The Workers in the
Harvest Field

5x5x5 Prayer: Five Minutes, Five Days, Five Topics

We invite you to pray for workers in the harvest field —for just five minutes a day, for five days, for FIVE STRATEGIC AREAS. Your prayers will open doors for the gospel, transform situations and bring great glory to God.

Jesus says: 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.' (Matthew 9:37). But what happens when workers have been sent out and are in the harvest field? No worker can go it alone; they need support in various ways, most importantly, in prayer. But as missionaries' experiences seem so different to our own, it can be difficult to know how to pray for them. The prayers in this guide are based on the experiences of OMF workers and we hope they help you pray in a more informed way for gospel workers. You can pray for missionaries generally, or if you know a missionary, do personalize these prayers for them.

Day One
VISION

The story of Martha and Mary in Luke 10 shows how it's possible to welcome Jesus, as Martha did, but then lose sight of him, distracted by the things we do serving him. Rather, like Mary, we all need to be focused on Jesus. This focus is possible in the middle of serving him but can be hard to maintain.

Lord, please give missionaries certainty that you have called them to the work they are engaged in. Remind them of your strength to work in them and through them to your glory, especially in times when they may feel weak.

Lord, especially in hard times, remind gospel workers of your power and grace that transforms lives, situations and communities.

Lord, please give missionaries clarity about what needs to be done where they serve and how best to invest their time.

Lord, you have called us to pursue holiness and godly character, but it's easy for all of us to seek fulfilment in what we do more than who we are in you. Help missionaries especially to remember that they are on a journey to become more like Jesus.

Day Two
FAMILY & COMMUNITY

Following the call to missions overseas often means long times away from extended family and new challenges and opportunities for children's schooling. Whether families or individuals, all missionaries are part of various communities with many relationships and all the joys and challenges these bring. These relationships are also impacted by the frequent changes and transitions that are an inevitable part of missionary life.

Lord, we pray for you to protect missionaries' families left at home; for health of parents and salvation for those who do not yet know you. Help missionaires entrust their families to your grace.

Lord, for workers who are single, married and those with families we ask that their family life, relationships and marriage would honor you. Help them build strong relationships. Please give families wisdom in every decision they take together.

Lord, please provide godly friends to walk alongside missionaries and share life with them.

Lord, when conflict arises, help missionaries resolve it in a godly way. May even this draw people to you.

Lord, please give missionaries the grace to deal well with the many goodbyes and transitions in the journey.

Day Three
FAVOR & WELCOME

When Jesus sent out his disciples into the harvest fields he instructed them to find 'people of peace' who they could stay with; people who would welcome them and give a hearing to the gospel (Matthew 10:11). In the same way, gospel workers today need to find people willing to welcome them and bring them into the community.

Lord, we pray you would open doors for missionaries so they can join local communities and have opportunities to share the gospel (Colossians 4:3 "When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory").

Lord, please guide gospel workers to people who are open to hearing the gospel, who they can really get to know, and who can introduce them to the wider community.

Lord, thank you that we are blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 12). May missionaries be welcomed as bringing real blessing and help to the community.

Lord, please grant missionaries favor with community leaders so that the gospel may be heard more widely.

Day Four
PARTNERSHIP

Missionaries don't go it alone. Paul's letters in the New Testament are full of requests for his friends to pray for him or help him in practical ways. Missionaries today still need people to partner with them in the gospel.

Lord, we pray for missionaries' partnership with their sending and supporting churches to keep on growing and bearing fruit in prayer, financial and practical support.

Lord, we pray for gospel workers' relationships with local churches to be fruitful and increase. Help missionaries to come alongside to humbly help and support local churches, modelling godly, servant-hearted leadership.

Lord, help OMF workers to partner well with like-minded foreign workers so that more people have the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel.

Day Five
PERSEVERANCE

Two pictures of kingdom work in the Bible are growing crops and constructing a building (1 Corinthians 3:6-10). These are not quick or easy tasks that are done in a few hours. They take sustained, long-term effort. But keeping going in missions can be hard. There are many distractions and possible discouragements and it can take a long time to see any apparent fruit.

Lord, please help missionaries to keep in step with your Spirit to work hard in your strength, but to be aware of over-work and burn out. Please help them find godly rhythms of work and rest.

Lord, we pray missionaries would not be overcome by difficulties that arise. Please enable them to not give in to discouragements but keep going and keep their eyes on you.

Lord, when discouragement comes, please give gospel workers something of your perspective on the situation. Help them see situations today in light of being invested for the long-term.

Lord, as they persevere, please grant missionaries patience; with themselves as they may struggle with the language, culture or pressures of life, and with others, both teammates and those they serve.

PRAY ALSO FOR ME, THAT WHENEVER I SPEAK, WORDS MAY BE GIVEN ME SO THAT I WILL FEARLESSLY MAKE KNOWN THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL...
EPHESIANS 6:19

NEXT STEPS

GO DEEPER. Would you like to know more about what life is like for workers sharing the gospel in East Asia? Visit omf.org/missionarylife to read stories, hear about the joys and the challenges, and get an insight into life as a missionary.

JOIN A TEAM. OMF has some amazing long-term workers who are looking for more people to join their partnership teams in prayer and support. If you're interested in connecting with an individual or family serving in East Asia, contact your local OMF center.

LEARN MORE. Are you considering going overseas long-term? Would you like to learn more about opportunities in East Asia? We would love to talk with you. Contact your local center to start the conversation or visit omf.org/opportunities.

We face an unfinished task. How will you join God in his mission to reach the unreached peoples of East Asia?

Visit omf.org/thetaskunfinished to get involved.