

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”*

Romans 15:13 (ESV)

# PRAYER POINTS

## AMERICAN PEOPLES

*Spiritual darkness and hopelessness pervade Indigenous communities steeped in ancient pagan traditions and rituals. Whether it's despairing wails of grief, venerating saints over Christ, or practicing occultic animal sacrifices, daily life in these communities shows a profound spiritual lostness. Only the gospel of the risen Christ can heal these people's spiritual brokenness and deliver them from lifeless rituals into the freedom, hope, and eternal life found in Him alone. Will you pray for this gospel to reach Indigenous communities in the Americas?*

## INDIGENOUS BELIEVERS SHARE GOSPEL HOPE AS THEY MINISTER TO GRIEVING FAMILY IN THEIR VILLAGE

*By Katherine McCormick, team member*

Our team was visiting a remote village for a few days to teach a small group of Indigenous believers. Our first morning, we walked upriver, and as we approached a home, we could hear women wailing. In the dark, low-thatched interior, they were grieving the death of a teenage boy. Their long dark hair draped over their faces as they wailed the story of his life in a haunting sound of despair and grief. The air was heavy with darkness. Our group clustered quietly around, and the Indigenous believers made their way into the circle around the boy's mother, placing their hands on her shoulders and speaking truth to her. We knelt around her and began praying together, lifting our hands. After a while of praying, the mother's wails changed to softer weeping. The sense of despair and hopelessness lifted as the believers



*A man from the Yahuas people group shows a dried snake skin. This community lives near Iquitos, Peru. IMB Photo.*

continued praying and singing over the family. In the midst of great sorrow and despair, it was a powerful testimony of the hope that Christ gives in a culture that otherwise has no hope. Even while suffering this painful loss, pray that God will “give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified” (Isaiah 61:3). May this boy's mother, family, and village come to repentant faith in Christ and live with God forever.

## GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION STORY

On September 18, 2023, we prayed for missionaries and their local partners at work in Oaxaca, Mexico, asking that their labors not be in vain. God answered! Three new believers in Oaxaca are starting to gather on Sundays. You also prayed on September 20, 2023 for Peruvian believers to boldly share their faith. Praise God that a Peruvian family is sensing God calling them to boldly share the gospel where it is not known.

**1 NEW MISSIONARIES.** "We are excited that Luciano and Flavia, two new Indigenous missionaries, are finishing their training, gathering support, and preparing to join in ministry among unreached people groups in northeast Brazil. Pray for a successful transition as they join the work full-time."

**2 ECUADOR.** Pray for African Ecuadorians in the north zone of Esmeraldas, Ecuador to grow in spiritual maturity and to place God first. Ask God to raise up strong leadership among these disciples in the mission churches. Pray that they will share true hope with everyone around them.

**3 ECUADOR.** "There are several new communities in Ecuador that are open to the gospel, but we cannot begin work there until we have leadership in the existing mission churches. Pray that we can reach the new places soon with the powerful hope that comes from relationship with Jesus."

**4 PARAGUAY.** Pray for training of Mbya believers in southern Paraguay and for those who work among them to be able to better reach them with the gospel message of Christ. Pray also for several families who have begun to hear Bible stories in two Mbya communities to be saved.

**5 NAHUATL CHURCH.** "We are thankful that a Nahuatl church is eager to learn more about God and His Word. Pray for the church and for us as we work with them to lay a sound, biblical foundation. A major challenge is that we are working in both Spanish and Nahuatl, ensuring the message is understood."

**6 NEW MISSIONARIES.** Pray for new team members in their first term as they learn language and culture. Pray that the Lord will lead them as they prepare to reach the Nahuatl of Soledad Atzompa, Mexico. Pray for them to gain language and cultural skills that will serve them well as they share Christ's hope.

