

# 13 Ideas to Pray for Missions

By Sandy Wisdom-Martin

## Going Beyond “God Bless the Missionaries”

Get a bag or box and put everyday items into it. Ask participants to pull something from the bag and share a prayer request for the missionary based on that object. People in your group will get very creative. Below you will find a list of objects and what might be prayed for a missionary.

- Small Gift Box: I pray the missionary will be accepting of his/her God-given gifts.
- Bible: I pray the missionary will be saturated in God’s word.
- Deposit Slip: I pray the missionary will make eternal investments today.
- Funnel: I pray the missionary will have the ability to listen intently.
- Knee Pads: I pray the missionary will be a prayer warrior.
- Book: I pray the missionary will be teachable.
- Witnessing Tract: I pray the missionary will be able to lead others to Christ.
- Sweatband: I pray the missionary will have perseverance.
- Measuring Cup: I pray the missionary will measure words carefully today.

## PRAYERplus

PRAYERplus mobilizes people for prayer and links churches and church groups with one of the hundreds of Unengaged Unreached People Groups (UUPGs) who have already been strategically identified by overseas field leadership. By “Unengaged Unreached,” we mean that these groups are without the Gospel and without workers to minister among them. They are forgotten people. This challenge provides an opportunity for churches and church groups to pray that these people may be open to the Gospel, and also pray for the Lord of the harvest to call out needed laborers. For more information, e-mail [Prayerplus@imb.org](mailto:Prayerplus@imb.org) or call (888) 462-7729.

## PrayerThreads

PrayerThreads is like PrayerPlus except that it is geared toward students and young adults. For more information, e-mail [prayerthreads@imb.org](mailto:prayerthreads@imb.org) or call (888) 462-7729.

## Drive-By Prayers

Choose a morning and a time period during a Week of Prayer. Brew a pot of coffee or make hot chocolate or do both. You’ll also need styrofoam cups and some cream, sugar and spoons. Whipped cream for the hot chocolate would be nice. If it’s warm outside, you might offer a cold can of soda instead. Invite church members to drive up to the church during a set time (2-3 hours should be plenty) and receive from you a free beverage and a prayer guide. Ask them to pull into the parking lot and take a moment to pray for the missionaries listed on that day. If you don’t have access to printed prayer guides, you can find the Week of Prayer missionaries at either [imb.org](http://imb.org) or [namb.net](http://namb.net). Be sure to advertise your Drive-By Prayer day at least two weeks in advance.

## Passing Out the Prayer Guides

Rather than putting Prayer Guides in the church bulletins, invite children to stand outside the sanctuary and give out Prayer Guides and envelopes. Ask children to remind people to pray for and give to missions.

### **Prayer Object Lesson**

During the children's sermon, give each child a gift box. Place the word "prayer" inside. Let the children open the box to see what the gift is. Explain how families can give the gift of prayer to help others learn about Jesus. Distribute strips of paper with the names of missionaries and where they serve. Ask the children to put the paper in their gift box. At home, they should pray for the missionary.

### **Spell it Out**

Ask participants to write out the first names of missionaries on the prayer calendar. Then use letters in the names to pray. Example (for the name Pat): God please give Pat patience, assistance, and training to serve you.

### **Prayer Triplets**

This is an idea from Evelyn Christenson in *A Study Guide for Evangelism Praying*. You may print this book for free at [www.unitedprayerministries.org](http://www.unitedprayerministries.org). It describes a simple way to pray for friends who do not know Jesus. Three prayer partners pray once a week for 15 minutes. Each person shares three names of people who are not Christians. The three partners pray for the nine names and for a country or a people group.

### **Lighthouses of Prayer**

A few years ago, Mission America had a plan to encourage people to pray for, care for, and share with people in their circle of influence at home or work. The plan begins with prayer to bless those around you. It uses the word "BLESS" to help you remember to pray for particular needs: Body (health), Labor (work), Emotional, Social (family and friends), and Spiritual (salvation). Find more information about Mission America, visit [www.missionamerica.org](http://www.missionamerica.org).

### **PrayerLine**

Call in to get updated prayer requests from the IMB Prayer Line at 1-800-395-PRAY.

### **PrayerPoints**

Pray daily for requests and answers from the international mission field. This newsletter includes information on prayer events and scripture as you are guided in your prayers for international missions throughout the month. It comes once a month. To subscribe, visit [www.imb.resources.org](http://www.imb.resources.org).

### **World Prayer**

During a Sunday worship service, distribute blue and green marbles, resembling tiny globes. Ask everyone to carry the marble at all times during each day of the week. They might place it in a pocket, change purse or wallet, or car console. Direct them to pray for a particular world missions need or for a missionary with whom your church has an ongoing relationship.

### **Scrabble Prayer**

Split participants into groups. Give each a scrabble game. Let them (as a group) draw 25 tiles and make words that relate to the prayer needs of the missionaries. The group with the most points wins the game. Hopefully, participants will think creatively about the needs of the missionaries.