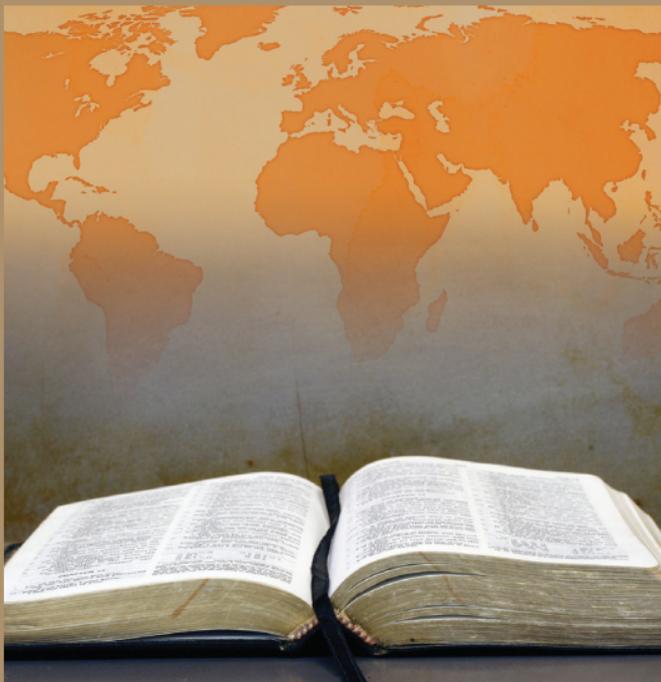


PRAYER GUIDE

Praying for
SHORT-TERM
MISSIONS



PrayerPower
Helping God's people learn to pray.

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PrayerPower

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Prayers from God's Word

These Bible-based prayers have been written in a way that makes them easy to pray. They include requests for not only practical, material needs, but for deeper spiritual needs as well. Because they are written from Scripture, they express God's will. And when we pray His will, He promises to answer! (1 John 5:14-15)

Easy Ways to Use These Prayers

- Read them just as they appear:

“May the fruit of their mission continue on long after they return.” (John 15:16)

- Use them as an outline for your personal prayer.

Pray a sentence or two, just enough to present a complete thought. Then add your own personal prayer, before moving on to the next thought:

“May the fruit of their mission continue on long after they return.” (John 15:16)

You might add something like— *“I ask not only for those who come to Christ while the team is with them, but for all those that these new believers will ultimately lead to Christ.”*

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Grant Them Provision

Father, I pray for everyone on this mission team...

On mission with You, there is cost involved, especially travel expenses. As Nehemiah prayed before he spoke to the king, I ask You to grant them favor with those who can and will give, and I thank You for all who have.

(Nehemiah 1:4, 5-6, 11; 2:4-5, 8)

I'm grateful for people who give financially to cover the cost of the mission trip, and those who share resources to meet other needs. May they be cheerful givers who give generously; increase their finances and bless them in every way, so they can keep on being generous. As they give, meet their needs from Your glorious riches in Christ.

(Romans 12:6, 8; 2 Corinthians 9:7-8; Philippians 4:16-19)

The team is being sent as workers into the field. May Your provision for them include health, strength, stamina, and the ability to adapt to any changes in time, climate or diet. Keep them from getting sick, and protect them from injury. Give them a sensitivity to any cultural differences, and keep them from inadvertently offending anyone. (Luke 10:1-7; 1 Corinthians 9:22)

Go before them. In Jesus' name, amen.

Protect Them

Father, I pray for everyone on this mission team...

Protect them from Satan. Keep them and their families safe, for the devil is a thief who wants to steal and kill and destroy. Deliver them from him and his desire to disrupt their mission. (1 John 5:18; John 10:10; Matthew 6:13)

Protect them and their families, and the things that are vital to their mission. Watch over their travel arrangements, luggage, passports, tickets, boarding passes, materials and resources, medications, eyeglasses, and anything else that's important for personal or team needs. Help them through customs and any situation needing passports, visas, or other official papers. (John 17:15; Matthew 6:11; James 4:2; Mark 10:49, 51-52; Psalm 121:5)

May they put on Your armor, clothing themselves with Christ, their armor of light, every day. Help them to live in Your presence, loving You, trusting You, calling out in prayer. Keep them sheltered by Your presence and protected by Your angels. (Ephesians 6:10; Romans 13:12, 14; Psalm 91:1, 14-15, 9, 11)

Cover them with Your wings. In Jesus' name, amen.

Make Them One

Father, I pray for everyone on this mission team...

