

WHAT TO PRAY FOR AND HOW TO PRAY ON BEHALF OF MISSIONARIES

A missionary, when on furlough recently, found that he was asked many questions such as "How can I pray effectively?" and "What should I pray for?". In response to these inquiries he drew up an outline. Commenting on this he said, "I cannot think of any situation we met during our first term when we desperately needed prayer, that is not included in this list." Possibly many of you have asked the same questions, and we felt the list would be of great help and value to all those who pray for missionaries.

WHAT TO PRAY FOR

1. **FOR THE MISSIONARY'S HEALTH** - (Psalm 103:3; 67:2; 107:20; Deut 7:15; Isa. 53:5.) One of the most effective ways Satan has to cripple missionary work is to attack the bodies of missionaries and send them back home.
 - a. Recognize that it is not God's will that Satan strip missions fields of workers through sickness, and resist him (Ps 97:10)
 - b. Recognize that it is the will of God for His children to have health and strength to carry out His work. (Psalm 42:11; 43:5; Prov 4:22; Jer 33:6; John 10:10b; Romans 8:11b; 3 John 2.)
 - c. Plead the protection of Jesus' blood over the body of the missionary.
 - d. Exercise your God given authority to bind Satan and loose the child of God from his power. (Matt 18:18; Luke 9:1; 10:19; Mark 16:17-18).
 - e. Pray that God will quicken all these promises to the missionary himself.
2. **FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MIND OF THE MISSIONARY.** - The trying climate, the oppression of the enemy, the difficult circumstances, all work toward a nervous breakdown for the missionary.
 - a. Plead the protection of the Blood over the mind of the missionary.
 - b. Pray that the missionary may enter into the provision for him in Rev. 12:11.
 - c. Pray that the missionary may enter into His rest and peace (John 14:27; Heb 4:9)
 - d. Pray that the missionary may refuse to hear any accusation from Satan against a fellow believer. (Zech 7:10b; Ps 62:3a.) Satan may defeat a missionary by injecting suspicions against his fellow workers or the native Christians. This separates him from his brethren and from Gossip, and can be disastrous.
3. **FOR PROTECTION AGAINST SATAN'S ATTACKS ON THE MISSIONARY'S SPIRIT.** Intense powers of darkness make work difficult and slow, and it is easy for the missionary to give way to discouragement. This is fatal.
 - a. Pray for His encouragement and strength to be given to break the powers of darkness. (Ps 147:3; 27:14; 31:24; Deut 31:6; Joshua 1:6-9.)
 - b. Pray that the missionary may learn to resist Satan, take his place of authority over him, and refuse everything that comes from him (1 Peter 5:8-9; James 4:7; Luke 10:19.) The accuser of the brethren is always on hand to accuse them of being a failure, or out of the will of God.
4. **FOR THE LOVE OF GOD TO FILL THE HEART OF THE MISSIONARY** (Rom 5:5) Missionaries live in abnormal and difficult situations, and the natural love in the human heart will not stand the test. Without the love of Christ filling

the heart, the difficult situations faced will bring about hardness, impatience, sharpness of speech, anger, and sometimes even bitterness.

- a. Pray for His love to fill the heart of himself and for the fellow missionary. Naturally speaking, it may be far harder to love that fellow worker, who is always at hand and from whom there is no escape, than the heathen who is a little farther away. It is imperative that there be love between missionaries, for only then can God bless the work. (Ps 133)
- b. Pray for His love for the heathen. Again natural love breaks down and fails to meet the test, for the missionary is not appreciated by the heathen. Neither he nor the message he brings is wanted. He is a foreigner and intruder. Through His love and compassion the missionary is able to take shame and return time and time again till love has broken through and both he and his message is accepted.

THAT THE MISSIONARY MAY LIVE IN BROKENNESS. (Ps 51:17; 34:18)

- a) In his dealing with the native Christian