

Getting Beyond “God Bless the Missionaries”

Your ACOP missionaries need prayer for:

1. For their health

Isaiah 53:5: One of the most effective ways Satan has to paralyse missionary work is to attack the health of a missionary to remove them from their place of service. We need to recognise that God wants his children to be fit and strong and able to do the work He requires of them. (John 10:10b). Pray that God will remind the missionary of these promises.

2. For the protection of their mind

The missionary is under a lot of emotional pressure, difficult circumstances, spiritual oppression, sometimes culture shock, and often loneliness. Pray that they will know God's provision for them (Revelation 12:11). Pray that they would know the rest and peace of God. (John 14:27). Pray that they would not listen to Satan's accusations of fellow workers and believers. Satan will try to defeat the work by creating suspicion between fellow workers and local Christians.

3. For protection against Satan's attacks on the missionary's spirit

At times a missionary can get very discouraged. Pray for their encouragement and strength to be given to break through the powers of darkness. (Psalm 147:3). Pray that they will be able to resist Satan in the name of Jesus. (1 Peter 5:8-9). The accuser of the believers is always on hand to accuse them/us of being a failure or out of the will of the Lord, etc.

4. For a heart filled with the love of God

Missionaries can live in abnormal and difficult situations. Without the love of Christ filling their hearts such difficulties can bring about hardness, impatience, sharpness of speech, anger and even bitterness. Pray for the relationship with colleagues who are always present. Good working relationship between missionaries is imperative, for only then can God bless the work. (Psalm 133:1). Pray for His love for those who are unreached. Here too ordinary love can break down because often the missionary is not appreciated by those who are still unreached. Often the message is unwanted. The missionary may be both foreigner and intruder.

5. That the missionary may live in brokenness

It is important that missionaries are reliant of God and prepared to be broken. Brokenness and a reliance of God in missionaries is important. These can influence those with whom they are working. (Ephesians 4:15-16). Preaching the gospel with a soft heart will break a heart of stone.

6. For the anointing of God to be on the missionary

It is easy to depend on one's own strength, wisdom and ability but it is fruitless. (Acts 1:8). Satan laughs for he recognizes only the power of God. Only a spirit-filled Christian will be effective in setting free the captives of Satan. Pray, pray and continue to pray that the missionary might be filled continually with the Spirit.

7. That the missionary might know how to exercise authority over Satan

Ephesians 6:10-18: Calvary defeated Satan completely. God placed the enforcing of Satan's defeat in the hands of His servants, and He has given them the authority. Satan, however, will not recognize his defeat until forced to do so by the servants of Christ.

8. For revival

More is accomplished in a few weeks through revival than is accomplished in years of ordinary labours. God has promised to pour out His Spirit in these last day on all flesh – this means all nations and people groups; so pray it into fulfillment. (Joel 2:28-29).

9. For the establishment of a national work

In today's uncertain political climate overseas missionaries may have to leave any time but if a national work is established the work will go on. Also the local worker prepared by the spirit is more effective in his witness than the expatriate can ever be. Pray for the raising up and training of local workers.

10. For more labourers

Matthew 9:37-38: All areas are short-handed. More workers are always needed to advance into new territories.