Grant them a spirit of unity and keep them at peace with each other so they can be seen as one in Christ—for that's a powerful witness to the world! (Romans 15:5; John 17:23)

Help them to live lives worthy of their calling as Your children. Lead them to humble themselves and patiently put up with each other—loving each other as Jesus loves His disciples. May their love for You and each other bind them together in perfect unity. (Ephesians 4:1-2; John 13:34; Colossians 3:12-13, 14)

May they encourage each other, and have servant hearts—putting each others' interests ahead of their own. May they treat others as they would want to be treated. (1 Thessalonians 5:11; Philippians 2:4; Matthew 7:12)

Travel plans are often interrupted; if that happens, keep them flexible and ready to adjust. May the Spirit lead them. No matter how difficult things may be, even with hard work or going without food or sleep, help everyone to be understanding, patient and kind. (Philippians 1:12; Romans 8:14; Acts 16:7-10; 2 Corinthians 6:4-6)

Make them one in heart and mind. In Jesus' name, amen.

Empower Their Words

Father, I pray for everyone on this mission team...

Supply translators who know the language so well that they communicate clearly without misunderstanding. Help those who hear the truth to understand with their hearts. May each one on the team boldly speak Your truth to all who will listen. (Acts 28:27; 4:29, 31)

As they travel, help them to share the gospel not just with words, but with the power of the Holy Spirit, and with deep conviction. May Your Word be recognized not as the word of men, but as it really is—the Word of God. May those they witness to accept it as Your truth, and may Your Word accomplish its purpose in their lives. (1 Thessalonians 1:5; 2:13; Isaiah 55:11)

Whenever their team has the opportunity to share, give them Your words. Help them to speak the simple truth of the gospel, with confidence that the Spirit will speak through them. May You give them the right words and wisdom, especially if they encounter people who resist or contradict what they're trying to say. (Ephesians 6:19; Matthew 10:19-20; Luke 21:15)

Empower them. In Jesus' name, amen.

Give Them Power to Witness

Father, I pray for everyone on this mission team...

May they decrease that Christ may increase in their lives. Fill them with the Spirit of Jesus, so that His light shines from them and they might be the light of the world.

May they be Your witnesses in the power of the Holy Spirit wherever You send them. Help them to be so fully surrendered that they'll be continually filled with the Spirit. Keep His presence flowing from them like rivers of living water. (John 3:30; 2 Timothy 1:6-7; Luke 11:13; Philippians 1:19; Matthew 5:14; Luke 9:23; Ephesians 5:18; John 7:38-39)

Strengthen them with the Spirit's power within, that by His power they might fulfill Your purposes and their desires for this mission. May everything they do bring You glory, and may it all be done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 3:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:11; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17)

May they reflect Jesus' glory, and by Your grace bring honor to His name. May it be evident to others that they have been with Him. (2 Corinthians 3:18; 2 Thessalonians 1:12; Matthew 26:69)

May they live in Your grace. In Jesus' name, amen.

Help Them Stand Their Ground

Father, I pray for everyone on this mission team...

Help the team and each of us who are praying for them to stand strong against Satan—for the team and for those they're reaching. Our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual powers of darkness—so keep us strong in prayer! (Ephesians 6:11-12)

Satan is a destroyer who doesn't want Your kingdom to move forward. He doesn't want the team to share the truth with the people You want to rescue out of the kingdom of darkness and bring into the kingdom of Your Son. Thank You that they are protected by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony: they are Your children and the devil cannot harm them!

(Revelation 9:11; Colossians 1:11-14; Revelation 12:11; 1 John 5:18)

Help the team and those of us who pray for them to put on Your full armor to stand our ground in prayer, lifting Your Word like a sword. Help us to live so that our prayers will be powerful and effective. (Ephesians 6:13, 17, 18; James 5:16)

Keep them fearless. In Jesus' name, amen.

Grant Them Lasting Fruit

Father, I pray for everyone on this mission team...

May the fruit of their mission continue on long after they return. Keep the people who come to Christ from turning away from their new-found faith. May they consistently put their hope in You, our living God, the Savior of all men, and share their belief with others at every opportunity. (John 15:16; 1 Timothy 4:1, 9, 10)

Keep Your hand on the established and newly-planted churches, clinics, small groups, and anyone else working with the team. May the people left behind remain in Christ, abiding in the Vine, so that they'll bear much fruit, for without Him they can do nothing. May they abide in Christ, and His words—His teachings—continue to be part of them, that they may be His disciples for Your glory. (John 15:7-8, 5)

May the fruit of their lives be the lasting fruit of the team—all who have given, prayed, and been sent into the fields for Your glory. May they never be the same again. Awaken in their hearts a growing desire to reach the world for Christ. (John 15:16; Matthew 9:38)

Center them in Your will. In Jesus' name, amen.

