

28

DAYS OF PRAYER
GUIDE

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

ACTS 26:18

Paul, in his second letter to Timothy, makes it clear that we are to be good soldiers of Jesus Christ and not be entangled in the cares of this life that we may please the One Who has chosen us to be soldiers (2 Timothy 2:3-4). In his letter to the church at Ephesus, he admonishes us to be strong in the Lord and His power and put on the armor of God to stand against the wiles of the devil. An often overlooked, yet vitally important, aspect of this command is that the first order of business was to pray, not only for the saints, but for

Paul, the missionary.



DBC FAMILY,

Ephesians 6:18-20 "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

Writing to the church at Colosse, Paul makes a similar request: Colossians 4:2-4 "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak."

We should pray for missionaries because God's Word commands us to. For those who are going into the mission field, we are called to pray for their protection and for the words they will share with others. We are called to ask God to equip the missionaries with the tools needed to keep them safe and help them share the Word of God.

The work of missionaries is imperative to share the gospel to every corner of the earth, so that all may come to know the truth of God in their own hearts. Whether overseas or on our own home field, missionaries need our prayers for the great and sacrificial work they are doing through the Holy Spirit.

For the next 28 days, you will have an opportunity to pray using the Scriptures for those missionaries that we will be honoring during our 2023 Global Impact Celebration. Although these Scriptures are provided as generally applying to all of our missionaries, please take the time to engage with our missionaries and ask them for specific needs that you can pray over.

FOR HIS GLORY,

DBC 6:4 PRAYER MINISTRY

DAY ONE

PRAY FOR OPEN DOORS (DIVINE OPPORTUNITIES).

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ.

COLOSSIANS 4:2-3

Heavenly Father, You are a door-opening God. Break down those barriers that make access difficult or that create resistance to the gospel. Not only do we need You to open doors of access to nations and people groups, but for individuals' hearts to be open and receptive to the truth of the gospel. May your Holy Spirit lead our missionaries to recognize open-door opportunities and that You will lead them past barriers to open hearts ready to receive Your Word. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DAY TWO

PRAY FOR BOLDNESS.

And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

EPHESIANS 6:19

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Holy Spirit that empowers us and guides us into all truth. I pray that the Holy Spirit will provide our missionaries with the boldness needed to communicate effectively the gospel in other cultures and languages, that they will have boldness to overcome fear with faith, and that You will destroy those evil forces that seek to hinder the spread of the gospel. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DAY THREE

PRAY THAT GOD'S WORD WILL SPREAD.

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:

2 THESSALONIANS 3:1

Heavenly Father, thank You for the Word of God that is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword. Please remove any obstacle that would hinder Your Word from spreading rapidly and freely. Give our missionaries the strength to continue on in the face of spiritual opposition or difficulties. Destroy Satan's plans to obstruct the spread of the gospel, and may Your Word be honored wherever it goes. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DAY FOUR

PRAY FOR PROTECTION.

Finally brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:1-2

Heavenly Father, I am so thankful that safety is of the Lord. Although man may try to bring a snare to our missionaries through the possibility of danger and personal harm, you promised that those who put their trust in You would be safe. We understand that opposition to the gospel may include hatred and violence; but Jesus told us that the world would hate us because it hated Him. Please change the hearts of those that are resistant to Your Word and deliver our missionaries from the snare of wicked men. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DAY FIVE

PRAY FOR EFFECTIVE MINISTRY.

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

JOHN 15:5

Lord Jesus, You are the good vine that gives us the ability to produce fruit. May our missionaries rely on You for all aspects of their ministry, especially during times of great difficulty, so that their efforts will produce fruit and ultimately a harvest will be gathered for Your glory. I pray that You will provide strength and perseverance when their ministry seems to be fruitless; teach them to abide in You. I pray that seeds will be planted and that our missionaries would be able to rejoice over the fruits of their labor and that an abundant harvest will be produced as more people accept You as Lord and Savior. In Jesus' name I pray.
Amen.

