



THE PRAYER CLOSET

*Transforming Lives Through Intercessory
Prayer And Fasting*

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PRAYING FOR MISSIONARIES

Do you realize that you can impact the lives of people all across the world? Yes, I mean you! You can be a significant instrument that God uses to change the world. You may find this hard to believe, but, it is true. You can make a substantial difference in this world by praying for missionaries and for the spread of the gospel across the world. Your prayers can cause the gospel to spread throughout the world and transform the lives of people that you will never meet in this life. Your prayers can unleash the power of God into nations that have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. Your prayers can bring about a world that is filled with the knowledge of God and His gospel.

The church of Jesus Christ is building a capable and influential missionary machine. There is a fresh emphasis and interest in carrying the gospel of Jesus Christ to every individual on earth. Denominations and missionary organizations are laboring zealously to place missionaries on the field and to equip them for their task. Yet, it must be remembered that prayer is the crucial ingredient in the effectiveness of missionaries and the spread of the gospel. Think of the modern missions movement as a well-built, powerful car. It is equipped and prepared to run. However, if there is no fuel in the tank, it is going nowhere. It is powerless and useless. Prayer is the fuel that will cause this capable and influential missionary machine to go and fulfill its purpose. Prayer will

cause the gospel of Jesus Christ to penetrate the lives of people all over this world.

This issue of *The Prayer Closet* will deal with praying for the missionaries and the spread of the gospel to the entire world. It is my passionate conviction that if God has not called you to go to another state or nation to proclaim the gospel, He has called you to pray for and support those who have. Those who go and those who stay and pray are co-laborers in the harvest of the nations. Both are needed if the gospel is going to be carried to every individual in the world.

This issue will give you ideas on how to intercede for missionaries and the spread of the gospel. Prayerfully consider these and implement them into your prayer life as you feel led by the Spirit. Adapt them according to your prayer schedule and as the Holy Spirit leads you. You may already be involved in interceding for missionaries and the spread of the gospel. I pray that God will renew your passion and strengthen your determination for this through this issue of the newsletter. And, I hope that you will receive new insights in how to pray for missionaries. You will notice that most of the information given is concerning our international missionaries but you also will see how this can apply to our missionaries here at home.

Perhaps you have never prayed for missionaries and their labors. Or, at least, you may

have prayed for missionaries, but, it was only in a vague and general way. You have heard missionaries speak and have been to the special services at your church concerning missions. Yet, you are not significantly involved in praying for missionaries and the spread of the gospel throughout this world. I pray that God will challenge you and cause you to make a commitment to do this. I am pleading that God will create in you a heart to intercede for the nations of the world and for the missionaries that are laboring in these nations.

The suggestions that you find in this issue are just that--suggestions. It is my hope and prayer that God will use this issue to create in you a craving to intercede for missionaries and that you will find information that will help to do this. Yet, before we get to the "how" of praying for missionaries and the spread of the gospel throughout the world, we have to establish the "why" for doing this. We must begin with why we should pray for missionaries and their labors. In order to have a genuine commitment to pray concerning these things, you must have a strong and sure foundation of why you are doing this.

Why Should I Pray For Missionaries?

There are several reasons why you should intercede for missionaries and the spread of the gospel across the world. *The first reason that you should do this is because God is worthy to be made known to the nations.* Our God is the glorious God of heaven and earth. He is righteous, holy, wise, and sovereign. He abounds in goodness and mercy. He forgives sin and grants eternal life. He blesses with good and perfect gifts. He hears and answers prayer. There is no other God but Him and Him alone. All other gods are false and are unworthy comparisons to the true and living God of the Bible. The nations need to hear of such a glorious and

good God. They need to know about His character and His commands. God is worthy to be proclaimed to the nations of the world (**Psalms 67, 86:8-10, 97:1, 117**). Those who know His glorious character and commands are the best equipped to share this knowledge with the world. Since God is worthy to be proclaimed and we know His glorious character, it is our responsibility to pray that this would happen. You should be pleading that the nations will know intimately this glorious and living God. It is our privilege to pray that the nations of the world will come to know the awesome God of the Bible.