Meet Their Needs

Father, I pray for the people this mission team will reach...

As they travel, the team may see many who are poor in ways they've never been poor—save those in need from their troubles. Protect the helpless from those who have power over them, and the needy from those who take advantage of them. (Psalm 34:6; 35:10)

You're a father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, the One who sets the lonely in families. You are generous to those in need. Be generous with all the people You allow the team to meet or touch through their prayers.

(Psalm 68:5-6, 10)

The poor and neglected need You to be their Healer, for so many of them have nowhere else to go with disease or injury. I ask You to heal them—as friends asked for the paralyzed man; the Centurion, for his servant; and the father, for his son. (Luke 5:18, 19-20, 24-25; Matthew 8:5, 8, 13;

Luke 9:38, 42-43)

Look upon them with compassion. Heal them so that others will be drawn to Christ. (James 5:11; Luke 18:43)

Show them Your mercy. In Jesus' name, amen.

Set Them Free

Father, I pray for the people this mission team will reach...

Whether the team is seeking to help with medical, dental, or other practical needs, the greatest needs of the people they're called to serve are needs of the heart and soul. Don't let Satan keep the team from going where each of them needs to be. Keep him from distracting or hindering the people who need their help in any way.

(1 Thessalonians 2:18)

Keep the people safe from the devil's deceptions—for he disguises himself as an angel of light, and his servants pretend to be righteous. Don't let them interfere or create confusion. (John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 11:14-15; 1 Corinthians 14:33)

Use the team and their prayers to open the eyes of the lost, to turn them from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to You. Set them free, for Jesus died to break the devil's power over death. Strengthen and protect them from the evil one. (Acts 26:18; Hebrews 2:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:3)

Protect them from Satan's tricks; don't let them fall into his snares and traps. In Jesus' name, amen.

Open Their Hearts

Father, I pray for the people this mission team will reach...

Throughout their trip, the missions team will be meeting people who need Christ. Help the team to do what they can to relate to them, so they'll be comfortable around them. Help them to be led by the Spirit and given opportunity to share Christ—for Jesus is the name by which all men are saved. Keep them sensitive to the Spirit's leading. (1 Corinthians 9:22-23; Romans 8:14; Acts 4:12)

Open the eyes of the lost to the truth, for Satan has blinded their minds and on their own they can't see the truth of the gospel. Remove the veil that covers their hearts and keeps them from understanding spiritual things. (2 Corinthians 4:4; 3:14; 1 Corinthians 2:14)

Draw them, enable them to come to Jesus, for on their own they cannot come. Give them to Jesus, for You want all men to be saved—You don't want anyone to be lost. Don't let the truth they hear be stolen from their hearts. (John 6:44, 65; John 6:39; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9; Luke 8:12)

Give them ears to hear. In Jesus' name, amen.

Extend Your Grace

Father, I pray for the people this mission team will reach...

The team has been sent to reach the lost. May they be open and available to hear the good news of the gospel, for faith comes by hearing this message—no one can have faith without hearing about Christ. Give them ears to hear and the faith to believe. Help them to receive Christ as Savior—and to yield to Him as Lord. (Romans 10:17; Isaiah 50:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:12; Romans 10:9)

In Your mercy, save them through the power of the Holy Spirit, that they may be spiritually born again through You and Your amazing grace. Make them alive with Christ, able to see and enter Your kingdom. (Titus 3:5; John 3:6-7; 1:13; Ephesians 2:4-5; John 3:3, 5)

You are our God who sent Your Son to die for each of them; the price has been paid. Save them—for Your arm is not too short to save, and no heart is beyond Your reach! (John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 7:23; Isaiah 59:1; Luke 18:24, 26-27)

Help them to understand that salvation is Your free gift, that it cannot be earned. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ignite Their Lives

Father, I pray for the people this mission team will reach...

Give them excitement over coming to Christ, so that the first thing they want to do is to go and bring others to Jesus! While the team is with them, may those who are saved bring family and friends to meet members of the team and to attend any meetings, programs, or informal gatherings where the gospel is presented. (John 1:40-41)

Fill those who come to Christ with the Holy Spirit. Help them to live so that they're continuously filled, neither grieving nor quenching the Spirit, but fanning Him into flame within them. (Acts 2:38-39; Ephesians 5:18; 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 2 Timothy 1:6-7)

Keep them from being a stumbling block. Help them to do nothing that would keep anyone from coming to Christ. Help them to show that they are Your servants in every way, and to speak the truth in Your power. May they never be ashamed of the gospel! (2 Corinthians 6:3-4, 7; Romans 1:16)

Set them ablaze with love for You! In Jesus' name, amen.

Give Them Faith to Move Mountains

Father, I pray for the people this mission team will reach...