**7 ZOQUE COMMUNITIES.** "We have been pushing into hopelessness in the Zoque communities for over 11 years. This year we have seen people in the Pine Hill community finally willing to meet and seek the truth. Praise God that people are praying and calling out to Him for forgiveness of sin."

**8 ZOQUE COMMUNITIES.** "Pray that we will soon see Zoque believers following in obedience through public baptism. Pray for healthy church establishment and that God will raise up godly leaders. Pray for the physical health and safety of our team as we minister in areas where illness is common."

**9 GUATEMALA.** "Pray for transition among our team in Guatemala as some will leave in the next year. We are working to reach the Indigenous and also city dwellers who hope in religion, spirits, or themselves. Pray as our team seeks to grow with new missionaries and national partners."

**10 AMERICAS.** "Pray for new digital engagement strategies across the Americas that we are implementing this year as a tool to reach more people with the gospel in creative ways. This is an effort to reach all generations with the biblical and eternal hope they desperately need."

**11 OAXACA, MEXICO.** "Please pray for Isaac, Brian, and Beth, three new believers in the village of Libertad in Oaxaca, Mexico who have begun to gather on Sundays. We all desire that the Lord would grow this small gathering into a healthy church that will reach many communities."

**12 MIXTEC BELIEVERS.** "Join our team in praising God for the 40 new believers. We rejoice in Gods' great victory! Pray that these new Mexican Mixtec believers will share the good news of Christ's resurrection with their neighbors so they will be slaves to sin no longer."

**13 COLOMBIA.** Pray that believers in Rio Chorí in Colombia and in other remote communities would be bright lights to those around them. Pray that the gospel of hope would be proclaimed to those walking in the shadow of darkness and that they will be freed from their spiritual slavery.

**14 COLOMBIA.** There are communities that have never heard the name of Jesus or only know of Him through idolatrous religious ceremonies. Pray that the Lord will continue to raise up national workers and missionaries who will go to the harvest field in Colombia where the need is so great.

**15 BRAZIL.** Pray for a couple as they lead a small church plant in an urban Indigenous community of Manaus, Brazil. It is an area where the people live in a survival mindset under very difficult circumstances. Pray for them to see the light of Jesus as their hope.

**16 BRAZIL.** Please pray that God will raise up strong and faithful leaders among the small group of urban Indigenous believers in Manaus, Brazil. May they have a passion for seeing their friends, families, and neighbors come to know Christ and be transformed by His amazing love.

**17 AMERICAS.** Pray that God would help a single mother of six children, and free her from the enemy's grip. Pray for her to remember what she has learned from the Bible over the past few years, and ask the Lord to have mercy on her children. Pray for their salvation.

**18 AMERICAS.** Missionaries in the Americas are sharing the hope of Jesus in eight global cities, where a combined 100 million people live. This requires special strategies for the closed areas and diverse populations. Pray for God's wisdom, guidance, and grace, and for more workers.

**19 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.** One of the most difficult populations to reach is university students. Busyness, a post-modern mindset, and religious suspicion all play a part in their unwillingness to hear the gospel. Pray for evangelistic work on university campuses and for new work to be engaged soon.

**20 MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP.** Churches in the United States are vital ministry partners with missionary teams. These partnerships open doors to ministry, church planting, and sending national believers to the nations. Pray for more volunteer teams to come to the Americas and share the gospel.

**21 MEXICO.** The northern and southern borders of Mexico remain a critical focus of ministry. Pray for the tireless and often heartbreaking work of sharing hope with people from multiple countries leaving their homes seeking new lives. May those on their journey grow in their walk with Christ.

**22 MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP.** Student volunteers bring life and light to ministries across the Americas. Some come for the summer, others for a full semester. All carry unique worldviews and experiences that enhance gospel sharing. Pray that many will come and faithfully share their source of hope.

**23 SUPPORT PERSONNEL.** Behind the scenes support personnel such as those in logistics, member care, risk management, administration, and human resources also share the gospel locally and work in church planting. Pray for these working on multiple fronts to serve with gladness and effectiveness.

