

DAY 1

Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Matt. 9:37-38

The Lord frequently taught His disciples *that* they must pray and *how* they should pray. But He seldom told them *what* to pray. This He left to their sense of need and the leading of the Spirit. But in the above scripture He expressly directs them to remember one thing. In view of the abundant harvest, and the need for reapers, they must cry to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers.

Why does He ask His disciples to pray for this? Could He not pray Himself? Would not one prayer of His achieve more than a thousand of theirs? Is God, the Lord of the harvest, not aware of the need? And would He not, in His own good time, send laborers without the disciples' prayers? Such questions lead us into the deepest mysteries of prayer and its power in the Kingdom of God. The answer to such questions will convince us that prayer is indeed a power on which the gathering of the harvest and the coming of the Kingdom do in very truth depend.

It was when “He saw the multitude, and was moved with compassion on them, because they were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd that he called on the disciples to pray for laborers to be sent to them (see Matthew 9:36). He did so because He really believed that their prayer was needed and would help.

As a single individual, within the limitations of a human body and a human life, Jesus feels how little a short visit can accomplish among these wandering sheep He sees around Him. He longs for help to have them properly cared for. He therefore tells His disciples to begin to pray... He gives them authority to apply to Him for laborers and makes the supply dependent on their prayer.¹

¹ Andrew Murray, *With Christ in the School of Prayer* (Springdale, PA: Whitaker House, 1981), 67-69.

GRACE

Pray for a close walk with God.
Pray for language acquisition.
Pray for good relationships with her team.
Pray for good cultural transition.
Pray for people to come to Christ.

JEFF & LAURIE

Pray for a close walk with God.
Pray for the ability to return to the S people (they are currently working in a nearby region).
Pray for gospel connections where they are.
Pray for people to come to Christ.



BECKY STRAUB / Spain

Pray for a close walk with God.
Pray that God would bring clarity of direction for Becky's energies.
Pray for gospel conversations and for people to come to Christ.

Pray for the Garwali people, an unreached people group in South Asia.

DAY 2

Luke 11:5-13

How little Christians really feel and mourn the need of laborers in the fields of the world, so ripe for the harvest. How little they believe that our labor supply depends on prayer and that prayer will really provide “as many as he needeth.” The dearth of labor is known and discussed. Efforts are sometimes made to supply the need. But how little the burden of the sheep wandering without a Shepherd is really assumed in the faith that the Lord of the harvest *will* send forth the laborers in answer to prayer. Without this prayer, fields ready for reaping will be left to perish. And yet it is so. The Lord has surrendered His work to His church. He has made Himself dependent on them as His Body, through whom His work must be done. The power which the Lord gives His people to exercise in heaven and earth is real; the number of laborers and the measure of the harvest does actually depend on their prayer.

Why don't we obey the Master's instruction more heartily and cry more earnestly for laborers? There are two reasons. The one is: We miss the compassion of Jesus which gave rise to this request for prayer. Believers must learn to love their neighbors as themselves and to live entirely for God's glory in their relationships with fellow-men. The Father's first commandment to His redeemed ones is that they accept those who are perishing as the charge entrusted to them by their Lord. Accept them not only as a field of labor, but as the objects of loving care and interest. Soon, compassion towards the hopelessly perishing will touch your heart, and the cry will ascend with a new sincerity.

The other reason for the neglect of the command is: We believe too little in the power of prayer to bring about definite results. We do not live close enough to God to be capable of the confidence that He will answer. We have not surrendered entirely to His service and Kingdom. But our lack of faith will be overcome as we plead for help. Let us pray for a life in union with Christ, so that His compassion streams into us and His Spirit assures us that our prayer is heard.²

² Murray, 69-70.



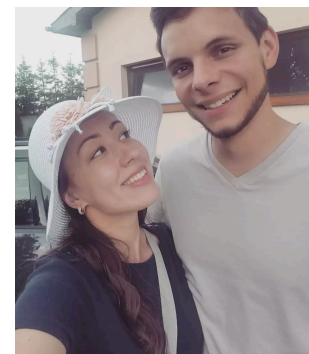
CRAIG & KARENA

Pray they will effectively prepare global workers for serving in missions and that their relationships with seekers in Spain will continue online when they are not present with them. Pray for wisdom to choose their words wisely as they share about Christ.



EVAN & LIBBY HANNAY / Papua New Guinea

Pray for wisdom in ministering with teammates. Pray also for God to prepare hearts to hear the Gospel, using their lives to spark interest. Pray for God's direction with Libby's health needs.



