

How to Pray for Cross-Cultural Workers

The Apostle Paul, the great missionary to the Gentiles, earnestly solicited prayer from others: *“Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me...”* (Romans 15:30-32). Paul valued prayer support because he understood that *“our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”* (Ephesians 6:12-13).

PRAY for relationship with God

- Growth in their own relationship with God, experiencing His joy and peace, becoming conformed to the image of His Son, and manifesting the fruit of the Spirit
- Sensitivity towards the Spirit’s leading
- Perseverance when times are discouraging, and that they would not grow weary of doing good

PRAY for relationships with others

- Strong marriages and close friends
- Love and unity among teammates (tensions and team conflict is often a significant issue in cross-cultural work)
- Extended family and supporters, whom they often do not see for years at a time
- Love for the local people, and that barriers of language and culture would be overcome

PRAY for their specific work

- God’s church would be established and become a faithful witness to the community it is in; for godly leaders to be raised up
- Persons of peace, prepared hearts and opportunities to spread

the Gospel

- People to place their trust in Christ and grow in their faith
- Diligence in all responsibilities and assignments
- Dependence on the power of God and not their own strength

PRAY for wisdom

Those who serve cross-culturally are often faced with very challenging situations with little structure to guide them. Pray for wisdom:

- On how to partner with the local church, what strategies to pursue, how to interact with governing authorities
- On how to use their time, what tasks to take on and what to say no to
- On how to encourage and challenge disciples

PRAY for practical issues

- Protection from disease and sickness, from religious and political enemies as well as from spiritual attacks from the evil one
- Favor from governing authorities
- Language acquisition and the ability to communicate well in the foreign language
- Faithful financial supporters (loss of financial support can be a stressful burden for workers to bear)