



**Keep Missions and Missionaries
In Your Rhythm
Through Prayer**

Prayers for Missionaries in Troubled Times and Places

Eph. 2:12

***“Remember, when you...
having no hope, and without God in this world.”***

Too often, when we pass through troubled times, we forget all that we have enjoyed by God's good grace, and turn our focus inward, thinking only of our own present trials. When facing your troubled times, turn your focus to others who “have no hope, and are without God in this world,” and those who are seeking to bring hope, and point to the God of hope and peace.

Remember your missionaries throughout the year in prayer. Many are often facing troubled times in the places in which they serve. They seek to be peacemakers and agents of transformation. They need your support through intercession.

The following are sample prayers you might offer on their behalf as the year unfolds. These are merely suggestions, and may be adapted to suit in times of trouble.

General Prayers in Times of Trouble

Political Troubles:

Lord, you know the political turmoil of our world. Protect our missionaries who serve in politically unstable areas, where tension is high and prejudice rampant. May they be shining lights in those dark places, reflecting your kingdom in earthly contexts. Challenge us, by your Holy Spirit, to be in all places, at all times, model citizens for your glory. Amen.

Economic Troubles:

Lord, the world's economies are shaken, and the gap between wealth and poverty widens. Often our missionaries seek to stand in that gap, generous channels of your blessings to those who have so little. Encourage them in their ministries of compassion, and grant them courage to stand above the biases that separate. Challenge us, by your Holy Spirit, to flee from greed, and extend your grace and generosity to those in need, remembering your words: "Freely you have received. Now, freely give!" Amen.

Social Troubles:

Lord, everywhere we look we see the results of societies turned from you; the failure of humankind to treat others as we would desire to be treated. Our missionaries must at times stand as strong witnesses to your grace for ALL, your passionate desire to see those who are far drawn near; those who are out brought in; and those who are down lifted up. You laid down your life to build a bridge that would forever give us access to hope. Challenge us, by your Holy Spirit, to build bridges of grace across every social divide, bringing hope to our world. Amen.

Religious Troubles:

Lord, so often we, who claim to be people of faith, hide behind religious bias, and fail to demonstrate the love you call us to share with ALL those around us. In this world of religious diversity, keep us grounded not in a life of empty religion, but in a life of vibrant, gracious faith. Bless our missionaries around the world, who must navigate sensitive and often dangerous religious encounters and relationships. May they always represent you well, as One Who desires that ALL might come to know you. Amen.

Prayers Throughout the Church Year



Advent: Anticipation

Lord, as we look to your coming in this season of Advent, remind us of the many who do not know you. Bless those whom you have called, and whom we, your church has sent as missionaries. Their lives are dedicated to heralding the dawn of your life into the darkness of the world in which they serve. In this season of anticipation, the world waits. Grant that we may live, fully present in each place where your grace is needed. Amen.



Christmas: Incarnation

Lord, you stepped down into this world, and pitched your tent with us. Our missionaries around the world are living lives of grace and truth, often in places that reject them. Strengthen them to stand faithfully in those wastelands of hopelessness. Encourage them by your example. Use their lives to bring glory to you this Christmastide. Keep us all aware of what it means to reflect the glory of God in a wasted, waiting world. Amen.



Epiphany: Gifting

Lord, we bow in adoration before you, who came to show the world what it means to humble oneself for the sake of others. As kings worshipped you, and shepherds rejoiced with angels to see the Great Shepherd come, may we, too, offer what we have in service to God's purposes. Bless our missionaries, who in the diversity of their skills and giftedness, offer each and every gift to your use in bringing all of humankind to life eternal. Amen.



Lent: Kenosis

Lord, in this season of emptying, remind us that you emptied yourself of all glory to bring us home to God. Our missionaries around the world have surrendered their lives to the same purpose. Grant that they, and we, may experience the fullness that comes from you when we thoughtfully, intentionally, and faithfully sacrifice of our self-centered, self-serving interests, for the sake of others. Amen.



Easter: Resurrection

Lord, we live in the power of your resurrection. Remind us of the death from which you have saved us. Prompt us to faithfully lift to you those whose resurrected lives are being laid down to offer life to others. Bless our missionaries who serve, and through their service must suffer in wounded, and deadly places. May their lives inspire us to represent the life you died to give us in the wastelands of our world. Amen.



Pentecost: Spirit-Enabling

Lord, you have taught us that waiting is part of realization, that to wait on you to intervene and to empower is a blessed thing. Teach us the patience of waiting on you. Often, our missionaries seem caught in a long wait to see your glory dawn in dark places. We, too, desire to respond to your Spirit in ways that will hasten your kingdom among and through us. We desire the empowering that comes only from you, which enables us to join you in your passionate mission to the world; to see it restored to the best of your creative intentions. Fill your church with the power of humility and grace, that by your Spirit, we may see the realization of your will. Amen.



Ordinary Time

Lord, teach us the wonder of your extraordinary involvement in the ordinary, day-to-day-ness of our lives. Remind us that we must live faithfully, for the sake of others. Teach us not to despise or diminish the many little opportunities you give us to make a difference. Remind us that in those opportunities, using our many gifts, lies the capacity to change worlds. We remember those who serve through missions around the world, who's gifted lives are spent for those of other contexts, in order to bring them home to you. We are witnesses to your transformational power to make something out of nothing, to make extraordinary our daily lives. Thank you. Amen.

Prayer for Creative Access and Secure Areas

Lord, today we pray for places we cannot name, and for people we cannot identify. They are known to you. In those places, your people are seeking to live with integrity the tenets of the gospel and as citizens of your kingdom. The stresses of political, economic, social and religious challenges shape the environment, an environment into which you want to bring holy influence. Though unnamed, we pray that your grace would prevail, that your peace would reign, and that your presence would be real in the lives of our missionaries and your people with whom they serve. Amen.