MATTHEW & ANIA GOOD / Poland

Pray for many to trust in Christ and grow in faith. Pray that God would give Matthew wisdom, faithfulness and skill in discipling and training young men to lead others. Pray that Matthew would be a Godly, faithful, and humble husband and leader of their family.

Pray for the “She” people in China to have the gospel given so they can believe in the one who gave his life that they may have life in Him.

DAY 3

Christ's command to ask the Lord of the harvest is the pledge that the prayer will be heard. "I say unto you, he will arise and give him as many as he needeth."

This power to provide for the needs of the world and secure the servants for God's work has been given to us in prayer. The Lord of the harvest will hear. Christ Who taught us to pray this way will support the prayers offered in His name and interest. Let us set apart time and give all of ourselves to this part of our intercessory work. It will lead us into the fellowship of that compassionate heart of His that led Him to call for our prayers. It will give us the insight of our royal position as children of the King whose will counts for something with the great God in the advancement of His Kingdom. We will feel that we really are God's fellow-workers on earth, that we have earnestly been entrusted with a share in His work. We will become partakers in the work of the soul. But we will also share in the satisfaction of the soul as we learn how, in answer to prayer, blessing has been given that otherwise would not have come.

Lord, teach us to pray.³



SAM & JOAN FIORE / Milan, Italy

Pray for their evangelism ministries. They have an evangelism team with specific outreach opportunities on a regular basis during the year, as well as special events. Pray for their leadership, mentoring and discipleship program. Pray for the development of leaders in every area of their church discipleship.



DAVE & SHERRY SHELLEY / Coshocton, OH

Pray that MMS would reflect the love of Jesus in the hanger, in their community, and around the world. Pray that the mechanics would effectively identify and repair problems with the aircraft and the aircraft would be used efficiently to get the gospel beyond "the end of the road." Pray also for safety in all phases of a mission pilot's day.



LOS & LYNETTE MORALES / Lancaster, PA

Pray that God would provide more workers in Lancaster.
Pray for discernment and wisdom to rightly handle and preach the Word of God.
Pray for the financial needs.
Pray for Christ Alone Church to effectively impact Lancaster City.
Pray for them as they move towards becoming a particular church in the Bible Fellowship Church.

Pray for the Dem People to continue to receive the word of God and grow in maturity in understanding

³ Murray, 71-72.]

DAY 4

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." Isaiah 6:8

Then comes Isaiah's PRAYER *for authority and anointing*. If we read this passage rightly we shall not always throw the emphasis on the last word, "me," but read it also thus, "Here am I, *send me*."

He is willing to go, but he does not want to go without being sent, and so the prayer is, "Lord, send me. I beseech Thee of Thine infinite grace qualify me, open the door for me, and direct my way. I do not need to be forced, but I would be commissioned. I do not ask for compulsion, but I do ask for guidance. I would not run of my own head under the notion that I am doing God service. Send me then, O Lord, if I may go; guide me, instruct me, prepare me, and strengthen me."

There is a combination of willingness and holy prudence—"Here I am; send me." I feel certain that some of you are eager to go for my Lord and Master wherever He appoints. Keep not back, I pray you. Brother, make no terms with God. Put it, "Here am I; send me—where Thou wilt, to the wildest region, or even to the jaws of death. I am Thy soldier; put me in the front of the battle if Thou wilt, or bid me lie in the trenches; give me gallantly to charge at the head of my regiment, or give me silently to sap and mine the foundations of the enemy's fortresses. Use me as Thou wilt; send me, and I will go. I leave all else to Thee; only here I am, Thy willing servant, wholly consecrated to Thee." That is the right missionary spirit, and may God be pleased to pour it out upon you all, and upon His people throughout the world. To me it seems that if a hundred were to leap up and each one exclaim, "Here am I; send me," it would be no wonder. By the love and wounds and death of Christ, by your own salvation, by your indebtedness to Jesus, by the terrible condition of the heathen, and by that awful hell whose yawning mouth is before them, ought you not to say, "Here am I; send me"?³



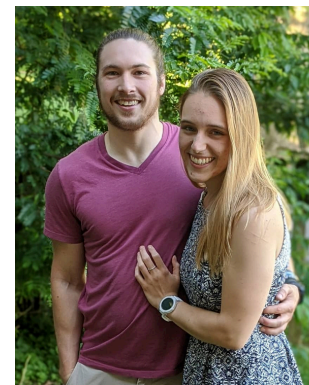
ALVIN & SUSAN LOW / Southeast Asia

Pray for the planting of churches among the unreached people groups of Asia. Pray for the preparation of effective indigenous missionaries through the ACTS institutes. Pray for the protection of church planters and their families.