DAY SIX

PRAY FOR REFRESHMENT.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

MATTHEW 11:28-30

Heavenly Father, You are our refuge from the storms of life. I thank You that we can find rest in You from our labors. We understand that our missionaries deal with many of the same stresses we face in life such as overwhelming workloads, conflicts in relationships, and financial uncertainties. May they find restoration, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually in Your presence. Please provide for them times of peace, relaxation, and refreshment, including opportunities to fellowship with other believers. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DAY SEVEN

PRAY FOR STRENGTH AND PERSEVERANCE.

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

ISAIAH 40:31

Heavenly Father, You are our rock, our fortress, our deliverer, and our strength. Thank You that You renew our strength when we get weary. Father, when our missionaries feel as though they have sown much with little harvest, remind them that You are working deep in the hearts of people, even when it seems as if nothing is happening, because Your Word will not return void. I pray that You will give them the strength and endurance to run the race, to finish the course, and to keep the faith. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DAY EIGHT

PRAY FOR PROTECTION FROM HEALTH-RELATED INCIDENTS.

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in
the Lord shall be safe.

PROVERBS 29:25

Heavenly Father, we lift up the health of our missionaries to You. So many communities have been massively impacted by sickness, fear, or devastation. Father, help them to do all things through Your wisdom and guidance when these times come. Protect them and help them to have full health, helping their immune systems to remain strong. Father, we pray that outreach via the internet or other forms of communication may be all the more powerful. Help them to connect even when not in person and to truly represent You well during a tense time. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DAY NINE

PRAY FOR ENCOURAGEMENT.

If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-5

Dear Lord, I thank You so much that You are a great comforter and the lifter of our heads! I pray for Your encouragement for these precious missionary families. Please send people in their direction that are likeminded and have the same love. I pray that Your love would be an encouragement to them as they reflect on what You have done. Please send others that can come along side each one of them to bear their burdens with them. Please burden our hearts to pray for them and to reach out to encourage them as well. I pray this be done all to the glory of God, that Your work would be accomplished. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DAY TEN

PRAY FOR PROVISION.

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

Dear God, thank You that You are our provider. You own the cattle on a thousand hills and so much more! There is no doubt in my mind that You will provide everything needed to accomplish the call that You have placed on these missionaries' lives. So, I thank You for what You have done and will do to provide for every need. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DAY ELEVEN

PRAY FOR THE GOSPEL TO DO ITS WORK
THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

LUKE 4:18

Lord, I know that it is Your will that everyone be saved. I thank You that You made a way through Jesus and His sacrifice to know You. Thank You for the anointing You placed on these missionaries to preach the gospel! As they minister to the poor, the brokenhearted, the captives, the blind, and the bruised, I pray that the Holy Spirit would work on their hearts so they are receptive to the gospel. You told me that Your Word does not return void. Thank You in advance for what You are going to do in these lives. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DAY TWELVE

PRAY FOR JOY IN TRIALS.

Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

NEHEMIAH 8:10

Dear Lord, thank you for Your joy and for the peace that passes all understanding! God, I know there will be trying times during ministry. During those times, I pray for each missionary that time in Your Word will be even sweeter. Speak to them through the Holy Spirit that they may be encouraged in You. Help them to see past the trial to see what You are working to accomplish. The Bible says that everything worketh together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. Through trials and times that seem the exact opposite, You are still working things together for their good. So, during trials, I pray for Your joy to overwhelm them and to be their strength. Give them a song and a word in their heart so they can place their focus on You. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DAY THIRTEEN

PRAY FOR OPEN EYES.

But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

ACTS 26:16-18

God, thank You for Your Word! Your Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. I pray that Your Word will open the eyes of the people that you place in these missionaries' paths. I pray that You would show these people Who You are and that they would be willing to make You Lord of their lives. Only You can turn them from darkness to light. Only You can turn them from the power of Satan unto God. Thank you for the forgiveness of sin that You have provided. I pray for these people that they would receive that forgiveness and the inheritance that You have prepared. I pray this for Your honor and glory in Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY FOURTEEN

PRAY FOR OPEN HEARTS.

