

Thirty Days of Prayer for the Unreached

A verse and a written prayer for each day —
for the peoples, the pastors, their households, the new churches, and the senders.

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We are tempted to think prayer is what we do until the real work of missions can begin. Jesus teaches the opposite. Looking at the crowds, he told his disciples that the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few, and then he gave one command: pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers. Prayer is not the warm-up to missions. It is missions. The fields belong to the Lord, the laborers are his to raise up, and the asking is ours. So over the next thirty days we will pray for the unreached, for the national pastors who carry the gospel to them, for their households and their young churches, and for our own repentance as senders. Come and ask with us. The One who owns the harvest is listening.

The Harvest — Days 1-7

Day 1 — Peoples With No Church

*And they sang a new song, saying, Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. — **Revelation 5:9***

Father, you have promised a people for yourself out of every tribe and tongue. Today we bring you the thousands of peoples who still have no church among them, no neighbor who follows Christ, no place to hear his name. You know each of them. You know their villages, their languages, their fears. Send the gospel where it has never gone. Plant the first believers, the first gathering, the first table. Do not let these peoples remain outside the song of the redeemed. For the sake of your Son's blood, claim what he has already bought. Amen.

Day 2 — Scripture In Their Tongue

*The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. — **Psalms 119:130***

Lord, your word gives light, but many peoples have never held a single verse in the language of their heart. They pray, work, and die without one line of Scripture they can understand. Have mercy. Raise up translators and steady them through the long, slow labor. Guard their accuracy. Give them faithful helpers who know the tongue from the inside. Let the day come when a mother reads your promises to her children in the words she dreams in. Until then, carry your truth to them by every means you choose. Give light where there has been only darkness. Amen.

Day 3 — For The Oral Majority

*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. — **Romans 10:17***

Father, most of the unreached cannot read, and faith comes by hearing. You are not hindered by this. You spoke, and worlds were made. So we ask you to fill the ears of oral peoples with the word of Christ. Give your servants wisdom to tell the true story plainly, to teach it in song and spoken word, to trust the message and not only the printed page. Let grandmothers and herders and children hear and believe. Guard the message from being thinned or twisted as it passes mouth to mouth. Let hearing become faith, and faith take root. Amen.

Day 4 — Those In Closed Lands

*Saying to the prisoners, Come out, to those who are in darkness, Appear. — **Isaiah 49:9***

Lord, there are lands where your name may not be spoken aloud, where to believe is to risk everything. Behind those borders are people you love, sitting in darkness they did not choose. You call prisoners to come out and the hidden to appear. No wall, no law, no watchful eye can stop you. Reach them by dreams, by a smuggled page, by a quiet neighbor, by whatever way you please. Give them courage to answer when you call. And when they come to you alone and afraid, let them find they are not alone. Amen.

Day 5 — Light On The Window

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. — Isaiah 9:2

Father, across the belt of nations from North Africa to Asia live the greater part of the world's unreached. Roughly billions there have little or no access to the gospel. We will not pretend to grasp a number that large, but you know every face inside it. On the people walking in darkness, let your light shine. Break the hold of every false hope that has kept them. Open the door of nations that have long been shut. Send those who will stay, learn, love, and preach. Let the great light dawn where the shadow has lain so long. Amen.

Day 6 — For The Children

But Jesus said, Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven. — Matthew 19:14

Lord Jesus, you welcomed the children and rebuked those who kept them from you. Among the unreached are countless boys and girls who will grow up never once hearing that you love them. Do not let them be hindered. Protect them from hunger, from harm, from being used and forgotten. Bring believers into their lives while their hearts are still tender. Let them hear your name early and cling to it. Raise up some of them to carry the gospel to their own people. Gather the little ones, Lord. To such belongs the kingdom. Amen.

Day 7 — Who Have Never Heard

But as it is written, Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand. — Romans 15:21

Father, it staggers us that so many have never heard the name of Jesus even one time. Not rejected him, simply never heard. This is not their failure but a debt we owe. You promised that those never told will see, and those who never heard will understand. Keep that promise in our day. Send the word to the last places on the map and the unnoticed places between. Let those who have waited longest be among the first to believe. Stir your church until no one is left who has never heard. Amen.

The Laborers — Days 8-14

Day 8 — The Preacher's Calling

And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news. — Romans 10:15

Father, you send preachers before anyone can hear. Today we thank you for national pastors, men raised up from among the very peoples they serve, who know the language, the food, the grief, and the roads. Confirm their calling. Let them be sure it was you who called, so they will not quit when it grows hard. Free them from the fear of man and the love of gain. Make their feet beautiful with good news carried faithfully. And keep raising up such men, native sons who will stay when others must leave. Amen.

Day 9 — Courage To Speak

Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. — Joshua 1:9

Lord, you told Joshua to be strong and courageous because you would go with him. Your servants today need that same word. Many preach where a bold sentence can cost them their freedom or their life. Give them courage that is not recklessness and

caution that is not cowardice. Steady their hands when they tremble. Loosen their tongues when fear would silence them. Remind them, in the moment they most need it, that you are with them wherever they go. Let them speak your truth plainly, and leave the outcome with you. Amen.

