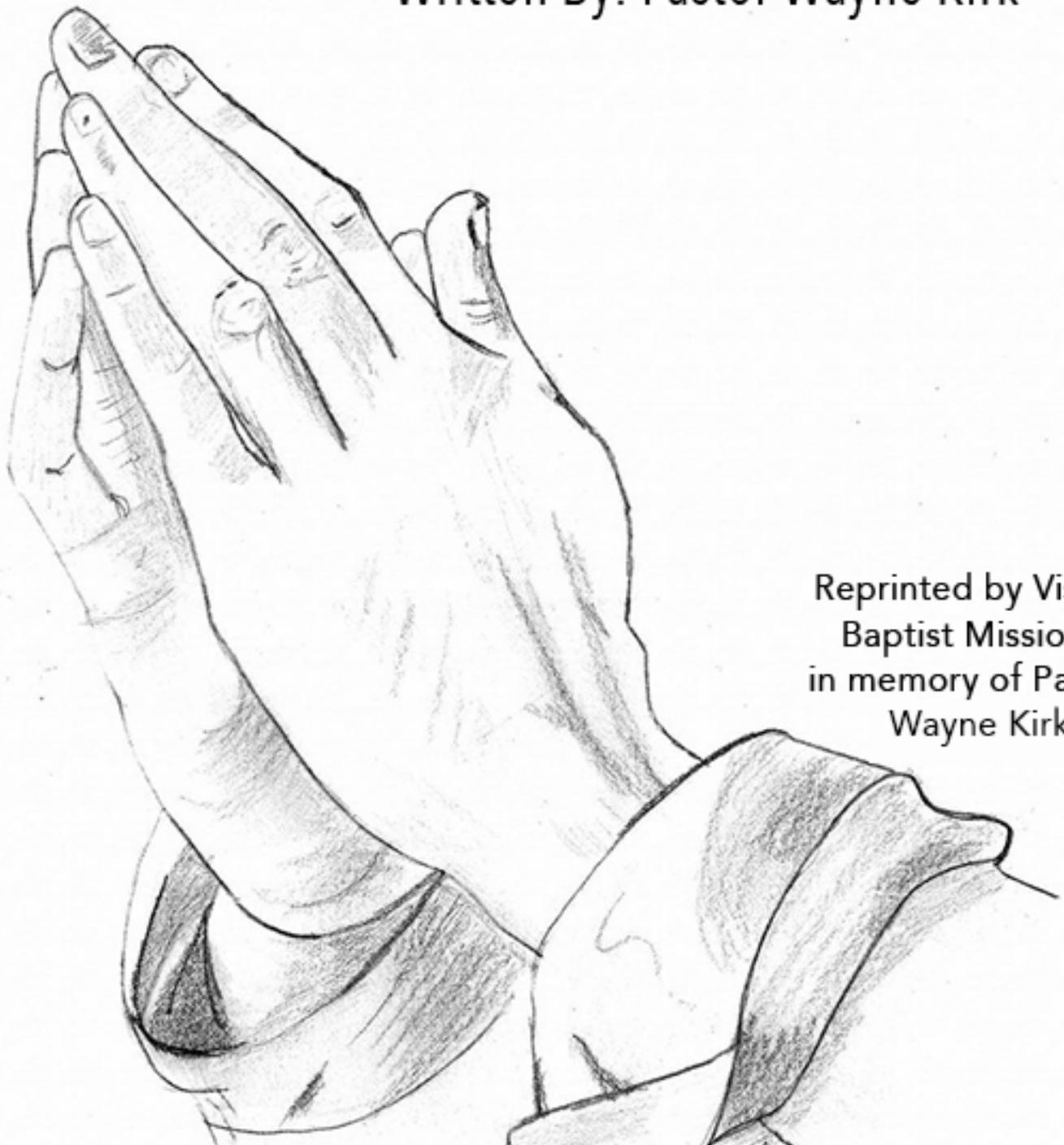


# How To Pray For Missionaries

Written By: Pastor Wayne Kirk



Reprinted by Vision  
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in memory of Pastor  
Wayne Kirk

**Pastor Wayne Kirk**

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Romans 8:28

This book is reprinted in memory of Pastor Wayne Kirk. As a faithful servant of Christ, he devoted his life to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ serving as a missionary, a pastor, a teacher, and a soul winner. He was faithful both in sharing his love for missions and passing his passion on to others. Our prayer is that this book will help the reader to see the importance of praying for missions and how to pray more effectively for missionaries.

