



APRIL 2024

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us...”

Colossians 4:2-3a

PRAYERPOINTS

PRAYING FOR MISSIONARIES

Every day, your missionaries work to impact lostness. They engage communities, proclaim the gospel, make disciples, train leaders, and partner with sending churches and churches overseas — all to advance the gospel and bring glory to God. As we steadfastly pray for the lost, let us also pray for our missionaries among them.

EVEN WHEN PLANS SEEM TO FALL APART, 'OBEDIENCE TO GOD IS THE GOAL'

By Sandra Star, missionary to Asian Pacific Rim Peoples

Planting a church in a small town in a closed country was a challenge - learning the language, finding a place to meet, and trying to find other Christians to partner with. As hard as entry work was, we kept at it because God had called us. Then He provided an amazing co-worker! Michelle just knocked on our door one day. She heard we were there and was interested in what we were doing. She spoke English and the local language and was passionate about Jesus. Together, we began a small church. It was growing and reaching the university community. But one day, Michelle told us she was moving to a new city. I didn't complain to her, but I sure complained to God. "She can't leave! How can you let this happen? Now we have no one to help us! Everything we've worked so hard to build is going to fall apart!" My disappointment and frustration turned to prayer as I surrendered control of the situation to God. On the verge of tears, I remembered that this is God's work, and He is able.

Missionaries are not superheroes. We are not immune to emotional pain from unmet expectations. We can become discouraged when people we love chose to not follow Jesus or walk away after professing faith; when the church plant doesn't happen or when it starts and fails. When we're struggling with ministry plans, it's hard to admit that we can become discouraged when we see the success of other missionaries. Please pray for us to remember that obedience to God is the goal, which does not always look like worldly success.

My story of discouragement had a happy ending. Michelle ended up not moving. Today, she and her husband are still involved with the church God used us to plant. Happy ending or not, pray that discouragement will cause missionaries to look to God for comfort, strength, and direction.

ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER

Last fall, we asked God to move in a mighty way at a camp where Deaf learn about the gospel and Bible translation. "One never knows what God is doing after these camps, but glimpses of Him at work are such a joy to see," workers, Paul and Hannah Yount, shared. A hearing interpreter from Nigeria who pastors a Deaf church was there. He learned that Deaf can and should be leaders of Deaf churches. Now he wants to shift church responsibilities to Deaf believers. Thank you for praying!

1 "Pray for me to have faithfulness in spending time in God's Word, joy in suffering, kindness when slandered, patience when things are hard, and perseverance in the battle for souls." Katee Shepherd, Sub-Saharan African Peoples.

2 Especially in the past few years, due to COVID-19 and regional conflicts, many missionaries have had to relocate and join new IMB teams. Some are learning yet another language and culture. Pray for them to adjust well, make friends, and remain deeply rooted in Christ.

3 Pray for Olivia Andrews as she joins the Deaf Team in Southeast Asia. Pray for a good transition to the new climate and culture, and especially pray for her to learn the languages so that she can share the gospel effectively.

4 Missionaries see God work in amazing and encouraging ways, but their work can also be exhausting. Pray for energy and time to share the great things God is doing with their supporters.

5 "One thing that can be discouraging for workers in Central Asia is when no one seems interested in learning about Jesus. Ask God to encourage us to persevere in prayer and in witnessing. Ask for soft hearts to receive the gospel." Sally Norman, Central Asian Peoples.

6 Pray that God will encourage personnel serving in dangerous places. Ask Him to provide more people to pray for them.

7 Missionaries in Malta request prayer that they will remain in the Lord and have wisdom that comes from fearing Him as they face challenges, from personal and family needs to ministering and witnessing to diverse people from different languages and cultures.

8 Ask God to bless single missionaries and provide for them in every way. Pray that He will bless them with opportunities for fruitful ministry, fulfilling relationships, and wisdom to care for themselves when they need rest.

9 "Displaced Indigenous families in Colombia's shelters have very little. Ask God to give us discernment when they ask for help. Pray that our team working at the shelter will be able to earn their trust quickly and boldly share the gospel." April Byron, American Peoples.

10 Pray that children of missionaries will want to tell their friends about Jesus and have opportunities to do that. Pray for these missionary kids (MKs) to love God, trust Him, and have great joy in sharing Jesus with their friends and neighbors.

11 "We sometimes face discouragement with not being to communicate well, when we miss loved ones in the U.S., or when our ministry plans fall apart—again. Please pray that we will endure with faith, abide in the Lord, and have joy no matter the circumstances." Avery Douglas, Central Asian Peoples.

12 Married missionary couples can demonstrate the power of the gospel to people around them with their loving, committed relationship. Pray that their marriages will point people to Jesus as a picture of Christ and the church.

13 Pray for Gretchen Snow as she invests time at a Deaf school in a major Southeast Asian city. Pray that Gretchen will be a faithful servant and show love that comes from the Father.