Day 10 — Sound Doctrine, Kept Pure

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. — Titus 2:1

Father, your gospel is worth guarding, and error is never far away. Give national pastors a firm grasp of sound doctrine, and love enough to teach it plainly week by week. Where they were trained quickly and sent early, fill in what they lack. Give them good books, faithful mentors, and above all your word itself. Keep them from novelty and from the pride that twists truth to draw a crowd. Let them handle Scripture with care, feed their people the whole counsel of God, and hold fast the pattern of the faith once delivered. Amen.

Day 11 — Kept In Danger

And that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. — 2 Thessalonians 3:2-3

Lord, in restricted regions your servants labor under real threat, from hostile authorities, from angry crowds, from those who wish them gone. Deliver them from wicked and evil men. You are faithful, and you have promised to guard your own against the evil one. Be their shield. Confuse the plans of those who plot against them. Give them wisdom to know when to press on and when to withdraw. If they must suffer, let it be for righteousness and not for foolishness. Establish them, hold them fast, and bring them through. Amen.

Day 12 — Endurance Against Weariness

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. — Galatians 6:9

Father, isolation wears a man down. Many of these pastors labor with few companions, little rest, and slow fruit. The temptation to grow weary is heavy. Guard them from burnout and from the quiet despair that whispers nothing is changing. Remind them that the harvest comes in your season, not on our schedule. Give them rest they will actually take. Send them a friend, a fellow worker, someone who understands. Renew them inwardly day by day. Let them not give up, for in due season, at your appointed time, they will reap. Amen.

Day 13 — For Their Apprentices

And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. — 2 Timothy 2:2

Lord, no pastor should labor alone or leave nothing behind him. You taught Paul to pour his life into faithful men who could teach others too. Give these pastors apprentices worth training, young men steady in character and hungry to learn. Give the pastors patience to teach slowly and grace to hand off real work. Guard the apprentices from pride and from quitting. Let the gospel pass from one generation to the next, four deep and more, until whole regions have shepherds. Keep this chain unbroken through every hardship. Amen.

Day 14 — Send Out More Laborers

Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. — Matthew 9:38

Lord of the harvest, this is your own command, so we obey it plainly. The fields are wide and the workers are few. Send out laborers into your harvest. Call men and women from the reached peoples to the unreached, and from the unreached to their own neighbors. Overturn the excuses that keep good workers home. Make the willing able and the able willing. Provide for

those you send so that lack does not stop them. We do not ask for a trickle but for laborers enough to gather what is ready. Send them, Lord. Amen.

The Households — Days 15-21

Day 15 — For The Pastor's Wife

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. — Proverbs 31:30

Father, behind many faithful pastors stands a wife who carries burdens few ever see. She keeps the home, guards the children, and often bears the cost of her husband's calling in silence. Strengthen her. Give her a deep fear of you that steadies her when praise is scarce and pressure is constant. Guard her from loneliness and resentment. Give her friends who understand. Let her know she is not merely a helper to the work but a daughter you love. Honor her hidden faithfulness, and let her heart rest in you. Amen.

Day 16 — For His Children

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. — Psalm 127:3

Lord, the children of these pastors did not choose this life, yet they bear its weight. They watch their father leave for danger. They share his poverty and sometimes his shame among neighbors. Hold them close. Do not let them come to resent the gospel because of what it cost their family. Give them fathers present enough to know them and shepherd their souls. Let them see faith worth having lived out at home. In your kindness, save them, and raise some of them to labor as their fathers did. They are your heritage. Amen.

Day 17 — Daily Bread Provided

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. — Philippians 4:19

Father, many of these households live close to the edge. The pastor's calling rarely pays, and the poor churches they serve can give little. You have promised to supply every need according to your riches. Provide their daily bread. Give them enough for rent, for medicine, for school, for food on the table. Guard them from the shame of always lacking and from the temptation to abandon the work for something that pays. Teach them contentment, and teach us who send to share generously. Meet them fully, in Christ Jesus, from your abundance. Amen.

Day 18 — Health And Strength

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. — 3 John 2

Lord, our brothers and sisters serve in places where clean water is scarce, doctors are far, and disease is near. A single illness can undo a family or halt a whole work. We ask, as John did, that they may be in good health, as it goes well with their souls. Protect their bodies. Guard the children from the fevers that take so many. Provide the medicine and care they cannot easily reach. Give them rest that heals and food that strengthens. Keep them well enough, long enough, to finish what you have given them. Amen.

Day 19 — A Wall Around Them

The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. — Psalm 121:7-8

Father, these households live exposed. There is no locked gate, no watchman, no quick help if trouble comes at night. You are their keeper, and you neither slumber nor sleep. Keep them from evil. Guard their going out and their coming in, on the road, in the market, in their beds. Send your protection around the home like a wall. Frustrate those who would harm them for the gospel's sake. And should you allow suffering, let it never be more than they can bear in your strength. Watch over their lives, now and always. Amen.

