

Here is an effective way to pray for missionaries using the **Five Blessings (B-L-E-S-S)**, as adapted by Kyle and Kathy Harris (Pioneer Bible Translators serving in Papua New Guinea):



B—Body

Sickness and/or physical harm or the threat of it does more than sap the strength and resources of missionaries. It can lead to discouragement and open them up to further attacks from the Enemy. Sometimes it can even lead missionaries to leave their work.

- For the physical health of missionaries: Psalm 103:2-3; Jeremiah 17:14; and 3 John 1:2
- That they will be protected from harm and kept safe as they travel, speak, teach, translate, etc. Here are some good Scriptures to use as you pray:
 1. For physical strength: Psalms 28:7; 29:11; 59:9, 16-17; 91; Proverbs 18:10; 1 Corinthians 16:13, and Philippians 4:13
 2. For encouragement when missionaries are experiencing a trial or have been through difficult times: Psalms 31:2; 46:1; 2 Corinthians 12:10; 1 Peter 5:10

L—Labor

Missionary work, whether it is cross-cultural (done in another culture) or at home, can be very challenging. Schedules can get interrupted, and sometimes progress seems to move along very slowly. The people that missionaries are trying to reach out to with the love of Jesus, to teach or evangelize, are often resistant or even hostile. Remember: *families* are involved in missionary work in many cases. Parents are often home-schooling children, keeping a household, and ministering to the physical needs of those around them as well as to their spiritual needs. Children often help in the work and are busy with school, etc. Here are some Scriptures to help you to pray for the labor of missionaries and their families:

- For encouragement in the face of delays and obstacles and that missionaries will see the opportunities that often come in the midst of these: Psalm 128:2; Proverbs 12:14; 31:17; 1 Corinthians 3:5-9; 15:58; Colossians 3:23; 1 Thessalonians 1:3
- That missionaries will be effective ambassadors of Christ in all they do and say: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 2 Timothy 4:5
- For God to lead as missionaries plan and prioritize: Psalm 90:17
- That missionaries will remember to honor the Sabbath and take time to rest and be refreshed in the Lord: Hebrews 4:10-11



E—Emotional Needs

Missionary work can offer a roller coaster of emotions to individuals and/or families involved in service to the Lord. Successes are often followed by discouraging spiritual attacks. Lack of visible progress, illness, hardships, and loneliness can have a negative impact on the emotional health of missionaries.

- That missionaries would always look to God for their strength in the challenging times: 1 Peter 5:6-7
- For courage and patience: Deuteronomy 1:21; 31:8; Joshua 1:9; Colossians 1:10-12
- That God would do something today that would be an encouragement for missionaries: John 16:33; Ephesians 3:14-19; Philippians 1:6



“If you want the Kingdom speeded, go out and speed it yourselves. Only obedience rationalizes prayer. Only Missions can redeem your intercessions from insincerity.”
William Carey

S—Social Needs

Relationships are the key to your missionaries' effectiveness. Not only do they need to develop strong relationships with the people to whom God has led them to minister, but they also need good relationships with their fellow missionaries. Most importantly, missionaries can get so busy and caught up in ministry that they neglect their most important earthly relationships with their spouse and children. Pray:

- That married missionaries will pray together as husband and wife and keep their family spiritually strong and unified, raising their children to honor the Lord: Matthew 18:19-20; Deuteronomy 11:18-19; Psalm 34:11
- That missionaries will develop strong friendships with those they work with and with those to whom they minister: Psalm 133:1; Proverbs 22:11; Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; Romans 15:5-6; Ephesians 4:3

S—Spiritual Needs

Pray for the spiritual needs of missionaries—that they might stay strong in their faith and that their personal lives might be holy and pure. The spiritual battle missionaries face is often greater than they have been prepared to face. Pray:

- That they will continually maintain a close, intimate walk with Jesus: Psalm 27:4; Philippians 3:7-11
- That they will put on the armor of God daily: Ephesians 6:10-18
- For spiritual strength day to day and

in the midst of whatever spiritual crisis might face them: Psalms 18:32; 27:14; 91:11-12; 105:4; 118:14; 147:3; 1 Corinthians 1:8-9; 1 Timothy 1:12

Your prayers can help missionaries to stay on the field who might otherwise become discouraged and come home. *Your prayers* can help missionaries to be more effective in their work and service. *Your prayers* can literally be the difference between life and death for those in missionary service.

B-L-E-S-S Your Missionaries in Prayer Today!

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1-800-217-5200



Administrative & Conference Center
619 Washington Ave
Terre Haute IN 47802

Phone: 812-238-5504
Resource Orders: 800-217-5200
www.harvestprayer.com



B-L-E-S-S Your Missionaries With Prayer



*“Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”
Matthew 9:38*