Another reason that you should pray for missionaries is because of the command of Christ. In **Matthew 28:19-20**, the Lord Jesus Christ has commanded His church to carry the Word of God to the very ends of the earth. This is the marching order of the church. This is the task that has been assigned to us by the Lord Jesus Christ. An essential part of this task is intercessory prayer. To fail to do this is to sin against the Lord Jesus Christ. The good news about Him and His work on the cross is to be declared to the whole world. This can be accomplished by people going and by people praying. In order to do what Jesus Christ has commanded, we must pour ourselves out in intercession for missionaries and the spread of the gospel.

A third reason that you should pray for missionaries is because people must hear the Word of God. If a person is going to be brought into a right relationship with God, that person must hear the Word of God. This is Paul's point in **Romans 10:13-15**. People must hear the Word of God and respond to its truth in order to be brought into a right relationship with Him. The Holy Spirit creates faith and repentance in people as they hear the Word of God (**Romans 10:17**). If people do not hear the message, they cannot exercise true faith in God and repentance toward Him. For this reason, people must hear the Word of God. It is absolutely crucial that missionaries are sent to proclaim the Word of God so that people can hear and respond to

its truth. A part of sending missionaries is praying that God will empower them to proclaim the message and cause those who hear the message to respond in faith and repentance.

Another reason for praying for missionaries is that people need Jesus Christ. In **John 14:6**, Christ declares that He is the only truth, the only way, and the only life. He states that He is the only way to the true knowledge of God and of a personal relationship with Him. In **Acts 4:12**, the Bible announces that it is only by Jesus Christ that a person can be saved from sin and delivered from the eternal wrath of God. Without Jesus Christ, people are perishing in their sin. They are going further and deeper into sin and rebellion away from God (**Romans 1:17-32**). They will be cast into an eternal hell unless they come to know and surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is the Savior of sinners. He is the only anointed and appointed Savior of sinners. People must be encountered with Him and His claims. This can happen only if someone goes and someone prays.

You need to pray for missionaries because of their utter need of intercession. The Apostle Paul, the great missionary of the Christian faith, pled with Christians to pray for him, his co-laborers, and their work on the mission field (**Romans 15:30**). Paul realized the magnitude of having other Christians praying for him and his labors on the mission field. He understood that he could not be effective in doing what God had called him to do. On the mission field, Paul faced numerous problems--opposition, financial concerns, sorrow, hardship, laboring to share the gospel plainly and clearly with people. The same is true today. Missionaries must have other Christians interceding for them, their needs, and their ministries. They cannot be effective in doing what God has called them to do without the prayers of other Christians. You can join these missionaries in their labors share in their victories, and help meet their needs by praying for them.

You should pray for missionaries because it glorifies God. God is the most glorified when

people are turning to Him in faith and repentance (**John 15:8; Ephesians 2:4-10**). God receives glory and praise when people are transformed by the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit. God is shown to be a powerful and gracious God when peoples' lives are changed and they become followers of Jesus Christ. By praying for the effectiveness of missionaries, you are praying that God will be glorified. You are praying that God will show Himself to be the sovereign and wise God of heaven and earth. Your prayers for the effectiveness of missionaries in proclaiming the gospel and transforming lives is actually a way of glorifying God.

You should be prompted to pray for missionaries because it should be an essential part of your prayer life. It is the responsibility of Christians to pray for the various leaders and authorities (**1 Timothy 2:1-2**). Surely this should include missionaries. In **1 Thessalonians 5:25**, the apostle once again calls on believers to pray for him and his missionary labors. This was Paul's desire and God's will. This provides the model for believers today. Believers are to pray for those who have been called by God to give their lives to sharing the gospel in other nations. In **Colossians 4:2**, the Word of God commands believers to be earnestly devoted to prayer. This includes praying for the spread of the gospel throughout the world and those who labor to do this. When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He taught them to pray for the coming of the kingdom (**Matthew 6:10**). Jesus is teaching that His people should pray for the gospel to spread across the world and bring people under His reign through their faith in Him and their repentance. This is how Jesus Christ is teaching us to pray. For this reason, every believer should be devoted to praying for the spread of the gospel and the salvation of the nations. From all these verses, it should be clear that a distinct part of the believer's prayer life is to be devoted to praying for missionaries and their labors. This is not something that a believer can choose to do or choose not to do.

