:6-18
- Self-discipline—2 Timothy 2:3-9; 15

PRAY FOR FAMILY NEEDS

- Spouse—Ephesians 5:22-30
- Children (by name)—Ephesians 6:1-3, Colossians 3:21; Proverbs 22:6
- Pressures they may face as a family—2 Timothy 2:3-4; 1 Timothy 5:17-18

PRAY FOR SPIRITUAL NEEDS

- Spiritual freshness and maturity—Ephesians 4:15, 2 Corinthians 9:10-15
- Ability to walk in love and in the light—Ephesians 5:2, 2 Peter 1:7, 10
- Divine power and knowledge of Him—2 Peter 1:3; 8
- Prayer life—1 Thessalonians 1:2-5
- Integrity and accountability—Ephesians 4:25; 31-32; 2 Timothy 4:8-10
- Spiritual warfare—Acts 20:28-31; Ephesians 6:10-18

PRAY FOR MINISTRY NEEDS

- Field preparation—Isaiah 66:19
- Prayer and financial support—1 Thessalonians 5:25; Romans 15:30
- Fruitful relationships—Romans 14:19
- Servant ministry and encouragement—1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 3:13
- Strength and boldness to share the gospel—Philippians 1:27-30
- Perseverance in the midst of crisis—Philippians 1:6; 23-24
- Discernment—Proverbs 2
- Compassion, mercy and love towards those who are lost—Luke 19:41; Matthew 5:3-16

Compiled by Janet Moen, at The *JESUS* Film Project, San Clemente, CA , June 26, 1997.
Excerpts taken from Dr. Will Bruce, in OMF Int'l pamphlet entitled "Pastors Need Prayer Too"