BRAD & JESSICA ANDERSON / International students in Chicago

Pray that the Lord would bring them into contact with international students who are interested in studying the Bible. Pray that the Lord would make them effective in bringing international students to faith in Christ.



TJ & KATE RENNINGER / State College

Pray for college students to seek Him, turn away from worthless things, and stand firm in the truth. Pray for staff and headquarters to focus on serving the Lord and making the Gospel clear in everything they do, and for more staff to serve with DiscipleMakers.

Pray for the Uyghur people, an unreached people group across Asia.

³ Sermon by C. H. Spurgeon, "The Divine Call for Missionaries."

DAY 5

In some ways, praying for missionaries is like buying Christmas presents for your distant relatives in Florida. You don't know what their day-to-day life looks like. You don't know what they need, what they want, or what would be most meaningful. As a result, we often opt for prayers to bless the missionaries that are rarely more personal or specific than an Amazon gift card sent via email. But we can do better.

In fact, we must. Prayer isn't just a passing gesture or a frivolous holiday present. Prayer is supplying missionaries with essentials for their survival. Prayer is partnership in their work, vital to its Spirit-filled efficacy and the rescue of sinners. At the risk of sounding clichéd, prayer is a matter of life and death. Our intercession protects them from harm (2 Corinthians 1:11) and provides for the gospel's advance (Romans 15:30-32).

As I've lived on both sides of this relationship over the years, I've found that there are some simple prayer requests that are always applicable and always needed. Even if we don't understand our missionaries' living situation or don't know special requests from the field, Christians at home can still become more intentional and directed in their prayers. Of all the gifts you provide your missionaries, these will be among the best — in part because they always need them but perhaps never thought to ask.

FAVOR WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Missionaries, especially those serving in difficult locations, often ask us to pray when it's time to reapply for a visa or reenter their country of service. Accordingly, Christians at home might pray only once or twice a year for their missionaries to have favor with the local officials, either when they apply for residency or cross through customs. However, this request represents an ongoing need. Missionaries don't merely need access to a country; they benefit from the ability to remain there long term in a steady and peaceful living situation.

This fits with Paul's instruction to Timothy and the church in Ephesus to pray for those in positions of authority over them. We do

so in order to live and minister in stable societies, ultimately with the hope that many will be saved (1 Timothy 2:1-4). In some situations, state-sponsored persecution leads to the triumphant advance of the gospel (Philippians 1:12). But such suffering also can stifle Christian witness in certain places and times (similar to when all Jews were forced out of Rome, (Acts 18:2). ...

HEALTHY PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL CHURCHES

When we send missionaries abroad, we do so because those places need the gospel. Perhaps they even need us. But what is easily forgotten in this process is how much missionaries need the locals. In most countries, even among unreached peoples, there is already a Christian witness present. Only in the most extreme locations will there be absolutely no local expression of the body of Christ within some proximity. But even in such cases, we can follow the example of Paul who, longing to go to Spain, sought the help of a culturally and geographically nearer congregation, the church in Rome, to partner in his ministry (Romans 15:24).

When we observe the pattern of Paul's ministry, we find him constantly looking for opportunities to partner with local churches in his missionary endeavors (Acts 13:1-2; 1 Corinthians 16:6; Philippians 4:14-17). He didn't want to venture out alone, but with the help and support of other churches. ...

BOLD WITNESS WITH UNBELIEVERS

More and more of Christ's ambassadors today are moving into dangerous locations, taking the gospel into "closed" or "restricted-access" countries. In order to gain entry to such places, other lay Christians have caught the vision to pursue business as mission (BAM). They're leveraging their marketplace skills in a globalized economy, seizing the opportunity to be salt and light in places where some missionaries struggle to maintain residency.

In both of these situations, we should note the strong temptation for expat Christians to avoid overt evangelism or soften the gospel for the sake of long-term presence in a place. The challenge may be especially keen for those in business who desire to preserve good standing with their employers and not lose their job. In either case, I've seen many missionaries, those who go to the ends of the earth at

great risk to themselves and their families, consistently struggle to open their mouths with the gospel. They might justify their silence for the sake of a broader strategy, or to avoid persecution or expulsion. Even when these missionaries muster the courage to speak of Christ, they might do so timidly.