It should be a vital part of every believer's prayer life.

The death of Christ should motivate you to pray for missionaries and the spread of the gospel. In **Isaiah 53:10-12**, the prophet declares that Jesus would see His offspring. He announces that Christ would see the fruit of His work. This chapter deals with the death of Christ on the cross. The offspring and the fruit of His work is referring to the people who will be saved due to His work on the cross. Isaiah is prophesying that Jesus would see people from every language, race, and nation on the earth saved and surrendered to Him because of His death and resurrection (**Psalm 2:8; Revelation 7:9**). This should motivate you to pray for the nations of the world. People from every language, race, and nation are going to be saved and surrendered to Christ because of His death and resurrection. This should give you the confidence and motivation to pray for the nations and the missionaries who labor in them.

The Great Objection

Whenever I deal with praying for missionaries and the spread of the gospel across the world, there seems to be one great objection to this. This objection is either spoken or unspoken. It is often a hindrance to believers praying for missionaries and their labors. It can be stated in numerous ways. But, the summary of this objection is, "Why should we be concerned about other nations? We have so many needs and concerns here that demand our prayers and attention." How can we deal with this objection?

First, it needs to be remembered that God is a universal God (Isaiah 49:6). God's compassion and mercy extends to the ends of the earth. He is a God whose concern is not limited to a nation or a race. His desire is that the nations of the world hear about His glorious character and commands. If we are growing in godliness, our compassion and concern will extend to the nations of the world. It

will be our desire to see the nations hear of His greatness and see them respond to Him by faith in Christ and repentance toward Him.

Second, your knowledge of God should drive you to be concerned about and pray for the nations of the world. You have come to know God in an intimate relationship. You have experienced His salvation. You have been blessed by Him. You have been heard by Him and He has answered your prayers. You have come to know and experience Him as the great and living God. Don't you want others to know God in the way that you know Him? Don't you want others to experience the power and blessedness of having a personal relationship with God? Your knowledge and experience of God should motivate you to want others to have the same knowledge and experience.

Third, the root of a lack of concern and prayer for the nations is selfishness. The book of **Jonah** deals with this. Jonah did not care if the Ninevites heard about God and His message. His main concern was Israel. If we are not concerned about the nations of the world, it is nothing more than selfishness. God showed mercy to you by sending someone to share the gospel with you. God showed compassion to you by moving believers to pray for your salvation. Are you now saying that it does not matter to you if God shows compassion or mercy to anyone else? Are you now saying that God should not have this concern and compassion for anyone else? God's mercy and compassion extends beyond you and your circle of relationships. If we lack concern for the nations of the world, it is selfishness. This is something that must be repented of and dealt with swiftly.

Along with this, it needs to be remembered that Israel was judged for its failure to declare the Word of God to the nations. God made Israel His witness to the nations (**Exodus 19:6**). Their purpose was to share the Word of God with the world. Yet, they failed to do this. Their vision turned inward rather than outward. They were more concerned about themselves than the nations of the world. Because of this, they were judged by God.

God has now made the church His witness to the world. It is our responsibility to declare the Word of God to the world. God desires that His people be rivers of blessing and not reservoirs of blessing. He desires that we share the truth with the world. If we fail to do this, we will face the judgment of God.

Our failure to pray for and have concern for the nations will result in their blood being on our hands. The prophet Ezekiel warns that if we do not warn the wicked of his fate and his need of repenting and turning to God, their blood will be on our hands (**Ezekiel 3:18**). We know the fate of the wicked. We know that they need to turn away from their sins and turn to Christ. If we do not labor with all our might in praying and sending missionaries, then their blood will be on our hands. We will be guilty of failing to share the life-transforming message of the gospel with them. We will be guilty of failing to share with them the message that they need so desperately.

Finally, it needs to be emphasized that God delivers nations through intercessors. In the book of Ezekiel, God declares that He looked for an intercessor for the nation of Israel (**Ezekiel 22:30**). God could not find an intercessor for the nation. Because of this, He destroyed the nation. If there had been an intercessor, God would have spared the nation. This passage is pointing out that intercessors can deliver a nation from its sin and judgment. God honors and uses intercession for nations and peoples. Nations and peoples can be delivered from their sins and their judgment if believers will pray. This makes intercession for nations and missionaries an inescapable necessity.

