



# How to Pray for Mercy Ministries Foundation

Raising Children | Building Lives | Following Christ

## Day 1 – Relationship with God

Too often we assume that people working in the mission field don't struggle like we do in their relationship with God. But this is our brother and sister's primary need. Pray that the MMF staff will:

- Love and study God's Word.
- Have a strong prayer life.
- Be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Be maturing spiritually.
- Make progress over personal sin.

## Day 2 – Physical and Emotional Needs

Satan often discourages us through our physical and emotional lives. Many missionaries live in difficult climates filled with disease. Pray for good health. With busy and hectic schedules, missionaries travel often. Pray for safety, stamina and a sense of priority. Remember that preventive prayer helps. When we hear that a missionary is hospitalized for a heart attack, disease or has been injured in an accident, we pray up a storm. The wise thing is to cover your missionary's health continually. Pray against discouragement, loneliness and depression.

## Day 3 – Family Relationships

Pray for family relationships—husband/ wife, parent/child. Pray for the children, their salvation and spiritual growth, their health and education. Pray too that their family life will provide an excellent model for local Christians and the unsaved. And pray against the temptations that destroy families. If your missionary is single, pray that God will meet his or her needs in this area. Pray for strong, healthy friendships, and contentment in singleness.

## Day 4 – Ability to Communicate

In world evangelization communication is crucial. Your missionary is in ministry to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Whether your missionary is communicating with his life or lips, he must be understood. Learning a new language and adapting to a new culture are frustrating, difficult and essential to good communication. Languages in the Far East are among the most difficult for a Westerner to master. Even an elementary knowledge of a language takes years of study and practice. And a superficial understanding is insufficient for communicating spiritual truths

and defending the faith. Would you listen to a speaker who wasn't fluent in English? But to really communicate, the missionary must adapt culturally to identify with those he is trying to reach. Getting close to the local people and understanding them means adjusting lifestyle and cultural preferences. Pray that your missionary will have the stamina and understanding to demonstrate Christ cross-culturally.

### Day 5 – Effective Ministry

Sometimes you can forget why your missionary is overseas, and why you are praying for him. Remember to pray for what your missionary is actually doing: witnessing, visiting, teaching, preaching, counseling, nursing—and pray for the people he is ministering to. Prayer letters will teach you how to specifically pray for these things. But include requests for boldness, open doors, open hearts and excellence in the effort. Most of all, ask the Holy Spirit to empower your missionary for productivity. (See John 15:16.)

### Day 6 – Team Relationships

Your missionary is probably not completely on his own. Normally, missionaries team up with other missionaries, local believers, pastors and evangelists. Unfortunately, this mix of personalities designed to strengthen the ministry can sometimes be used of Satan to weaken it. Poor team relationships can spoil the work. Pray for all the fellow workers your missionary mentions in his letters. Pray they appreciate and sharpen one another in good and healthy ways.

### Day 7 – Country of Service

Expand your praying to include the entire country where your missionary is located. The political situation, the government and its leaders, visas, freedom to preach the gospel—all of these are important factors in world evangelization. You can also pray that the whole country will open up in responsiveness to the gospel. Whether you use this guide regularly or use some other method, you can never run out of prayer material. We haven't even mentioned your missionary's relationship with his home churches, the parents and family left at home and his financial needs. You have plenty of important work to do in giving the world the message of Jesus Christ. And you will know God better for it. No matter how many times you may fail in your daily commitment, you can start again today.

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# How to Pray for MMF Staff

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## Our Staff's Personal Needs

- Pray for happy family times together, and for our staff's children, spouse, siblings and in-laws to love and serve the Lord. Pray for their home village where they are unique because of their faith in Jesus.
- Pray that our staff would love the kids we serve, our communities and one another as our hearts are knitted together in unity.
- Pray that our team will have great wisdom and insight applying God's word to the ambiguities, complexities, and challenges of raising kids and leading an organization.
- Pray that our team would rest and rejoice. As we humbly embrace that we are finite (and that God is infinite!), we recognize our need to work reasonable hours, get enough sleep, exercise, and to re-create in God's presence.

## Thailand & Cambodia

- Pray for the authorities in Thailand and Cambodia, as we're encouraged to do in 1 Timothy 2:1-4, and that we may live peaceable, quiet, godly and holy lives.
- Pray for continued freedom to preach the gospel, and for political stability.
- Pray for continued favor with the government and increased cooperation with government organizations that provide child welfare.
- It is often said, "to be Thai is to be Buddhist" but Buddhism denies a personal God, promotes benevolent works, and emphasizes reason and enlightenment as a means to salvation. Spirit worship and traditional religion have taken an enormous toll on the spiritual well-being of people promoting a culture of fear and power. Pray that we will effectively communicate the love of God and the free gift of salvation through the work of Jesus on the cross.

## The National Church in Thailand and Cambodia

- Pray for the church leaders and all believers in Thailand and Cambodia. Pray for spiritual growth, and for their ability to teach, preach, disciple and witness. Pray for vision and for love, and for any resources that are needed.
- Pray for the Christians to be 'salt and light' in their neighbourhoods, society or government, and for good relations with those around them.
- Pray for the many Christian Happy Home alumni/graduates perusing Bible Seminary, serving as Pastors of churches and working in Christian ministries.

## Pray as Paul Prayed

The apostle Paul was a pioneer missionary and a pray-er. He was beaten, imprisoned and shipwrecked, but never lost sight of the goal. He asked his friends to pray:

- For boldness - 'Pray... that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel... Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.' (Ephesians 6:19, 20)
- For opportunity and clarity - 'Pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ... Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.' (Colossians 4:3, 4)
- For protection - 'Pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith. But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.' (2 Thessalonians 3:2, 3)
- For their spiritual walk - 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' (Romans 15:13)
- With thanksgiving - 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.' (Philippians 4:6)