**24 GLOBAL MISSIONARY PARTNERS.** "We want to send out 75 Global Missionary Partners (GMPs) from the Americas by 2025. Praise the Lord with us that 48 have answered that call and have gone to the nations with the hope of eternal life as their message! Pray for more to go out soon."

**25 PERU.** Iglesia Bautista Morada de Dios in Lima, Peru is starting new churches in five areas of the city. Pray for healthy churches to be planted with strong biblical foundations at the right time, and for godly men to rise into leadership positions.

**26 REFUGEES.** New Hope Trauma Healing is a six-week course designed to help people cope with difficult circumstances and trauma. It has been especially beneficial with Venezuelan and other refugees. Pray for those who have experienced trauma to turn to God for hope and healing.

**27 MISSIONARY KIDS.** In South America, the school year often runs from March to December. Pray for missionary kids across the Americas to have successful academic journeys, grow deeper faith, and develop healthy relationships this year.

**28 NEW MISSIONARIES.** Language learning is critical to sharing the gospel locally. Equally important is cultural knowledge. Pray for those mentoring new missionaries in language and cultural acquisition. Pray also for those acclimating to mission life as this can be a stressful time.

**29 AMERICAS.** Some small people groups can be hard to find and visit. Deep jungles, raging rivers, vast deserts, and soaring mountains stand between missionaries and the hopeless who need a Savior. Pray for missionaries to overcome geographical barriers to reaching the lost in the Americas.

**30 BAPTIST SEMINARIES.** In Mexico, Colombia, and Brazil, Baptist seminaries strive to train new generations of missionaries and pastors. Pray for these young men and women to learn and apply key fundamentals. Pray for seminary professors to be examples of Christ and to teach faithfully.



## FOR MOST MIXTECS, THE STORY OF JESUS ENDS AT HIS CRUCIFIXION

"Pastor, our people don't know that Jesus was raised from the dead," said members of a church plant on Easter morning. Most Mixtec people of Guerrero, Mexico do not know about Jesus' resurrection even though they proudly identify as Catholic. For them, the story ends after His crucifixion. The saints are more important to them. They honor the saints with prayers and festivals. Mixtecs also sacrifice chickens and goats to the spirits of the dead to gain protection and blessings or to curse their enemies. They live as slaves to fear, alcohol, envy, and bitterness, but they are reluctant to turn from their traditional ways. Pray that new Mixtec believers would share the good news of the resurrection with their neighbors and that Mixtecs will be slaves no longer.



Offerings burned inside a Mixtec Catholic church. IMB Photo.



A Mixtec Catholic church. IMB Photo.

## PRAYER IS VITAL TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE ON THE MISSION FIELD

*By Robert Farmer, a worker*

As I arrived at my house with my children, I noticed a black candle burn mark on the front of our sidewalk along with blood strategically sprinkled along the front of our property. I've seen this before – a few months ago, in fact. It was another chicken sacrifice that the witchdoctors had performed in front of our house. The enemy is not happy that a church has been planted in a place that people call "the devil's playground." That evening, I stayed up praying. When I did sleep, my dreams were nothing but the words of Scripture playing back and forth. Living in an Indigenous village has its challenges. The spiritual warfare is intense, and we need you, our prayer warriors, to fight alongside us praying for hope to drive out evil.

## FAST FACTS ABOUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLES



Though many have heard of Jesus, fewer than 1 in 10 people have a personal relationship with Jesus in the Americas.



Most people in the Americas identify as Catholic but have not heard the gospel. They know the name of Jesus but think of Him as one among many saints.



The area is experiencing rapid growth of Neo-Pentecostalism, an aggressive form of prosperity theology that spreads theological confusion.

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Some names may have been changed for security reasons. BI 14M 7/24 P7701-9

**REACHING  
THE NATIONS,  
TOGETHER.**