Praying For Laborers

In **Matthew 9:38**, the Lord Jesus Christ calls on us to plead with God to raise up and send out those who will labor in the field. This is a command to the believer. It is the responsibility of the believer to plead with God to call, equip, and send missionaries. How can you plead with God to

raise up and send laborers into the harvest? The following prayer requests are suggestions on how you can plead with God for this:

(1) Plead that God would raise up church planters who can help start new churches and disciple new believers (**Acts 13:1-3, 26-28**).

(2) Plead that God would raise up evangelists who can preach the gospel powerfully and clearly on the mission fields around the world (**Acts 6:10**).

(3) Call on God to raise up believers who will have the gift of teaching and who will also be called to missions (**Ezra 7:10**).

(4) Plead that God would enable Christian groups in other cultures and nations to develop and send missionaries to their own people in both their native land and around the world (**Acts 21:37-22:21**).

(5) Ask God to raise up believers who will have a burden about and a call to translating the Bible into the language of a people so that they can read and understand the Bible (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**).

(6) Pray that God will burden and convict college and seminary students about surrendering their lives to His call to missions (**Proverbs 3:5-7**). When you pray for college and seminary students about this, there are some other requests that you need to make in conjunction with this:

- That they would develop a deep and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. This will give them the sensitivity to know God's call on their life and grant them the strength to make this surrender of their lives.
- That they would be a personal witness of the Lord Jesus Christ. If a person is not sharing the gospel in their native land, it follows that they probably will not be a willing and powerful witness anywhere else.

- That they would find spouses that would have a clear and definite calling to missions. Ask God to enable them to date and marry a person that will share this conviction and burden about missions.
- That they would be equipped and prepared in college and seminary for their task on the mission field. Plead with God to use every experience that they have in college and seminary to prepare them for their life and labors on the mission field.

(7) Pray that God will convict churches about missions and will give them a burden about missions (**Matthew 28:19-20**). Plead with God to make the "Great Commission" central to the life and mission of your church and those churches that are around you. Ask God to start with you, then your leadership, and then to every member of the church.

Specific Requests That You Can Pray For Missionaries

The following is a list of prayer requests that you can pray for missionaries. These requests are based on the Scripture. You can use these or develop your own requests from these. Plead with God for missionaries on the basis of these requests and the Scriptures that they are based on

(1) Pray that the missionary will be filled with the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 5:18**). Plead that the missionary will operate in the power of the Holy Spirit. The only way that the missionary can effectively live and labor on the mission field is through personal and daily surrender to the Holy Spirit.

(2) Pray that the missionary will speak the Word of God with boldness (**Acts 4:31; Ephesians 6:19**). Ask God to give the missionary boldness in

presenting the Word of God. Living in another country does not make a believer a missionary. Pray that God will enable him or her to unashamedly present the gospel.

(3) Pray that the missionary will present the gospel clearly (**Colossians 4:4**). Ask God to enable the missionary to present the gospel so as not to be misunderstood by the people. Plead that God would give the missionary a supernatural understanding of the language that he or she is using. The purpose of this is so that he or she can clearly present the gospel and translate the Bible into the language so that the people can understand it.

(4) Call on God to grant the missionary acceptance with the believers and the missionaries in the land where they are laboring (**Romans 15:30-31**). Paul was concerned about how believers perceived and accepted his ministry. This is still true for missionaries today. Pray that the missionary will be accepted by the believers and the missionaries who are already there. Pray that their hearts will be knit together in love and unity of purpose. Ask God to enable them to work through differences of opinion on how the work is to be carried out.