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:6

Heavenly Father, thank You for illuminating the gospel in our hearts and for the gift of light that can never be overcome by darkness. In fellowship with You, a chosen people walk in your light, and You direct our steps. Give light unto the path of Your servants as they grow in the knowledge of truth and share the gospel. Soften the hearts of men, show them the springs of life that flow from You, Lord. Purify their hearts so that they can see You and place your Spirit – a new Spirit - in them. Provide grace, confidence, and hope as our missionaries walk in obedience and share the gospel of your glorious inheritance. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DAY FIFTEEN

PRAY FOR THE MINISTRY OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

MATTHEW 28:19-20

Heavenly Father, thank You for the privilege to go and tell the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank You that You promise to be with us as we walk out Your commandment. Give wisdom to the missionaries, Lord, as they seek to know the liberating truth of Your Word. Awaken bold men and women to be renewed and transformed by the power of the Word of God and strengthen the faithful to teach faithful others also. In choosing us, Lord, You appointed Your followers to bear fruit in reaching the lost world and growing to maturity in Christ. We ask that You enable us, in Your power, to be transformed. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DAY SIXTEEN

PRAY FOR PERSEVERANCE.

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

GALATIANS 6:9

Heavenly Father, Your Word assures us that if we do not give up, we will reap in due season. As trials and tests come to the mission field, encourage the missionaries with Your promise of the crown of life, the future joy to come, and that you are ever faithful. Loosen the chains of sin that entangle and give these laborers the endurance to run their race. Turn their eyes toward You and give them grace to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow you, Lord: no matter the cost. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DAY SEVENTEEN

PRAY FOR FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP.

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 PETER 4:10

Heavenly Father, we praise You for the unsearchable riches of Christ Jesus. Give us grace to sow and reap bountifully of those riches, trusting that You will provide sufficiency in all things for us. As these missionaries offer up the sacrifice of their comforts, we ask that You burden those of us that remain and stir our hearts to give cheerfully and sacrificially. Reveal to Your church the fruit that results from faithfully giving back to You what You have so graciously provided. We praise You for Your goodness toward us and the unmerited gift of Jesus and reconciliation. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DAY EIGHTEEN

PRAY FOR LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS.

For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

ACTS 13:47

Heavenly Father, may we never get over the salvation we – Gentiles – have because of Jesus. We desire, Lord, to be like the Gentiles in Paul's day and to be glad, filled with joy, to believe in eternal life with You, and to glorify the Word of the Lord. But how can they hear unless we go? How can they believe unless we give? Empower the missionaries to bring light into a dark world through the truth of Jesus Christ and His purposes in salvation for all the earth. Keep the believer of Jesus from hiding their light under a bushel or removing it from the candlestick. Give the church boldness to shine, to burn continually, until You return. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DAY NINETEEN

PRAY FOR COURAGE.

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

DEUTERONOMY 31:6

Dear Lord, thank You for empowering us with courage when situations seem daunting and when we feel small in comparison with the task You place before us. The truth is that our strength comes from You and You alone. Over and over in scripture, You reminded your people that they had no reason to fear if they were walking in the steps that You had prepared for them. Their strength lay not in themselves but in the strength You provided and in the mere fact You were walking with them. Your perfect love casts out their fear because they could trust You. Thank You that we can do the same. Because of this, I ask You that You free our missionaries from any fear that may come their way as they walk in You. May they have complete peace and assurance to take the steps Your Holy Spirit guides them in. Grant them to grow even more in the boldness that comes from their relationship with You. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DAY TWENTY

PRAY FOR DETERMINATION.

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14

Jesus, thank You for all You have done and for all You plan to accomplish in my life and also in the lives of our missionaries. Lord, please grant them the determination to keep stepping boldly in faith as they continue to trust in You. Whenever their strength begins to wane, please grant them the refreshment that they need and the encouragement to keep stepping forward. I ask for You through Your spirit to give them the resolve they need to keep walking and following Your lead. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-ONE

PRAY FOR CONFIDENCE IN GOD.

