

## IN YOUR CLOSET

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

I Thessalonians 5: 16-18, ESV

July, 2021

### A Challenge to Pray for the Called

This month, as we celebrate the blessings and the possibilities of living in such a land of freedom as this one; we will turn ourselves



toward the world and those who serve among the nations as missionaries, answering God's Call to use His blessing upon our land as a challenge to take the blessing of the Gospel where there are so few to share the Good News. It is a fact that around 95% of those actively sharing the Gospel are concentrated in this one nation. So, let us pray for those who answer this calling to go where so many have never heard about Jesus who would be their Savior.

How do we do pray in such a manner? Here are some suggestions related to that challenge.

### How To Pray for Missionary Families

**M**issionary families and individuals are people just like you. They have a calling on their lives, just like you, to



love and serve the Lord and to live and speak in ways that draw others to Jesus and His gift of

salvation. Pray for them about those same kinds of daily struggles you face.



They have to deal with balancing the demands of housing, feeding, nurturing and schooling their family, just like you. As you pray, ask God to meet their daily needs.

**T**hey need the Lord's Presence and the encouragement of His people, just like you. As you pray, ask God to hold them close and to grant them opportunities for fellowship with His people.

**T**hey need

direction from the Lord, His

strength and empowerment as they seek to fulfill His calling on their lives, wherever He has placed them, just like you. As you, pray, ask God to daily direct, enlighten and facilitate their ministry in His Name.



**T**here are unique challenges they face about the place where they live and serve, just like you. For some it is the weather, extremely hot or dry or wet, or a combination of uncomfortable days and nights. For some it is the people around them who are their focus. Perhaps these people are hostile toward the Gospel. Perhaps they are unconcerned about their spiritual condition. As you pray, ask God to enable missionaries to trust and obey Him day-by-day as they face



the challenges presented by their place and among their people.

**S**ome challenges missionary families and individuals face are unique, simply because their calling takes them into places and amongst circumstances which



create difficulties they have not faced before. Maybe the most obvious of these is language. While English is often heard and spoken all around this modern world, hearts and minds are won, most often won, in a person's mother tongue. For most people, learning a second language is demanding. As you pray, ask God to facilitate language learning for every missionary and also for many missionary children who find themselves doing school in another language.

**I**n a closely related matter, missionary families must adjust to very different cultures. Cultural differences can often present real barriers to hearing, understanding and receiving the Gospel. Missionary families and individuals must understand and sensitively adapt to very different cultures while maintaining the authenticity of the Gospel message. Simple issues like how people greet and the words people use can make or break a person's openness to the Gospel. As you pray, ask God to assist missionary families and individuals to deepen their cultural awareness as a means of reaching people for Christ.



**F**or missionary families and individuals there are always dangers awaiting them wherever they serve. In many nations daily traffic hazards



seriously threaten those serving in missions. Every time they enter a car, they are literally risking their lives. As you pray, ask God to protect His servants on the roads in all the countries where they serve.

**M**issionary families and individuals live in a dangerous world where the Enemy furiously whips up hatred and misunderstanding, stirring up vulnerable groups to use



violence against those who seem different from themselves. As you pray, ask God to protect missionary families and individuals against such violence.

**M**issionary families and individuals daily deal with living out their missionary calling separated from their own families. They miss out on family holidays, reunions, vacations, graduations, birthdays, new babies, retirements, funerals, weddings and so much more. As you pray, ask God to guide and encourage missionary families and individuals to meet this challenge as they serve Him. As you pray, ask God to give them grace in the face of long-term separation from their families.