(5) Pray that the missionaries will be protected from the attacks of Satan and his demons (**Romans 15:30-31; 2 Thessalonians 3:2-3**). It needs to be understood that the missionary is invading enemy territory. In most instances, Satan has held an uncontested grip for cultures or even millenniums on the countries that we think of as "foreign mission fields." As a result, the thinking of the people is twisted, their minds are blinded, and God's truth does not penetrate easily. Satan does not meekly give up his "prey" (**2 Corinthians 4:4**). He will counterattack with all his power and wisdom. The missionary is in the midst of a dangerous and continual spiritual warfare. Pray that the missionary will be protected. Plead that the missionary will have the spiritual discernment to recognize the

attacks of Satan and use the weaponry God has given to fight this battle.

(6) Call on God to open doors and open hearts to receive the gospel as the missionary ministers in his or her place of service (**Colossians 4:3**). In doing this, you are pleading that God will grant the missionary more opportunities to share the gospel and to minister to the people. Ask God to break through the hardness of heart and the obstacles that are standing in way of the gospel penetrating the hearts of the people.

(7) Plead with God to make the ministry of the missionary fruitful (**2 Thessalonians 3:1**). Call on God to work through the missionary in a powerful way so that people can be saved, discipled, and then used by the Lord. Ask God to grant that the missionary will see fruit from his or her labors.

(8) Pray that the missionary will be delivered from loneliness and frustration (**Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 18:9-10; Hebrews 13:5**). Loneliness and frustration are two weapons that the devil uses to attempt to discourage and defeat missionaries. Pray that they will know and experience the presence of power of Jesus Christ as never before in their lives. Plead that the missionaries will experience fellowship with God in new and satisfying ways. Ask that God will make Himself precious and near especially in times when the missionary is not seeing any fruit from his or her labors.

(9) Ask God to create a servant's heart in the missionary (**Philippians 2:5-10; Matthew 20:28**).

(10) Pray that the missionary will live and labor each day for the glory of God (**1 Corinthians 10:31**).

(11) Plead that the missionary will be a vessel through which the love of God can flow to others (**Romans 5:5; John 13:34-35**).

(12) Pray that the missionary will know God's specific direction for his or her ministry (**Psalms 37:5**).

(13) Pray that the missionary will have a growing and intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ (**John 15:4-5**). Call on God to bless and use the quiet time of the missionary. Pray that nothing will keep the missionary from having a quality quiet time with God.

(14) Pray that the missionary will have a deeper and clearer understanding of the Word of God (**John 16:13**).

(15) Pray that God would protect the missionary physically and strengthen his or her body (**Genesis 2:7**). Ask God who created the body to meet the physical needs of the missionary. Call on Him to strengthen the missionary physically for the tasks that he or she has.

(16) Plead that God would give the missionary peace and assurance about His care of family members that are left behind (**1 Peter 5:7**). A crucial concern for missionaries is the family members that they have to leave in order to go to the mission field. This is especially true for those who have elderly parent, sick parents, or grown children and their families. This can be an enormous burden for the missionary to cope with as he or she labors on the field. Call on God to enable the missionary to cast this anxiety on Him. Plead that God will give the missionary the assurance that God will care for and provide for the family that they are separated from due to His call in his or her life.

(17) Pray that the missionary will be filled with the joy of the Lord in all situations and that this joy will sustain him or her in all situations (**Nehemiah 8:10**).

(18) Ask God to enable the missionary to see people and things from God's perspective (**Proverbs 3:5**).

(19) Ask that God would strengthen and protect the missionary's family (**Ephesians 5:22-6:4**). Plead that the missionary's family would be growing deeper in love and godliness. Pray especially for the families where the children have to go away from the family in order to go to school.

(20) Pray that the missionary will have a renewed zeal to share the gospel of Jesus Christ (**Romans 1:15-16**).

(21) Plead that the missionary will be completely yielded to Christ and willing to die to self (**Mark 8:34-35**).

(22) Pray that the missionary will be growing in humility (**1 Peter 5:5-6**).

(23) Pray that the missionary will endure persecution in a Christlike manner and will be willing to give his or her life for the gospel's sake if that is what is called for in the situation (**1 Peter 2:21-23**).

(24) Call on God to create a thankful heart in the missionary especially in times of difficulty (**Ephesians 5:20**).

(25) Ask God to raise up prayer partners for the missionary (**1 Thessalonians 5:25**). Prayer is the lifeline of the missionary and his or her labors on the field. Pray that God will raise up prayer partners who will intercede for the missionary.

