

DEVELOPING A MISSIONARY PRAYER NOTEBOOK

One of the most effective ways to remind yourself to pray for missionaries, whether they are personal friends, or missionaries from your church, is to develop a personal or family prayer notebook. This can be invaluable in lifting these individuals and families before the Lord in an effective, powerful way. Be as creative as you wish following these basic guidelines:

- Purchase or make a scrapbook utilizing a 3-ring binder, scrapbook paper and plastic page protectors. You can purchase or make pockets to keep newsletters and correspondence in.
- Ask to be put on each missionary's mailing list to receive newsletters, prayer requests, etc.
- If you have e-mail, get each missionary's e-mail address to keep up with the most current prayer needs. Let your missionary friends know that you are praying for them – and when, if possible.
- Collect the most recent pictures available of all of the missionaries you wish to lift up in prayer on a regular basis. Many of them will have prayer cards which can be obtained from their forwarding agents, or make a copy of pictures available from your church. Remember to take pictures when they are home from the field (kids grow quickly)! Write the names, birthdates, and anniversaries of all family members on your scrapbook pages.

Begin to pray through your notebook on a daily basis, praying for at least one missionary family a day. Be faithful!

**THIS IS A GREAT PROJECT
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**



EFFECTIVE BIBLICAL PRAYERS FOR MISSIONARIES

*Adapted from the
Missionary Prayers*



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



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TIRED OF JUST PRAYING, “LORD, BLESS ALL THE MISSIONARIES”?

We know we are to pray for missionaries. It's the how-to that we struggle with. If we don't have regular contact with missionaries, we might find ourselves praying the generic prayer, "Lord, bless all the missionaries." We know that the more specific our requests, the better we'll be able to see God at work in answer to our prayers. So how do we pray specifically for missionaries? First, we must



realize that praying for them is not just a nice thing to do – it is an ESSENTIAL thing to do!

We believe that the most effective prayer is one that comes directly from the pages of God's Word. When we read the Bible, we are reading the "good, pleasing and perfect will" of God (Romans 12:2). If we know that what we are praying is God's will, then we will be able to pray with greater faith and effectiveness. This will also be true when we pray for missionaries.

As we study the Bible, we find a number of prayer requests from the first great missionary, the Apostle Paul. Each one of these requests should be included in prayer for missionaries today. They are truly "powerful and effective."

As you begin to pray these Biblical prayers for missionaries, you may notice that the key word in each request is in alphabetical order (A-F) to help you memorize them quickly and easily. At some point, you simply need to recall the key words, and you will be able to pray for any missionary at any time as they come to mind, or as needs are brought to

your attention. Of course, there are many other prayers to pray, generally and specifically; however, this will give you a powerful place to begin:

- **ACCEPTANCE** – Pray for your missionaries to be accepted by their co-workers. Paul, as are our missionaries today, was rightly concerned about how his co-workers and other believers perceived and accepted his ministry. Many missionaries are damaged or discouraged, not always by those they are trying to reach with the gospel, but by other missionaries. Each is equally focused and called by God, but may have a different idea about how to reach a particular group of people. Paul states in Romans 5:31b, "Pray...that my service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there."

- **BOLDNESS** – Pray for your missionaries to have courage and boldness in presenting the gospel. Getting on an airplane and flying across the ocean does not automatically make a missionary bold. In Ephesians 6:19, Paul says, "Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel."

- **CLARITY** – Pray that your missionaries will be able to present the gospel clearly. Paul didn't want to be misunderstood. He wanted those to whom he preached the Good News to clearly understand it. Can you imagine how difficult it is for a missionary to learn a new language, and then try to preach the gospel using this new language...or trying to translate the Bible into a language that has never been written down before? Paul's next request, in Colossians 4:4 is, "Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should."



- **DELIVERANCE** – pray that your missionaries will be delivered from the attacks of the enemy - from whatever direction these attacks may come. Missionaries need prayers of protection from physical, emotional, and spiritual harm as they serve Christ in a different culture. Pray also for relationships of husbands and wives, and of parents and their children. Paul, in Romans 15:31 asked his prayer supporters to, "Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea."

Acceptance
Boldness
Clarity
Deliverance
Extension of Ministry
Fruitfulness

- **EXTENSION OF MINISTRY** – pray that your missionaries will have opportunities to extend the boundaries of their ministries far beyond anything they can think or imagine. Paul was always eager to go to other places to preach and spread the gospel. Wherever he went, this was his request to those who prayed: "And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains" (Colossians 4:3).

- **FRUITFULNESS** – pray that the work your missionaries do will bear much fruit for the kingdom of God. Paul, like all missionaries, was concerned about church growth. He wanted to see the gospel accepted and the church grow rapidly. In 2 Thessalonians 3:1 he says, "Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you."

The six specific headings for prayer are taken from *Prayer Life*, by T.W. Hunt and Catherine Walker; published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.