-Pastor Chris Wilson, Carson Memorial Baptist Church

## How To Pray For Missionaries

How often do we hear missionaries say: "Pray for me." This raises the question: How, and in what areas?

Praying adequately for missionaries covers a vast field.

Often missionaries do not feel they can share their real problems with others because they feel pastors or people will not understand.

**JESUS SAID: THE HARVEST IS GREAT BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW. PRAY YE THEREFORE THAT LABORERS BE SENT INTO THE HARVEST FIELD.**

Jesus point to a lack of workers.

Cure: Pray to the Lord of the harvest. Mt. 9:36-38

Before we get into definite things in the missionary's life, here are some pointers as to how to effectively pray for missionaries and the lost of the world.

### 1. PRAY PERSONALLY.

It is easier to pray here for a short time than to pray in person when you have more time.

Let God burden your heart daily about prayer for missionaries.

### 2. PRAY SCRIPTURALLY.

Know what God's Word has to say about praying.

### 3. PRAY INTELLIGENTLY.

Have a Bible and world map before you.

Know where the countries are and the detail of the needs they have.

### 4. PRAY FAITHFULLY.

In due season we shall reap if we faint not.

Prayer must not be mere routine.

Yet it must be a daily part of our lives.

### 5. PRAY INTENSIVELY.

Let God burden your heart.

Give Him time to burden you.

## **6. PRAY INCLUSIVELY.**

There are three realms or need in every man's life.

### **a. THE PHYSICAL REALM**

Health of the body.

Deliverance from satanic attacks.

Safety from serpents, sickness, accident and disease.

Present their bodies to the Lord for His protection.

Do it for each missionary individually.

### **b. THE MENTAL REALM**

Deliverance from depression, oppression, and obsession.

These are attacks on the mind.

Pray for wisdom in the decisions they make and direction they go.

### **c. THE SPIRITUAL REALM**

We wrestle not against flesh and blood. Eph. 6:12

Lift them up to the throne of grace.

Share the battle with them in prayer for them.

The work of God is not done on purely human terms.

The missionary needs intercessory prayer warriors working with him.

## **I. WHY PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES?**

### **A. THE MISSIONARY IS INVADING SATAN'S TERRITORY.**

Satan has had a hold on these people for a long time and he has no desire to let them go.

### **B. THE MISSIONARY FACES MANY FRUSTRATIONS.**

Language, customs, culture, unfamiliar foods, climate, lack of privacy. Lack of results.

### **C. THE MISSIONARY HAS NEED OF WISDOM TO DEAL WITH.**

Pride of race and nationality.

Prejudice.

Selfishness.

Lack of self discipline.

## **II. SPECIFIC AREAS IN WHICH TO PRAY FOR MISSIONARY.**

### **A. FOR HIS SPIRITUAL PRESSURES.**

Missionaries, like everyone else, have times when they cool off or backslide. There are times when personal devotions begin to deteriorate.

#### **1. PRAY THAT THEY WILL MAINTAIN DAILY COMMUNICATION WITH GOD.**

If the life of a missionary is not right, it might result in irritability toward the family, fellow missionary, or the national.

It can also result in pride.

"My opinions and actions are the only right ones."

Everyone else is wrong.

Pride may also show itself in wrong treatment of others.

Or impatience with the shortcomings of others.

Or seeking personal popularity or status.

Losing daily touch with God exposes the missionary to temptation.

A person who has done a fine work for God can fall into immorality.

Honesty in handling money or goods.

Truthfulness in speech and deed.

All of these areas may be attacked.

#### **2. PRAY FOR BROKENNESS.**

In dealing with nationals and fellow workers.

Some find it difficult to be under authority and take orders.

Pray that he will have complete dependence on Christ.

#### **3. PRAY THAT HE MAY HAVE THE LOVE OF GOD FOR SINNERS.**

Human pity and sympathy are not enough.

Only the love of Christ can help the missionary love the unlovely.

#### **4. PRAY FOR THE ANOINTING OF GOD ON HIS MINISTRY.**

Pray that he will have constant knowledge of God's will in big and small things.

These things often cause many missionaries to fail.

## **5. PRAY CONCERNING THE LACK OF PERSONAL DISCIPLINE**

Devotions, Bible Study, language study, learning customs of the people, working extra hours.

These things often cause many missionaries to fall.

## **6. PRAY FOR HIS BURDEN FOR ADDITIONAL WORKERS TO HELP IN THE WORK.**

For the training of nationals.

There is so small a work force, and they make so little impact.

What could be done if we just had more.