(26) Pray that all the needs--physical, spiritual, emotional, and spiritual--of the missionary will be met by God through His power and grace (**Philippians 4:19**).

(27) Pray that the missionary will labor from godly motives and not to please other people (**2 Corinthians 4:1-2**).

(28) Plead that God would raise up strong believers around the missionary who will encourage him or her in the tasks that God has place on him or her (**Philemon 20**).

(29) Ask that God will give the missionary a craving to be holy and to live a life of obedience to the Word of God (**1 Peter 1:15-16**).

(30) Pray that the missionary will be salt and light to the people to which he or she has been sent (**Matthew 5:13-14**). Ask God to give the missionary such a powerful and attractive witness that the people will want to know more about the Savior who has done this in the missionary's life.

Praying For Missionary Kids

Surrendering to God's call to missions calls for sacrifice and adjustment. This is especially true of the children of the missionaries. They have to face the task of leaving their homes and going to another culture or being separated from parents in order to attend boarding school. Sometimes the children are grown and see their parents move to the mission field, often being separated by thousands of miles. The children of missionaries also need the prayers of believers. The children of missionaries are vulnerable and open to the attacks of Satan, and they need prayer support. The following are prayer requests that you can pray for the children of missionaries. You can use these or adapt them.

(1) Pray that the children will have a personal and growing relationship with Jesus Christ (**John 3:15-16, 15:4-5; 2 Peter 3:18**).

(2) Pray that the children will be content in any situation that they find themselves in (**Philippians 4:11-13**).

(3) Plead that the children will have a loving and open relationship with their parents (**Ephesians 6:4**).

(4) Call on God to enable the children to develop godly friendships that will encourage them and help them grow in Christ (**Proverbs 17:17, 27:17**).

(5) Pray that the children will learn the language of the land they are living in and will be able to communicate with the people.

(6) Pray the children will have opportunities to minister in their situation.

(7) Pray that God would enable the parents and children to work through any difficulties that they are having.

(8) Plead that the children will be protected from loneliness and discouragement (**Hebrews 13:5**).

(9) Pray that the children will have clear guidance as to what is the will of God for their life.

Developing A Heart For Missions

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. *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 becoming 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.

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 beats 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. The address for the U.S. Center For World Missions is 1605 Elizabeth Street, Pasadena, CA 91104, USA.

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!

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:** Inner 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--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.

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 who desperately need 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 from Caleb Project, 10 West Dry Creek Circle, Littleton, CO 80120 or www.calebproject.com. Information about this can also be obtained from the following sources: Christian Information Network, 11005 State Highway 83, Colorado Springs, CO 80920 or The U.S. Center For World Mission, 1605 E. Elizabeth Street, Pasadena, CA 91104 or email them at Mission.Frontier@uscwm.org.

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.

- **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 this.
- **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.

Will You Accept The Challenge?

A missionary recently told me that prayer is the lifeline of his labor on the mission field. Another missionary wrote these words, "If people back home stop praying, we're not going to make it." You should never view praying for missionaries as a chore or just one more item among the many prayer requests that you already have. Your prayers can sustain missionaries. Your prayers can fuel the labors of missionaries. By praying you can play a major role in God's great purposes. Prayer gives you the opportunity to make an enormous difference in this world. Your prayers are vital. Will you accept the challenge to make a difference in this world?

PRAYER PRODUCT FROM THE PRAYER CLOSET MINISTRIES, INC.

As we continue to seek ways to help you deepen and strengthen your prayer lives, we have developed another "Prayer Ring". This one has been designed just as the ones mentioned in our last newsletter but this one is for the purpose to pray daily for our missionaries. This one will be called "**Praying for Your Missionaries**". Should you desire one or more of these, please contact us at The Prayer Closet Ministries, Inc.

The Beloved Unbeliever Network is a network of intercessors who pray for believers who have the spouses that are not Christians. These intercessors have been trained and are committed to praying for believers who find themselves in this type of marriage. If you would like to be added to this prayer list or if you know of someone who is in this situation and would like to place them on this prayer list, please contact Dr. Kevin Meador.

Please provide the following information:

Name of family members
Church affiliation
Any special requests



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