



HOW TO PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES

and the Unreached World

by Santiago Fuentes

The most important way to support missionaries is to pray for them—specifically, consistently, and by name.

When Billy Graham was approached by powerful people—presidents, CEOs, people who could write a check and move mountains—and they asked him how they could help his ministry, he always gave the same answer. **Pray for me.**

Today we have apps and emails. We have real-time updates from inside closed countries. We can see the faces of the people we're praying for. We have every tool imaginable. So, the question is not whether we can pray; the question is whether we actually will, and whether we know how to pray for missionaries. Understanding how to pray for missionaries in a meaningful, biblical way can make a real difference in their work and in our own walk with God.

BE HONEST ABOUT HOW YOU PRAY

Paul describes prayer as striving. In Greek, the word he uses is the same root that gives us our word “agony.” He literally tells the church to agonize with him in prayer ([Romans 15:30](#)). Commit yourself to learning how to pray, and specifically, how to pray for missionaries.

Here is what I do know: God hears our prayers and He treasures them. Revelation says He keeps the prayers of His people in bowls of gold ([Revelation 5:8](#)). When we pray, we are participating in something He has already set in motion. We are joining the movement of His will. And when we skip it, we miss what He wanted to do in us through the asking.

5 SPECIFIC WAYS TO PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES

1. Pray for open doors. Visas. Border crossings. Government permissions. Connections that no human strategy can manufacture on its own. Ask God specifically to open the way for the missionaries you know to get to the people they're trying to reach.

2. Pray for boldness. The temptation in high-risk places is real. When rejection or danger is on the line, it becomes very easy to soften the message, to present a smaller and safer version of Jesus.

3. Pray for the people they're reaching. Get the Joshua Project app or subscribe to their daily email. You will receive a different unreached people group every single day—names, locations, specific details. You can pray for them by name and ask God to send workers to those specific places ([Matthew 9:37-38, ESV](#)).

4. Pray for persecuted Christians. Voice of the Martyrs publishes regular prayer updates: a wife who lost her husband, a man in prison, widows who need housing. Follow them, read the updates, and bring those situations before God by name.

5. Pray for the organizations doing this work. The ministries serving missionaries and persecuted Christians often run on tight budgets with tiny teams. They need prayer too—for endurance, for funding, for the strength to keep going in seasons when results are hard to see. Include them in your prayers.

WHAT YOUR PRAYERS FEEL LIKE FROM THE FIELD

When a text comes through from someone back home saying “I'm praying for you right now,” something happens. You arrive at a setting, and the hearts of the people are open in a way you did not create. The ground has already been softened, and you feel it. Prayer does that.

You don't have to write a long message. Five words is enough. Send it. It can really encourage the missionary.

THE WORK BELONGS TO GOD. THE POWER BELONGS TO GOD. AND
HE HAS CHOSEN TO MOVE THROUGH THE PRAYERS OF HIS PEOPLE.
SO PRAY. BECAUSE IT WORKS.