14 Due to issues such as regional conflicts, visa problems, or children's educational needs, most missionaries experience change in ministry and location at some point. Pray that in these upheavals, they will find comfort in Jesus who is always the same and whose kingdom is their permanent home.

15 "Pray that missionaries will train and model to local believers, churches, and other missionaries how to engage relationships and how to leverage an entry point to share Christ." Amanda Nunn, Sub-Saharan African Peoples.

16 "Pray for our teams to be strong and have clear vision for the task ahead. Ask that we will have a spirit of unity and love as we support one another and strive to plant healthy churches where we live." Elisabeth Edwards, Central Asian Peoples.

17 Pray that God will give missionaries the joy of seeing the fruit of new believers and churches and that, in times of waiting, He will make them patient and steadfast as they trust in Him.

18 Reese, a Project 3000 Missionary Explorer, and a local believer have explored over five unengaged people groups, researching them and sharing the gospel. One person has come to Christ and been baptized on each trip! Pray for safe travels and receptive hearts as they go to hard-to-reach places.

19 Between language barriers and cultural differences, building deep friendships on the mission field can be a challenge. Please pray for God to provide Christian fellowship for missionaries who feel lonely.

20 From the mountains to the ocean, South Asia is both awe-inspiring and heart-wrenching. It has the largest concentration of lostness in the world. Ask God to refresh missionaries serving among South Asians and send more to reach the lost.

21 Some missionaries live and travel in rural areas without immediate access to medical care. Others work in densely populated cities where sickness can spread fast. Wherever they serve, pray for missionaries to have good health.

22 "People find their home culture most comfortable. Yet Jesus, the perfect incarnational witness, forsook the comforts and glory due His name and made His home with us. Pray that we will sacrificially love people and desire their salvation more than earthly comforts." Donna Roberts, Asian Pacific Rim Peoples.

23 Some missionaries need to know more than two languages to communicate with national partners and share the gospel with unreached people groups. Pray for language proficiency in multiple languages. Ask God to encourage missionaries as they study.

24 "In Eastern Europe, the effects of the former Soviet Union still impact life and how we share the gospel today. Pray for us as we establish trusting relationships. Pray that the gospel will take hold and rapidly advance here." Lamar Schubert, European Peoples.

25 In the face of challenges that could greatly impact anyone's emotional and spiritual health, pray for missionaries to have the peace of God (Philippians 4:7).

26 "As a new worker on the field, my biggest daily struggle is language learning. Would you pray for new workers like me to find our identity in Christ rather than our language ability and trust that this humbling process is preparing us for the work God has for us?" Olivia Hooper, Central Asian Peoples.

27 More refugees come from northern Africa and the Middle East than from any other place in the world, resulting in a large diaspora population. Pray for more believers to share the gospel with these diaspora peoples, who can then witness to their family and friends.

28 "Work responsibilities, visa applications, and raising a family overseas can bring a load of stress. Please pray that we will rely on the Lord and trust that He is working. Pray for favor with visas, and ask God for open doors to gospel witness." Elisabeth Edwards, Central Asian Peoples.

29 In Central and South America, churches and missionaries are eager to receive volunteers from churches in the United States. Pray for more of these partnerships that open doors for sharing the gospel and engaging Southern Baptist churches deeper in missions.

30 Pray that missionaries will abide in the true vine, Jesus Christ, and rely on His power to produce much fruit. Ask that they will trust in Him to prune what needs to be pruned to bear even more good fruit in their lives. (John 15).



IMB missionary Mike Domke talks with Ukrainian Baptist pastor and church planter Anatoliy Shmilykhovskyy as IMB and Send Relief leaders meet in Poland to coordinate relief to Ukrainian refugees and internally displaced people. IMB Photo.

ENTREPRENEUR WORKSHOPS OPEN DOORS FOR MISSIONARIES TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH MUSLIM WOMEN

Angela, an IMB missionary in West Africa, works with Denise, a local believer. They teach women how to make cleaning products and how to successfully sell them for a profit. As the women work on making different soaps, Angela and Denise share stories with them from God's Word.

One day, Angela visited some women at a local market. Sana, one of the Muslim women who diligently attends Angela and Denise's workshops, was there. Angela told them about her new plans to organize a training for women in a small town, not too far away. Sana looked amazed and delighted. She said she had been praying for someone to go and help the women in her small town – the same place where God prompted Angela to start another soap-making workshop for women. Sana said that Angela was sent by Allah to help the women in her community.

Pray that Sana and the other West African women will understand that the one true God sent Angela, not simply to teach entrepreneurship, but to teach something of eternal value – the gospel. May the Word of God penetrate these women's hearts and bring dreams and visions leading them to Jesus Christ. Pray for a Bible study among West African women to start soon. Please pray for wisdom and boldness for Angela and Denise as they share stories from God's Word and witness to West African women.



MISSIONARY TASK PRAYER CARD

Pray intentionally for entry work and through other aspects of the missionary task for your church, the IMB, and your IMB missionaries around the world.



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**REACHING
THE NATIONS,
TOGETHER.**