

Prayerwalking



Taking Your Faith Into The Real World



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COVERING THE WORLD

In order to sustain your prayers for missionaries and the spread of the gospel across the world, you need to be developing a heart for missions. You need to have a growing desire to see the gospel penetrate every nation and home in the world. There are some practical steps that you can take to develop this in your life.

Practical Steps

First, plead with God to give you a heart for what He loves. Ask God to create in your heart the desires of His heart. During a previous fast, I sensed that God was leading me to pray for this in my life. I began to plead on a daily basis for God to do this in my life. As I continued to pray for this in my life, I began developing a passion to see the gospel conquer the nations of the world. To see the nations of the world brought to Jesus Christ became the burning desire of my heart. Throughout my Christian life, I have seen the necessity of missions and the need to send, support, and pray for missionaries. I always believed that the gospel needed to go to the nations of the world. Yet,

something began to change in me. Praying for missionaries became a passion; I had a fresh zeal and intensity to pray for missionaries and the spread of the gospel. I noticed that I was developing a holy zeal in this matter. Kingdom praying burned as the consuming passion of my life.

You may be thinking, “What brought about this change?” It was the prayer for God to give me a heart for what He loves. I have come to realize that God loves for His Word to be proclaimed to the world. God’s heart yearns to see the nations of this world come to His Son in faith and repentance. God’s compassion extends to the ends of the earth. As I prayed for Him to produce His heart in me, my heart overflowed with concern and compassion for the peoples of this world. My heart longs to see them come to the saving knowledge of Christ the Lord. Ask God to give you a heart for what He loves a heart that desires what He desires.

A second step that you can take to develop a heart for missions is to stay informed about missions. There are numerous sources that you can obtain information about missionaries and their

labors. The denomination that you belong to has resources that can give you information about your missionaries and their labors. There is an excellent work by Patrick Johnstone. This work is entitled *Operation World*. It is a guide to all the nations of this world. It will enable you to pray for the entire world in a year. There is also a children's edition available. Another source is the U.S. Center For World Missions. This ministry produces a magazine called "Global Prayer Digest." This magazine provides up-to-date information on what is going on across the world and provides ways that you can pray for the spread of the gospel across the world. You can find this digest on the U.S. Center For World Mission's website.

Another step that you can take is to adopt a missionary. When you adopt a missionary, it simply means that you commit to pray for the missionary and his or her family and to communicate with him or her on a regular basis. You can write letters of encouragement, share Scripture with them, and intercede specifically for their needs. This will make your involvement in missions more personal and more intense. You can obtain information about missionaries from your denomination or from missionary organizations. Pray for God's leadership about this and get involved!

Praying For Missionary Families

When you adopt a missionary family, you might want to consider devoting each day of the week to a specific area of their

lives. The following is a suggested plan that might help you in praying:

- **Monday:** Personal life and spiritual growth;
- **Tuesday:** Relationships--family, other missionaries, the people among whom they are laboring, the authorities of the nation;
- **Wednesday:** Special needs in working in a foreign culture and God's sovereign working in government decisions and policies;
- **Thursday:** Their ministry and fruitfulness;
- **Friday:** The basics—language, health, finances, coping with red tape, strength and faith in trials, wise use of time, rest and relaxation;
- **Saturday:** Victory over Satan and his demons;
- **Sunday:** Clear leadership from the Lord concerning their ministry and lives.

You can incorporate the prayer suggestions offered earlier in this issue into this format. This will enable you to cover the missionaries with prayer through the week. Along with this, you need to follow God's leadership as you pray. God may impress certain requests on your heart and you need to pray concerning these as God leads

Praying For Nations/Unreached People Groups

Another way that you can develop a heart for missions is by adopting a nation or an unreached people group. You might want to consider adopting a nation. This means that you will learn everything you can about this nation and then intercede for that nation. An unreached people group is a group of people with a common language and culture lacking a Christian community able to evangelize them.

There are thousands of these unreached people groups across the world that desperately needs prayer and the gospel of Jesus Christ. Many of these unreached people groups have never heard the name of Jesus Christ or seen a copy of the Word of God. Intercessors are needed to plead for these people. You might want to consider adopting one of these groups and offering intercession in their behalf. You can obtain information about adopting nations and unreached people groups and find information on praying for these people groups from Joshua Project at joshuaproject.com.

When you adopt a nation or an unreached people group, you might consider developing a plan to pray for the nation or the unreached people group. The following is a plan that you can use or adapt. This plan is designed to help you cover the basics in intercession for one of these two. It will enable you to daily cover a major area of concern. As you do this, you can add prayer requests to each day of the week concerning the nation or the unreached people group. This will allow

you to cover them in prayer throughout the week and will hopefully prevent you from getting bogged down in your intercession.

- **Monday:** Pray that the nation or people will be freed from the grip of Satan and sin. Call on God to deliver them from being enslaved from the devil. Ask God to deal with and remove anything that the devil is using to keep a foothold in this nation. Plead that the Lord Jesus Christ will set them free from the power of the devil. Ask Him to break their worship of and association with idols.
- **Tuesday:** Pray that God will raise up missionaries who will go to and labor in this nation. Ask God to raise up qualified and dedicated missionaries who will give their lives to share the gospel and to minister to these people.
- **Wednesday:** Pray that God will empower the missionaries and the believers who are already there to faithfully and powerfully share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Call on God to give them a new and fresh boldness for the Word of God. Ask God to anoint their preaching and teaching of the Word of God. Plead with the Holy Spirit to work through their witness and to transform the lives of those who hear the Word of God.

- **Thursday:** Pray that the nation's leaders would be sympathetic (or at least neutral) to the efforts of the missionaries bringing the gospel and other help (such as medicine, agriculture, education, and industry). Call on God to make them open to missionaries and their message. Plead with God to convert high-ranking officials and that He would give them a burden about establishing Christianity among the people.
- **Friday:** Plead for opportunities and openings for the gospel to penetrate the nation or the unreached people group. Pray that God will give the missionaries freedom to operate and that He would remove any opposition. Call on God to provide the finances and resources for the evangelizing and discipling of this nation or unreached people group.
- **Saturday:** Pray that God would strengthen the believers and the churches that have been established or are being established. Pray that the churches would be able to worship unhindered. Call on God to give the believers grace and power to stand for Christ, especially against persecution.
- **Sunday:** Plead with God to raise up intercessors for the nation or the people group. Pray that God will burden believers with a concern for the nations of the world and that He will give them a desire and willingness to intercede for the nations.

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