

## How to Pray for God's Mission, Part 1

The following are guidelines condensed from Philip M. Bickel's article in the *Mission Education Handbook*.



✝ Mission prayer is a skill that calls for discipline, but a skill you can learn. Let the Lord be your coach. The Holy Spirit will provide you the discipline you lack (Phil. 2:13). Once you get started, you won't regret it. No one ever says, "I wish I had spent less time praying."

*Father, I am glad You don't conceal how challenging prayer is. Because Christ endured so much for me, I accept the challenge of praying for missionaries and Your lost children. Be my coach, Lord. Teach me the discipline of prayer. Even though Satan will oppose me, by Your Spirit's power, help me persevere in mission prayer. Amen.*

✝ A key step to proficiency in mission prayer is setting aside time to pray, until it becomes a habit that you enjoy performing regularly. Only God can teach You the habit of prayer. So, trusting in His grace, simply ask Him for the strength to do it. He will not fail you.

*Lord, my time is precious, but it is all a gift from You. Help me to invest it in praying for lost people near and far. By Your power and strength, enable me to establish the habit of mission prayer. May You receive all the glory for working this miracle of discipline in my life. Amen.*

✝ Keeping a prayer list is a key element of the discipline of prayer - it helps us be accountable. Here is a simple missionary prayer cycle:

- Day 1. Relationship with God: Bible study, prayer life, spiritual growth.
- Day 2. Physical and emotional life: health, safety, morale, finances, climate.
- Day 3. Family: spouse, children, family back home, example of family to others.
- Day 4. Ability to communicate: language learning, adaptation to culture.
- Day 5. Ministry: boldness and fruitfulness in teaching, preaching, witnessing, etc.



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- Day 6: Relationships: with other missionaries, national leaders, believers and unbelievers.
- Day 7: Adopted country: its government, political situation, economic situation.

*Lord, You determine the number of the stars and call them each by name (Psalm 147:4). But my memory is not so flawless. Help me to create and keep a mission prayer list. Then grant me the discipline to use it regularly, holding up the needs of missionaries and national witnesses that You bring to my attention. Keep me faithful as Your Spirit leads me. Amen.*

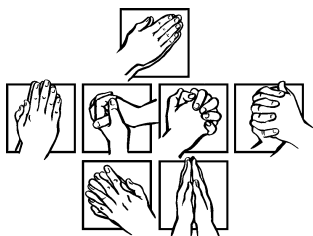


✚ Take grace trips, not guilt trips. The Lord calls you to intercede for unbelievers, but He also knows you are just one person. Therefore, He only expects you to do a one-person-sized job.

*Savior Jesus, Your blood shed at Calvary removes all my sin and guilt. No work I do can add anything to the salvation You have won for me. May Your grace liberate me from “mission guilt.” Help me to accept the fact that I am one person who can contribute one person’s efforts. But that is enough. Bless my prayers as I focus on the missionary and the people to whom Your Spirit leads me. Amen.*

✚ Help yourself stay focused: choose a special place to pray; use visual aids (map, globe, photos); try adding background music, either instrumental or vocal; keep your prayer list and Bible close at hand.

*Creator God, You gave us five senses for a reason. Provide for me a setting and atmosphere that will keep me centered on You and Your concern for those walking toward eternity without Your salvation. Amen.*



*Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

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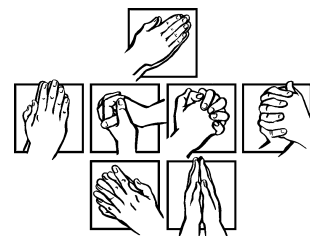


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