

"In our new context... pray that we may be wise, gracious, prayerful and loving."

→ Hugh & Dorothy Prentice [Namibia]

4. Communication

- cultural understanding, identification and adaptation
- fluency in language, ability to communicate gospel
- strong communication with churches at home

5. Ministry

- boldness, love, open hearts, empowering of the Holy Spirit
- teaching, counselling, witnessing, befriending, visiting, serving, caring...
- prioritising time and relationships

6. Fellow workers

- relationships with other missionaries and local Christians
- appreciating differences and strengths/weaknesses
- gracious attitudes and mutual submission
- understanding cultural differences
- sense of humour, fun times together

7. Adopted country

- political situation and government leaders
- issues of wealth, poverty, corruption, unemployment, healthcare
- open door for visas
- freedom to preach the gospel
- courage & protection where Christians are persecuted
- strong national church and leadership

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should."

→ Colossians 4:2-3

Prayer resources

Here are some books and websites with information, inspiration and prayer points to get you praying for mission:

- *Operation World*, by Patrick Johnstone & Jason Mandryk (Paternoster)
- *A Time for Mission*, by Samuel Escobar (IVP)
- *Out of the Comfort Zone*, by George Verwer (OMF)
- www.cms.org.au/pray - Church Missionary Society
- www.au.omf.org/content.asp?id=13064 - Overseas Missionary Fellowship
- www.bushchurchaid.com.au/prayer.htm - Bush Church Aid
- www.tear.org.au/prayer/index.shtml - TEAR Australia
- www.interserve.org.au - Interserve
- www.pioneers-global.org/australia.cfm - Pioneers
- www.afes.org.au - Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students
- www.evangelicalalliance.org.au/rlc/ - Evangelical Alliance Religious Liberty Commission
- www.persecution.com.au - Voice of the Martyrs

"More and more people are coming into contact with the gospel, people are more active in sharing..."

→ Rob [Central Asia]

Further information

- To find out more about our ministry partners, check out the missions info rack at left of main noticeboard in the fellowship area. Also see the pink brochure *Reaching Beyond GWAC 1: Ministry Partners & You*.

Contact people:

- Fred Kreltszheim (8am service)
- Jeanette Parkin / Kirsten Jones (10am service)
- Sandra Joynt / Ray Ternes (7pm service)

Reaching
Beyond
GWAC



2 Praying for mission

Praying for mission

"We're thankful for the privilege of the constant sense of support."

→ Chris Mulherin [Argentina]

Prayer is powerful.

It changes the world. God could do everything on his own, but he has chosen to involve us, by prayer and action, in his mission in the world. What an amazing privilege – to be co-workers with Christ, side by side, in saving people!

Prayer makes it possible for you to truly participate and partner with your missionaries in their ministry. So praying involves us in a spiritual battle (Eph 6:18).

Pray knowledgeably.

Start with a map, or book such as *Operation World*. Praying effectively means learning about the place where your missionary lives. Find out about its climate, history, government, food. Learn about the majority religion. Note specific events on your calendar, and pray before the event. When you receive a prayer letter, pray right through it. Keep this prayer guide with your bible and notebook.

Pray consistently.

One idea is to pray at a certain time of the day/week. The five minutes after dinner on Wednesday could become a missionary prayer time. Pray when you pass a certain landmark on your way to work each day, or each time you have to wait in a queue.

Pray selectively.

Clearly it is impossible to pray for every missionary you have ever met. Choose one or two individuals/families and "adopt" them as your personal missionaries, whom you will get to know and pray passionately for.

Pray intimately.

Look at your own struggles and weaknesses. Missionaries have these too, and normal struggles are often magnified in a different culture. Pray about strained relationships with locals or co-workers. Pray about difficulties raising children, and time alone for married couples. Pray about the pressures of being different and constantly watched.

Pray as a home group.

This is a great way to partner with gospel workers. In your home group, "adopt" a missionary. GWAC's ministry partners are listed in the pink brochure *Reaching Beyond GWAC 1: Ministry Partners & You*. Get regular emails / news / photos / prayer updates from your ministry partner, keep in touch with them and pray for them regularly.

"A young professional returned to Valdivia & has offered to take on the youth group. This has been a long standing prayer request. God is good."

→ Graeme & Jane Peters [Chile]

"Pray for me that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains..."

→ Ephesians 6:19-20

→ Pray!

Here is a suggested daily or weekly cycle of prayer topics to help you be a partner through prayer with mission workers. Pray for your ministry partners specifically in these ways:

1. Relationship with God

Don't assume missionaries are super-spiritual! Pray for:

- consistent and profitable devotional life
- filling with the Holy Spirit
- awareness of God's power
- protection from temptation and sin

Pray through Paul's prayers, applying them to your missionary (eg. Col 1:9-12. Eph 1:15-20; Eph 3:14-19; Phil 1:9-11).

2. Physical & emotional life

- adaptation to climate and protection from disease
- safety in travel – bus, foot, bike, train, boat, motorbike, plane, car
- protection in times of political unrest
- victory over loneliness, depression and discouragement

3. Family

- healthy marriages
- children – salvation, adaptation, good friends, education
- parents at home
- singles – facing temptation & dangers alone
- family life as a model to local Christians and unbelievers



→ "devote yourselves to prayer..."