15 Things Every Missionary Needs

Whenever you're praying for a missionary and his/her family, whether or not there are specific updates available, you can (and should!) always pray for them in these 15 ways...

Love for God

Overworked missionaries can become service-oriented rather than love-oriented. Pray that your missionaries' love for the Lord will deepen, and that love for him will always be their prime motivation for service.

Love for Others

Yes, missionaries are human, and just like you, sometimes they have trouble showing love and respect to those "difficult to love" people—either their missionary coworkers or nationals. Pray that the Lord will make your missionaries' love "increase and abound in love for one another and for all" (1 Thessalonians 3:12).

A Deeper Relationship with God

Missionaries' schedules can become so packed that they might skip or skimp on their time with the Lord. Pray that your missionaries would follow Jesus' example.

Spirit-Controlled Lives

Just like the rest of us, sometimes missionaries have a tendency to do the Lord's work in their own energy and human ingenuity. Pray that all of your missionaries' actions will be under the control of, and by the power of, the Holy Spirit.

The Fruit of the Spirit

As you pray that your missionaries will be under the control of the Holy Spirit, pray that the fruit of the Spirit—the very beauty of Jesus—will be manifest in their lives.

Wisdom and Knowledge

Strong-willed missionaries often come into conflict when two or more of them have opposing viewpoints. Pray that missionaries will have the wisdom of God (James 3:17).

Courage

Imagine your missionaries making the same prayer request Paul did in Ephesians 6:19: "[Pray] for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel."

Receptive Hearts

Pray for divine providence, that the Lord will lead your missionaries to people whose hearts will be open to hearing and receiving the gospel message.

Disciples

Pray that your missionaries will experience the joy of leading others to salvation, and of "teaching them to observe all that [Christ has] commanded" (Matthew 28:20).

Strong Faith

The apostles once made a direct request of Jesus: "Increase our faith!" Pray that your missionaries will have great faith that will lead them to ask great things of our Lord.

Steadfastness

Pray that your missionaries will follow Paul's advice to the Corinthians: "be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Strong Family

Cross-cultural living can magnify even small family conflicts. Pray that members of missionary families will be drawn together, not torn apart, by living in a new culture.

Protection

Missionaries are prime targets of the enemy. Join Jesus in praying to the Father: "I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one" (John 17:15).

Material Needs

Missionaries often face harsh living conditions, and may have to struggle to meet basic physical needs. Pray that the Lord will supply all their financial and material needs "according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

Health and Strength

In today's increasingly violent world, missionaries face not only sickness, they may also be victims of crime, civil unrest or political upheaval. Pray that the Lord will grant the measure of health and strength that will bring his greatest glory and the greatest good for the missionaries.