## **7. THE MISSIONARY'S CONSTANT NEED TO SHOW LOVE**

Phil. 1:9

## **8. FOR THE MISSIONARY'S OWN PRAYER LIFE.**

It is better to do less and to pray more.

## **9. PRAY THAT HIS SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS BE SHARPENED.**

That he would be sensitive to the needs of others.

That he would have the ability to put his priorities right.

They need clear objectives in their ministries.

There are many interruptions, trials and trivialities.

He needs a proper perspective of his purpose and goal.

He must work with definite and specific plans because his time on the field can suddenly be terminated.

## **B. PRAY FOR THEIR PHYSICAL PRESSURES.**

### **1. PRAY FOR THEIR HEALTH.**

Ill health can cause spiritual depression and render a missionary ineffective.

This can be used of the devil to impede God's work.

It can then cause other missionaries to carry heavier load.

they are exposed to many diseases in a tropical area.

He may have no resistance to them.

Sickness has shortened many missionary's career.

There is inadequate health care in some places.

Pray that God will give the missionary the measure of health that would best glorify God.

It may be God's will for a particular missionary to have afflictions.

## **2. PRAY CONCERNING FATIGUE**

This is a common thing in the tropics.

High humidity and the temperature drains the energy out of the missionary.

## **3. PRAY FOR THEIR SAFETY.**

Road accidents are very prevalent in other countries.

In 3rd world countries the missionary is usually considered at fault.

Pray that they will drive with caution and God will protect them.

There are hazardous travel conditions on the field and at home.

They travel extensively on deputation and furlough.

## **4. PRAY FOR HIS NEED OF STABILITY**

Pray for spiritual and emotional balance in his ministry.

## **C. PRAY FOR EMOTIONAL PRESSURES.**

### **1. PRAY CONCERNING LONELINESS.**

This especially affects the single worker.

Maybe there are no others around which to form companionships.

Isolation from friends and relatives.

Lack of acceptance by national people.

### **2. PRAY CONCERNING ANXIETY WHICH IS ANOTHER SOURCE OF PRESSURE**

Anxiety over the work.

Anxiety over a problem in the local church.

Anxiety over problems in the home.

Anxiety over political upheavals.

Anxiety over friends and fellow workers.

Anxiety over their children.

Not only for health and safety.

Their schooling. What kind?

Home school

Christian school

National school in the country.

Send them home to parents and relatives.

For their spiritual and moral welfare.

That they will fit into their multi-cultured world.  
For their friends.

There is much stress in missionary work and also much discouragement.

### **3. PRAY FOR THEM TO HAVE COMPATIBILITY WITH THEIR FELLOW WORKERS.**

They must be able to get along with their family, co-workers, the mission administration, supporting church, national workers, and believers.  
If they do not get along it causes many missionary casualties.  
Harmony and close spiritual fellowship is needed with other workers.

### **4. PRAY CONCERNING DISCOURAGEMENT OVER LACK OF RESULTS.**

### **5. PRAY FOR THE DRAIN OF BEING AN ALIEN 24 HOURS A DAY.**

### **6. PRAY FOR THEIR FURLOUGH TIME.**

They long for furlough time but many times they are disappointed.  
They see lack of interest from believers and churches.  
Ignorance of missions and true world conditions.  
Adapting to an American rat race of life again.  
Their need is for rest, spiritual revival and refreshment.

## **D. PRAY FOR THEIR FINANCIAL PRESSURES**

Most missionaries face this to some extent - some more than others.  
The missionary can do little about this except pray.  
He cannot change jobs, moonlight or start his own business.

### **1. THE COST OF LIVING CAN BE A SOURCE OF PRESSURE.**

The cost of living is very high in many countries.  
Many missionaries live sacrificially by our standards, but it looks like they are rich to the national.  
Pray they will have a right balance of the use of money and possessions.  
Travel for children going to school.  
Cost of clothing.  
Hospitality to travelers.  
Repairs and replacements for equipment.  
The high price of imported goods.  
The missionary expects these inconveniences, but his skill at managing financial affairs may not be equal to them.

He may fall into debt with the mission with their permission.  
This is a source of pressure.

## **2. PRAY FOR THE MISSIONARY'S NEEDS TO BE MET.**

If committed to God these pressures can become a source of blessing.  
God is able to supply the needs.  
His cry is: **Pray with me and for me!**

## **E. PRAY FOR ESSENTIALS.**

Do not pray that the path of the missionary may be easy.  
Pray that God will provide the needed grace to travel that path and for them to be overcome.

### **1. PRAY THAT THEY MIGHT NOT BE TOO BUSY TO PRAY.**

They can get busy just like people in the homeland.

