

Name:



Praying for Global Mission

Updated May 2023

1. How does prayer currently feature in your life? What would you like to see happen in your own prayer life and the prayer life of your friends/ church/ university group?

2. What does the Bible teach about prayer both generally and specifically for mission?

	Verse	Implications for Prayer
When	Luke 18:1 (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:17)	Prayer is an _____ action.
Why	James 5:13-18 (cf. Matthew 7:8-11)	Prayer is _____ because God _____
Who	James 5:16 (cf. 1 Peter 3:7, 12)	...the prayers of the _____
How	(1) Luke 18:1-14, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Ephesians 6:18 (2) Romans 12:12, Colossians 4:2, Acts 1:14, 2:42, 6:4 (3) Luke 22:44, Acts 12:5, Hebrews 13:19	...that are _____, _____ & _____.
What - Global Mission	A model of prayer: Psalms 67	We pray mission prayers for...
	Matthew 6:10 + Psalm 22:27-28	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Colossians 4:2-3, ◦ 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2, ◦ 1 Thessalonians 5:25, ◦ Ephesians 6:18-19, ◦ Philippians 1:18 	
	Matthew 9:35-38 (cf. Acts 13:3)	
	1 Timothy 2:1-7	
	Ephesians 6:18	

3. What makes praying for mission hard?

“One of the great uses of Twitter and Facebook will be to prove at the Last Day that prayerlessness was not from a lack of time.”

John Piper

4. How can we fuel missions prayers?

5. Reflect, Pray, Act!

Appendix 1: Stories

Dick McLellan: Warriors of Ethiopia

Dick McLellan went as a pioneering missionary to Ethiopia. At the age of 21, he stood atop a mountain and looked down into a valley where he saw many tribes who had never heard about Jesus. When he returned to Australia on deputation, he wrote the names of those tribes on bookmarks which he gave to all who promised to pray. Two young girls took those bookmarks and promised to pray. Many years later, Dick returned and visited those two girls. They showed him a bookmark worn to tatters by use. And Dick had the privilege of telling them that their prayers had been heard, that every single one of those tribes now had Christians singing the praises of our Lord Jesus. If you ask Dick today, sixty years later, why those tribes were reached for Jesus, he will tell you: because two girls got down on their knees to pray.

David Platt: Radical

Why do you think Jesus would look at the crowds around him, with all their deep needs, and then turn to his disciples and tell them to pray for themselves? The answer is humbling. When Jesus looked at the harassed and helpless multitudes, apparently his concern was not that the lost would not come to the Father. Instead his concern was that his followers would not go to the lost. Now think about it. What happens when you and I take these words from Jesus and put them in a world where more than a billion people have still not heard the gospel? A fundamental reality snaps into focus: we are not praying. This is the only possible explanation for how there can be such great need yet so few workers. The multitudes are waiting to hear, and our most urgent need is to pray for the Lord of the harvest to send out Christians into the harvest field...

Not long ago a friend of mine spent a couple of weeks in South Korea, a country that has seen explosive Christian growth in recent years. Over the last century, some estimate, almost half the population in that country has come to Christ. Church leaders there have been intentional about pointing to the power of God in prayer as the reason they have seen such widespread spiritual awakening. My friend was staying in a hotel, and one morning around four o'clock, he was awakened by a loud noise outside. He staggered over to the window and pulled back the curtains to see a stadium filled with people. He wondered: What kind of sports do Koreans play at four in the morning? Frustrated, he crawled back into bed and tried to sleep through the noise coming from the stadium crowd across the street. Later that morning he went down to the hotel lobby and asked the manager what kind of sporting event had been going on in the stadium. The hotel manager responded, "Oh, sir, that was not a sporting event. That was the church gathered for prayer." You and I live in a culture where we gather in stadiums and around televisions for hours at a time to watch guys run around a field with a pigskin ball in their hands as they try to cross a white line.

We express enthusiasm, emotion, and affection for football and other sports, and it begs the question, what would happen in our culture if the church prayed with such passion? What would happen if Jesus dominated our affections more than the superficial trivialities that garner our attention? What would happen if we spent hours before God praying on behalf of the church, the lost, and the poor around the world?

James Fraser: Mountain Rain

James Fraser was challenged by a missions pamphlet which 'struck at the very roots of his assumptions.' As convicting now as it was then in 1906, the pamphlet reads: 'If our Master returned today to find millions of people unevangelised, and looked, as of course He would look, to us for an explanation, I cannot imagine what explanation we should have to give. Of one thing I am certain – that most of the excuses we are accustomed to make with such good conscience now, we shall be wholly ashamed of then.' Less than 50 years later, this challenge had affected not only the life of James, who left engineering for missionary service in southwest China, but also the eternities of countless Lisu. By 1950 (less than 50 years later!), as missionaries were withdrawing from Lisu regions, over 800 Lisu gathered to farewell them by singing salvation songs in praise to Jesus Christ. On prayer, James wrote:

- Many of us cannot reach the mission-fields on our feet, but we can reach them on our knees. Solid, lasting missionary work is accomplished by prayer, whether offered in China, India, or the United States.
- I used to think that prayer should have the first place and teaching the second. I now feel that prayer should have the first, the second, and the third.

Appendix 2: Resources

(1) Missionary Newsletters

- (2) Apps: ° Unreached of the Day (Joshua Project): joshuaproject.net/pray/unreachedoftheday/app
° Operation World: operationworld.org/get-involved/prayer-app

(3) Websites: Joshua Project- joshuaproject.net, Lausanne- lausanne.org/pray, PrayerCast- prayercast.com

(4) Mission Organisation Material: e.g., CMS prayer diary, OMF newsletter, etc