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

ROMANS 8:31

Heavenly Father, Your Word reminds us throughout Romans 8, that we are free from condemnation because of Your Son, and because of Him, we can cry out to You as a child cries out to their father. Our identity and confidence come from You. Lord, I ask that you remind our missionaries of where their identity lies. It is easy to get discouraged when our eyes focus on circumstances in front of us; however, God, I pray that whenever this happens that You lift up their eyes and remind them that their confidence can rest fully in You because you are their Father and for the mere fact that You do care. Grant them the boldness that comes from our identity as your children. In Jesus' name I pray.
Amen.

DAY TWENTY-TWO

PRAY FOR FAITH IN GOD.

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

Jesus, thank You we can obey You and walk in full assurance because we can trust You. We do not step forward because we can see the end; instead, we do so in total reliance that You know the outcome and that You love us. Lord, help our missionaries to not grow weary in their faith. May it not diminish but only go stronger. I pray this specifically for them and for their families as they navigate the territory You have allotted to them. May they step forward in obedience and with their hearts and minds at rest as they go where you guide. In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

DAY TWENTY-THREE

PRAY FOR CHILDREN.

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

EPHESIANS 6:4

Heavenly Father, I ask that You give our missionaries wisdom on how to lead them to become the men and women You desire for them to be. Your Word tells us that if we will humbly seek Your guidance and ask for wisdom You will give it. Please grant them the wisdom, patience, and grace as they navigate how to raise kids, most of whom are doing so far away from family. Please give them the support both mentally and physically they need as they do this. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-FOUR

PRAY FOR WISDOM.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

JAMES 1:5

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Holy Spirit, Who guides us into all truth. We ask You for wisdom, specifically for the missionaries, knowing that when we ask of You, You give it to all men liberally. Grant them wisdom to accomplish Your will and Your plan in their lives, knowing that they cannot accomplish them without You. Grant them wisdom to see others as You see them, with humility and grace. Grant them wisdom to discern evil from good, based on the standard set in Your Word. Lord, we know with You, there is “wisdom and strength...counsel and understanding.” We ask this in faith, nothing wavering. In Jesus’ name I pray.
Amen.

DAY TWENTY-FIVE

PRAY FOR GUIDANCE.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

PROVERBS 3:5-6

Heavenly Father, thank You that we can trust in You with all of our heart. As the missionaries serve You, we pray that they will lean not unto their own understanding, but in all of their ways acknowledge You. In this, You will guide them, directing their paths. Remind them to “be not wise in their own eyes” but to “fear the Lord, and depart from evil.” We pray the missionaries will “keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” In Jesus’ name I pray.
Amen.

DAY TWENTY-SIX

PRAY FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 PETER 1:5-8

Heavenly Father, thank You that through your divine power, You have given us all things unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of You, that a lifestyle of virtue is possible. We pray this for our missionaries. For those serving locally and overseas, it can be difficult to find the time to seek personal spiritual growth as they constantly pour into others. I pray that you will help them make this a priority in their lives, knowing “for if these things be in [us], and abound, they make [us] that [we] shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Although this process can seem difficult, the end result is more of You. Help us, Lord, to want more of You. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN

PRAY FOR PROTECTION AGAINST SATANIC ATTACKS.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

EPHESIANS 6:10-13

Heavenly Father, thank You that our strength is in You and in the power of Your might. Place it on the minds of the missionaries daily to put on the whole armour of God, that they may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Remind them that the enemy does not have a face, but that they are wrestling against the spiritual wickedness and darkness of this world. When the enemy tries to attack with lies, I pray the missionaries will have the strength and wisdom to fight back with your Truth. Help them, Lord, to be spiritually prepared, always praying, always watching. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DAY TWENTY-EIGHT

PRAY FOR LABORERS.

Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

MATTHEW 9:37-38

Heavenly Father, thank You that You continue to pursue a relationship with Your people. The harvest is plenteous, and there is much work to be done. Help the missionaries to not become weary in well-doing. We know that You are the One who sends forth labourers; however, work in the hearts of your people to be obedient and willing to say, "Here am I, send me." Thank You in advance for the labourers that You are going to provide for the missionaries. We pray that all glory is given to You, God, for the work you will do through the missionaries and the additional labourers that will be sent forth into your Harvest. In Jesus' name I pray.
Amen.



DECATUR BAPTIST CHURCH