### **2. PRAY THAT THEY MIGHT OVERCOME OBSTACLES IN THEIR PATH.**

That they will have determination to follow him all the way.

### **3. PRAY THAT GOD WILL CENSOR THEIR ACTIVITIES RATHER THAN TO BLESS THEM.**

It is easy to spend much time and energy on secondary things.

### **4. DO NOT PRAY FOR THEM AS THOUGH THEY WERE SUPER SAINTS.**

They are subject to the same temptations.  
Satan will try to destroy their testimonies.  
Pray that God would give them grace to resist the temptations.

### **5. PRAY THAT THEY DO NOT GET EASILY DISCOURAGED.**

Missionaries can become irritable and impatient.  
They can also work in the energy of the flesh.  
Pray that our hearts might be aflame with the love of Christ.  
There is a war going on in the spiritual realm. II Cor. 10:3-4; Eph. 6:12

This war has already been won by Jesus on Calvary.  
Pray for them to stand on victory ground in spite of set backs and trials.  
God desires our prayers that His work might be accomplished.

May God make us real intercessors for the missionaries and other saints.

May God convict us of the lack of prayer.

I Samuel 12:23 - God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you.

## **F. PRAY CONCERNING CULTURE SHOCK.**

One fourth of the missionaries return home because of this.

They cannot adapt to food, customs, and new language.

Humility is needed to adapt and respect the cultures of others.

### **1. PRAY FOR THEIR PROTECTION FROM SATAN'S ATTACKS**

The powers of darkness are very real.

### **2. PRAY FOR HIS FAMILY.**

There are many separations and interruptions in the family life.

Sometimes insufficient money and few conventions.

Separated from children at certain times in their lives.

Teens becoming resentful and rebellious.

Pray for them to be an example to the national.

## **G. PRAY FOR THE MISSIONARY'S LEARNING THE LANGUAGE.**

Not all missionaries find language study difficult.

It is a place where one can get greatly discouraged.

This is one of the great struggles that missionaries face.

Someone has said it is the second test of your calling.

How do you pray for one learning a language?

### **1. PRAY FOR THE SKILLS NEEDED TO LEARN THE LANGUAGE.**

This means the ability to speak, write and hear what is being said.

We take this for granted in English - we already know how to do it.

We have spent years in school to learn all of this.

The missionary must put a lifetime experience into a short time.

He must become a baby all over again learning how to talk.

### **2. PRAY FOR THEIR ABILITY TO CONCENTRATE.**

There are multitudes of distractions when you learn a new language.  
A car won't run.  
A baby is sick.  
Meals to fix.  
Family needs and demands.  
Children learn more easily because their minds are not preoccupied with concerns.  
Adults struggle to live, let alone learn a new language.  
It takes concentration to learn to speak and think.

### **3. PRAY FOR THE STUDENT TO HAVE AN ALERT MIND.**

Dull minds that need sleep and relaxation do not learn well.  
Pray that the missionary will get enough sleep and exercise.  
Temptation to stay up late and work long hours - the body and mind needs rest.

Pray that the missionary will have the discipline to plan each day.  
To manage his time wisely.  
To know when to say no.  
To get to bed early.  
To do things without procrastinating.  
To keep up the duties of daily living.  
Satan knows that language training is the final step before actual service. Very often he will intensify his attack.

### **4. PRAY FOR THE ABILITY TO LISTEN.**

He must learn new sounds.  
He must distinguish sounds and tones.  
He must be able to remember long enough to repeat it.  
He has to fill a while new memory bank and to have recall of sounds, words, and phrases stored there.

Learning a language demands new thought processes.  
The brain needs to be programmed.

### **5. PRAY FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIM TO USE HIS NEW FOUND SKILLS.**

Opportunities to use the language will encourage him.

Wait and rest on God - He will help you master it in due time with diligence on your part.

### **6. PRAY THAT THE STUDENT WILL DEVELOP A LOVE FOR THAT LANGUAGE.**

It is easy to be frustrated with the newness of a language.

Why don't they say it our way.

Make their language your language.

Pray that they do not perceive the new language as an enemy but a friend and an opportunity.

Don't be satisfied with just a **God bless the missionary** prayer.

Pray for the missionary by asking for these specific needs.

Your prayer will help much in his language training.

Begin with time of intercession and continue to regularly uphold your missionaries before the throne of grace.

Prayer is not a waste of time.

Missions is in great need of those who can pray.

Intercession is asking a Superior for the needs of another.

Prayer is the great need of missions today.

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