Therefore, we should pray earnestly for our missionaries to be willing to speak the gospel boldly (Acts 4:29; 20:20, 27). After all, if tent-making Paul needed this prayer, surely our missionaries do too (Ephesians 6:19). They aren't super-Christians. Like all of us, they're tempted to grow weary in doing good (Galatians 6:9), to lose heart (2 Corinthians 4:1-2), or to avoid difficult conversations. As a result, like all of us, they sometimes feel like failures when it comes to evangelism — especially when they're doing it in another language and culture. I believe that if our missionaries could be completely transparent with us, they'd admit this struggle is real and they'd ask us for prayer to be better witnesses. Sadly, missionaries sometimes don't think they can be honest with us because they think we won't understand.⁴



JAY & BRIANA STOKES / Papua, Indonesia

Pray for their team as they translate the Bible and create chronological Bible lessons in the Dem language. Pray for wisdom and ability as they treat a range of medical conditions. Pray for protection and growth of their children Eden, Jericho and Noelle; that they will remain content living in their remote location; that they will never feel that they are pushed aside for the sake of ministry, but will always know that they are valued and needed.



ONDRA & MELISSA ZIKANOVÍ / Prague, Czech Republic

Pray for many to follow Christ and grow in faith. Pray that they would live with enough margin in their lives so they can respond. Pray for the ability to meet urgent needs without becoming derailed. Pray that they would be examples of a living relationship with Jesus Christ to their neighbors, friends, and family. Pray that they would be strengthened with power through God's Spirit in their innermost being and lead others to do the same.



TIM & MICHELLE OBAROW / Coshocton, OH

Pray for God to send them the work that will do the most good for the building of His Kingdom on earth. Pray that God will send to MMS his choice of personnel. Pray that those operating the aircraft will be wise stewards. Pray that God's hand of safety will be on those who use and maintain missionary aircraft around the world. Pray for open doors to the countries where ministry is needed most.

⁴ Elliot Clark, "Prayer Will Win the Nations," <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/prayer-will-win-the-nations>

DAY 6

GOD'S PROVIDENCE IN PRAYER AND MISSIONS

Prayer is one of the great wonders that God has given to the world. That God would plan for his own sovereign hand to be moved by the prayers of his creatures is amazing. It is a thoughtless objection to say, "There's no point in praying, since God has all things planned anyway." It's thoughtless because just a little thought would reveal that God has planned millions of human acts every day that cause other acts to happen.

A nail sinks into a board because God planned for a hammer to hit it. A student makes an A on a test because God planned for the student to study. A jet flies from New York to Los Angeles because God planned for fuel to be available, wings to stay put, engines to thrust, and a pilot to know what he is doing. In none of these cases do we say that the cause was pointless—the hammer, the studying, the fuel, the wing, the engine, the pilot.

Neither is prayer pointless. It is part of the plan. In fact, the all-embracing, all-pervasive, unstoppable providence of God is the only hope for making our most heartfelt prayers effective. ... So we pray:

"God, take out of their flesh the heart of stone and give him a new heart of flesh" (see [Ezek. 11:19](#)).

"Lord, circumcise their hearts so that they love you" (see [Deut. 30:6](#)).

"Father, put your Spirit within them and cause them to walk in your statutes" (see [Ezek. 36:27](#)).

"Lord, grant them repentance and the knowledge of the truth that they may escape from the snare of the devil" (see [2 Tim. 2:25–26](#)).

"Father, open their hearts so that they believe the gospel" (see [Acts 16:14](#)).

Just as thoughtless as the previous objection about prayer is the objection that says, "There is no point in evangelism and missions since God has planned whom he will save." A moment's thought will reveal that the plan to save people through the word of God includes the plan to send preachers of the word. No one

believes and is saved without hearing the gospel. The new birth comes "through the living and abiding word"—the gospel:

You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God. . . . And this word is the good news that was preached to you. ([1 Pet. 1:23, 25](#))

This gospel is not written in the clouds. It is entrusted to Christians who become witnesses and missionaries. If there were no human witnesses, there would be no salvation:

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? . . . So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. ([Rom. 10:13–15, 17](#))

When Paul spoke of his own commissioning from the risen Christ, he described it in the most impossible terms. Jesus commissioned him to the Gentiles to do what only God can do. Jesus said to Paul:

I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. ([Acts 26:17–18](#))

Open blind eyes. Liberate from Satan. That's Paul's mission. And ours. This is how the blind see and the enslaved are set free—by evangelism and missions. They are the instruments. But the instruments are not the miracle of conversion. They are another kind of miracle—the miracle of obedience. But we are talking here about evangelism and conversion. When the word is spoken, the Lord opens hearts. That is what we read about Lydia: "The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul" ([Acts 16:14](#)). The word spoken by Paul is the essential instrument. The work of the Lord is the miracle of heart-opening conversion.