For all who are Your own and those yet to come through the witness of their lives, I ask You to grant them the faith to move mountains. Give them faith that doesn't doubt, faith that pleases You. (Mark 11:22-23; Hebrews 11:6)

Many people that the team will leave behind when they return are in difficult, sometimes even impossible circumstances. Help them to believe that nothing is impossible for You, that when they pray according to Your will in the name of Jesus—according to His character and nature, from His point of view—their prayers will be answered. (Luke 1:37; 1 John 5:14-15; John 14:14)

Help them to have faith to keep on praying and never give up, to ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking, knock and keep on knocking, until You give them what they ask—or something better. May they trust You with every storm in their lives, confident that You will never leave them nor forsake them. (Luke 18:1; Matthew 7:7, 9-11; Luke 8:24-25; Hebrews 13:5)

May they keep their eyes on Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.

Help Them Resist the Devil

Father, I pray for the people this mission team will reach...

Teach them to resist the devil, to understand that they cannot resist him unless they are fully submitted to You.

(James 4:7-8)

Lead them through a lifetime of surrendering to You as living sacrifices, giving themselves completely to You, to be tools in Your hands for Your good purposes. Help them to be willing to live in such a way that their lives are obedient and pleasing to You. (Romans 12:1-2; Romans 6:12-14;

¹ John 3:21-22)

Show them how to resist every temptation. Help them to make their way through temptations, so they don't have to give in or make wrong choices. Help them to be willing to deny themselves to obey Your will.

(1 Corinthians 10:13, Mark 8:34; 1 Peter 4:2)

Help them to use Your Word to defeat Satan as Jesus did in the wilderness—in full submission not only as those who read and use the Word, but as those who are willing to do what it says. (Matthew 4:1-11; James 1:22)

Give them victory in Christ! In Jesus' name, amen.

As You Pray These Prayers...

You Are Praying God's Will

Think what it will mean as God hears and answers these prayers. You're praying His will into His kingdom work (Mathew 28:20)! If you've prayed one prayer a day, you've realized it takes only a minute or two. Keep praying through these prayers, each time adding your own prayers to make them even more personal.

Consider that Prayer Is More than Asking

The main purpose of prayer is to help us know God. To do this, we have to spend time with Him, just as we must with any person if we want to know that person well.

(John 17:3; 1 John 1:3)

1. Begin Each Day with God

Jesus taught us that it is important to have some quiet time with our Father every day. Early morning is usually the best time, before we're caught up in busyness. If this isn't a part of your daily life now, ask God to help you begin with just a few minutes, and He will.

(Matthew 6:6; 9-13)

2. Come with clean hands and a pure heart.

The Bible promises that we can draw close to God if we have clean hands and a pure heart, and He will come close to us (James 4:8). That simply means we must confess our sins. When we do, God forgives us and makes us clean (1 John 1:9), and we may come to Him.

3. Have a listening ear.

God usually speaks to us (John 10:4-5) as we read the Bible. You don't have to spend a long time in the Word, but for you to hear His voice clearly, it is important to spend at least a few minutes in the Bible every day. Pray as you read. Ask God to speak to your heart: *What do you want me to know today? What do I need to learn?*

Knowing God Personally

Jesus said that eternal life is *knowing God* (John 17:3). We have that life the moment we trust Jesus for salvation. We can then live every day in a real, vital, personal relationship with God. What a privilege, available to all of God's children! (See page 18.)

Are You a Child of God?

This is a question that is easy to answer—if you aren't sure—by verses from the Bible that reveal this truth:

- Have you believed in Christ, trusting Him, relying on Him for everything? Have you received Christ into your heart and life? (John 1:12)
- Have you “believed in Your heart” that God raised Jesus from the dead, and “spoken with your mouth” that Jesus is Lord? (Romans 10:9)
- Do you sense that you are a new creation in Christ evidenced by a desire to spend time in God's Word? (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Are you experiencing God's call to live as “a child of light,” including the conviction and power to turn away from sin? (Ephesians 5:8-9; Luke 13:3, 5)
- Is the “fruit of the Holy Spirit” influencing your life and relationships in increasing measure? (Galatians 5:22-23)

If these things don't seem real in your life and you want them to be, speak to a pastor or godly friend, or pray like this:

“God, I believe Jesus is Your Son. I now receive Him as the Lord, who is the Savior of my life. I believe that Jesus died for my sins, that He was buried and raised again from the dead. I confess that I have sinned against You and I am sorry. Thank You for forgiving me! Thank You for the gift of salvation!”

“Please strengthen me to love You, to serve You and to turn away from the temptations and sins of this world. Thank You for the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal and forever Savior! I pray in His name, amen.”

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