

KEEP ON KEEPING ON

Paul urged the Ephesian church leaders to 'keep watch over yourselves and all the flock' (Acts 20:28). He saw the danger of ministry where leaders neglect their own spiritual lives.

It is as hard for Christian leaders to maintain a disciplined spiritual life as for any other Christian, probably harder. The devil knows where to strike, so pray:

- That missionaries will 'speak as men approved by God' (1 Thessalonians 2:4)
- That their conversation will be 'full of grace' and 'salt' (Colossians 4:6)
- That they will preach 'in season and out of season' (2 Timothy 4:2)
- laying foundations 'as an expert builder' (1 Corinthians 3:10)



For more information
contact UFM Worldwide

Tel: **01793 610515**
Email: **info@ufm.org.uk**

Colossians 1:9-12; Ephesians 3:14-21; Philippians 1:9-11 teach us about Paul's faith and about God and his plans for his church. Why not use them in praying for your missionaries and the Christians in their area?

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

We need to be concerned about our own country, but we should also be concerned about our brothers and sisters throughout the world - as well as those who haven't heard the gospel. So read the papers, listen to the news. God may lay a particular country or ministry on your heart.

Operation World (OM Publishing) covers every country and gives facts and figures about their religions, history and government. It makes excellent background reading, and is available in Christian bookshops and is a tremendous

resource. There are also children's versions such as *You Can Change the World* and *You Too Can Change the World*.

Good political maps will show country boundaries, whilst your local bookstore or library should have something on the country you're

interested in. We also produce videos on our work in various countries.

Encyclopaedias and Atlases on CD-Rom contain articles on countries' geography, history and religions, along with maps, flags and photos. Browsing the web will give you further information on countries and missionary societies.

It's good to have a wide interest in God's world, but it's hard to pray for all of it, so concentrate on one or two places, and pray about those - imaginatively, creatively.

'We constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfil every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith'
(2 Thessalonians 1:11)



PRAYING IS THE PART WE ALL PLAY

God has a part for you to play in mission, building his church worldwide. No Christian worker, whether at home or overseas, can 'go it alone'. Missionaries need the support of a team.

When you decide to pray regularly for someone, you join that team. Whether you pray, provide financial support, or work to plant churches, you are playing your part in world mission.

As you pray, God uses your prayers to work out his purposes. Your prayers matter to him and make a real difference in the world.

It takes discipline and commitment to pray for people who live in a place we know little about, who work in a language we don't speak, who may eat breakfast while we're going to bed, and who may not be back for some years.

**Remember them.
Pray for them every day.
Your prayers count.**

We are grateful to OMF International (UK) (email: omf@omf.org.uk) (web site: www.omf.org.uk) for their permission to use the substance of the text of their leaflet 'How to pray for missionaries'.



145 Faringdon Road
Swindon Wiltshire
SN1 5DL

T: 01793 610515
F: 01793 432255

E: admin@ufm.co.org.uk
W: www.ufm.org.uk

Registered Charity No 219946

Pray for Missionaries



PRAYING FOR YOUR MISSIONARY



THEIR PRAYER LETTER

All our missionaries write regular prayer letters, and we will be happy to send them to you, so why not ask to receive them? They will keep you up to date with their work and personal needs. Remember, spiritual work can bring encouragement; disappointment as well as hope. Working as a missionary can be lonely, so pray imaginatively for them in their work.

THEIR COUNTRY

Pray for the leaders in your missionaries' country.

Pray for freedom to preach the gospel and for political stability.

Find out as much as you can about the country, its history, and what's happening now. Read the papers. Watch TV. Use background information from Operation World, or from UFM. We produce fact sheets on the countries we work in, and further information can be found in our magazine and on our web site.

THE NATIONAL CHURCH

Pray for the pastors and church members in your missionaries' country. Pray for spiritual growth, and for their ability to teach, preach, disciple and witness. Pray for vision and for love, and for any resources or literature that are needed.

Pray for the Christians to be 'salt and light' in their neighbourhoods, society or government, and for relations with those of other faiths.

THEIR PERSONAL NEEDS

Pray that your missionaries will feel at home in a new country, culture and climate.

Pray for their children, particularly if they are at school in a different country.

Pray for happy family times together, and for the children to love and serve the Lord.

Pray that they won't resent being separated from their parents, and that the parents won't fret about their children.

Pray for elderly or frail parents at home and for those who support them. Ask that God will look after them.

Pray for good, sustaining friendships, for holiday arrangements and time to relax and unwind. Remember the special needs of single missionaries, who may have feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Pray for your missionaries when it's time to adjust back to life in their own country. Pray that as they visit churches and supporters they will build strong links and renew relationships.

Pray for good relationships with national Christian leaders and with fellow workers, some of whom may come from different cultures and countries.

Pray as your missionaries learn a new language, understand its nuances and attempt to communicate. Grasping the language takes time. Pray against setbacks and discouragement.

Pray for their language helpers; people with the courage to correct and advise, and who will encourage your missionaries in their work.

PRAYING AS PAUL PRAYED

The apostle Paul was a pioneer missionary and a pray-er. He was beaten, imprisoned and shipwrecked, but never lost sight of the goal. He asked his friends to pray:

For boldness

'Pray...that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel...Pray that I may declare it fearlessly as I should' (Ephesians 6:19,20)

For the spread of God's word

'Pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honoured, just as it was with you' (2 Thessalonians 3:1)

For opportunity and clarity

'Pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ... Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should' (Colossians 4:3,4)

For protection

'Pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith. But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one' (2 Thessalonians 3:2,3)

PRAYING WITH OTHERS

We have prayer groups in the UK who pray for our missionaries. We will be glad to send you information about the group nearest to you.

It helps to pray with other Christians and by joining a group you will encourage them, further God's kingdom and meet those with similar interests to your own. If there is no group near you, you may be interested in organising one. We will be happy to discuss this with you.

PRAYING FOR MORE WORKERS

Jesus asked his followers to pray for workers to go out into a needy world. We need to pray for that too, and when they go to continue praying for them.

'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field' (Matthew 9:37,38)

PRAYING EACH DAY

If you want to pray for your missionaries every day, you could use these topics. Choose from these items and use whatever background you have from prayer letters or other sources.

Sunday - Their spiritual life

Time to read and pray. Spiritual growth. Encouragement. Fellowship with local Christians. Good links with sending churches and prayer supporters. For integrity, reliability and consistency.

Monday - Their personal life

Relationships between husband and wife. Maintaining contact with children, parents and family back home. Friendships with nationals. Health and strength. Physical and spiritual protection.

Tuesday - Communication

Progress in language study. Adaptation to culture, customs and people. Clarity, creativity and relevance in preaching and teaching. Biblical emphasis. Involvement with those hearing the message.

Wednesday - Relationships

Harmonious relationships with other Christians, team members and church leaders. Partnership with the local church.

Thursday - Evangelism

For boldness. For godly, sensitive, Spirit-led ministry. Hungry hearts and the opening of spiritually blind eyes. For the establishing of Christ's church. For national missionary movements.

Friday - Discipling

For patience and empathy. Training young people. Encouraging new believers. Equipping those with leadership gifts.

Saturday - Their country

For those in authority. The political situation. Religious freedom. Openness to the gospel. Favour with officials. Visa applications and renewal.

We produce a monthly Prayer Calendar and an annual Prayer Diary to encourage prayer for all our missionaries. We will be happy to send them to you. The monthly Prayer Calendar can also be found on our website:

<http://www.ufm.org.uk>