As in the case of prayer, the unthwartable providence of God is not a *problem* for evangelism and missions; it is their only *hope* of success. The obstacles to missions around the world today are insurmountable but for one thing: the providence of

God is unstoppable. It cannot be stopped by closed countries. It cannot be stopped by hostile religions. It cannot be stopped by difficult languages and cultures. And it cannot be stopped by the ultimate self-determination of the fallen human soul—because in the world of God’s purposeful sovereignty, such self-determination does not exist.

We may and we must build our lives and our mission on this confidence. “I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:18). And to that end: “This gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matt. 24:14).⁵



**JOHN & LAURA STUDENROTH /
Kutztown University**

Pray for creative and biblically sound ways to proclaim the Gospel to faculty, students, staff, and administrators. Pray for their weekly outreach tables. Pray for their health to be protected. Pray for opportunities and wisdom to minister to those with emotional, spiritual, and mental health issues.



**TOM & BECKY POLLOCK /
Native American Ministry in Red Lake, MI**

Pray that more people would respond to the Gospel and that the church will grow. Pray for unity among the believers. Pray for the faith of professing Christians to be real. Many profess faith, but few are active in the local church. Pray that God would raise up church leaders and teachers.



**CARLOS & ALEJANDRA RODRIGUEZ /
La Roca in Reading, PA**

Pray that God will help them establish a culture of discipleship, with faithful disciples making disciples. Pray that the Lord would raise up faithful men to lead and serve as elders and deacons. Pray that God would give them wisdom in reaching the second generation who are less fluent in Spanish.

⁵ John Piper, <https://www.crossway.org/articles/the-role-of-prayer-and-missions-in-salvation/>

DAY 7

16 WAYS TO PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES

CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S WORD

ACTS 13:4-5

FILLED WITH GOD'S SPIRIT

ACTS 13:6-9

VICTORY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

ACTS 13:10-12

SUCCESS IN GOSPEL WITNESS

ACTS 13:12

PEACE WITH OTHER BELIEVERS

ACTS 13:13

FAVOR WITH UNBELIEVERS

ACTS 13:14-15

THE GOSPEL WILL BE CLEAR THROUGH THEM

ACTS 13:16-47

GOD WILL OPEN HEARTS AROUND THEM

ACTS 13:48

JOY IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING

ACTS 14:1-2

KINDNESS IN THE MIDST OF SLANDER

ACTS 14:1-2

SUPERNATURAL POWER TO ACCOMPANY THEM

ACTS 14:3

CHRIST-LIKE HUMILITY TO CHARACTERIZE THEM

ACTS 14:4-18

PATIENCE

ACTS 14:8-18

PERSEVERANCE

ACTS 14:19-20

GOD WOULD USE THEM TO MAKE DISCIPLES

ACTS 14:21-23

GOD WOULD USE THEM TO MULTIPLY CHURCHES

ACTS 14:24-28



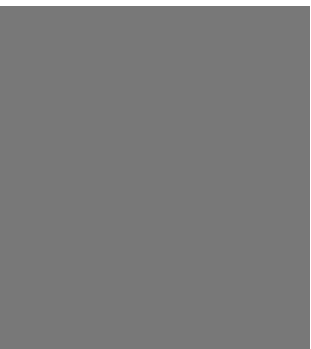
LISA BARNSHAW / Christar

Pray for opportunities to represent Christar on campuses and in Perspectives on the World Christian Movement classes, both in person and virtually. Pray for effective follow-up of potential global ministry candidates. Pray for discernment in vetting potential candidates. Pray for God to provide complete financial support and for a thriving prayer support team.



SCOTT & ROBIN EVANS / Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster

Pray for their on-campus and online conversations, studies and events. Pray that these athletes would love the Lord with all their hearts. Pray that the Diplomat Christian Fellowship (DCF) student-leaders would joyfully share Jesus with their peers and live out the gospel on campus.



JITEN & REBECCA

Pray for God to work in the hearts of the "D" village people to desire the true and living God, and that the seeds that are planted will grow. Pray for effective use of the ministry center.

Pray for God to raise more workers from New Life to serve in His global work.