Day 20 — An Open Home

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. — Hebrews 13:2

Lord, in many places the open home is the first sermon anyone hears. A shared meal, a place to sleep, a welcome given to strangers, these speak the gospel before a word is preached. Give these households a spirit of hospitality even when they have little. Let their table draw neighbors who would never enter a church. Use their kindness to soften hard hearts and open hard doors. Guard them from being taken advantage of, but keep their doors open. Through simple welcome, let many meet the Christ who welcomed them. Amen.

Day 21 — The Imprisoned And Their Families

Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. — Hebrews 13:3

Father, some of your servants are in prison tonight for no crime but the gospel. Their wives sleep alone, their children ask where their father has gone. We remember them, as your word commands, as though we shared the cell. Sustain the ones behind bars. Let them know your nearness in the dark. Provide for the families left outside, and do not let them be forgotten or ashamed. Comfort the mistreated. Where it is your will, open the prison doors. And use even this suffering to spread the good news. Amen.

The Churches — Days 22-28

Day 22 — Rooted In The Word

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. — Colossians 2:6-7

Father, new churches are tender things, easily blown about. Root these young gatherings deep in your word. As they received Christ, let them go on walking in him, built up and established in the faith they were taught. Give them a hunger for Scripture that outlasts the first excitement. Guard them from being built on a personality or a feeling rather than on Christ. Let thanksgiving mark them. Sink their roots so deep that when storms come, and they will come, these churches stand. Establish them on the Rock. Amen.

Day 23 — Guarded From False Teaching

I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. — Acts 20:29-30

Lord, wolves come after young flocks, and Paul warned they rise even from within. In many places a prosperity message promises health and wealth for a gift, and old beliefs creep back in beside the truth. Guard these churches. Give their leaders discernment to name error and courage to refuse it. Protect new believers from teachers who would use them for money. Let the pure gospel of a crucified and risen Christ hold the ground, and let every twisted thing be exposed by the light of your word. Keep the flock, good Shepherd. Amen.

Day 24 — The Table And The Water

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. — 1 Corinthians 11:26

Father, you gave your church baptism and the Lord's Supper, simple signs that preach the gospel again and again. Teach these young churches to treasure them rightly, neither ignoring them nor turning them into empty ritual. As they break the bread and share the cup, let them proclaim your Son's death until he comes. As new believers go down into the water, let it mark a real turning from the old life. In places where baptism can bring persecution, give the courage to obey anyway. Let these signs deepen their faith. Amen.

Day 25 — Elders In Training

This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you. — Titus 1:5

Lord, a church without shepherds is a flock exposed. Paul told Titus to appoint elders in every town, and that need is just as real today. Raise up qualified men within these young churches, sound in doctrine and proven in character. Give them time to grow and mentors to shape them. Guard against putting the untested into office too soon. Where a region has one pastor over many gatherings, provide him help before he breaks. Let every church be led, in time, by godly elders drawn from its own people. Amen.

Day 26 — Generous In Poverty

For in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. — 2 Corinthians 8:2

Father, you taught us that poor churches can be rich in giving. The Macedonians gave out of deep poverty with overflowing joy. Do the same among these young churches. Free them from thinking generosity is only for the wealthy or for the West. Let them learn early to give, to support their own pastor, to care for their poor, to send help beyond themselves. Guard them from a receiving-only faith that never learns to give. Let joy, not guilt, drive their giving, and let their small gifts become a wealth of generosity in your sight. Amen.

Day 27 — Faithful Unto Death

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. — Revelation 2:10

Lord Jesus, you told a suffering church not to fear, but to be faithful unto death, and you promised the crown of life. Speak that same word over these gatherings now. Many will face pressure to deny you, to return to old ways, to blend in for the sake of peace. Give them the endurance of the saints. Hold the wavering. Comfort the frightened. Let those who suffer loss count you worth more than all they gave up. And keep before their eyes the crown you have promised to all who are faithful to the end. Amen.

Day 28 — Sent Ones Who Send

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. — Acts 1:8

Father, a church is not the end of the mission but the next beginning. You told the first believers they would witness from home outward to the ends of the earth. Put that same reach in these young churches. Do not let them turn inward, content to be reached and nothing more. By your Spirit, make them senders. Give them a heart for the next village, the next people, the tribe just over the hill that has still never heard. Let the reached become the reachers, until the gospel runs on without us. Amen.

The Senders — Days 29-30

Day 29 — Wake The Comfortable Church

*For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. — **Revelation 3:17***

Father, this word is for us. We in the comfortable church say we are rich and need nothing, and we do not see how poor we have become. Forgive our ease while peoples perish unreached. Forgive our full calendars and thin prayers, our love of comfort dressed up as wisdom. Wake us. Grant us repentance that goes past feeling to changed lives, changed budgets, changed plans. Recover in us the sender's calling that earlier generations knew. Make us a church that gives, goes, and prays until the unreached are reached. Have mercy on us, Lord. Amen.

Day 30 — For The Work And Its Partners

*Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth. — **3 John 8***

Father, you have joined senders and goers as fellow workers for the truth. We thank you for ENDS and for every partner who gives and prays so that national pastors can labor among the unreached. Guard this work from pride, waste, and mission drift. Keep it honest, faithful, and centered on your gospel. Provide the funds it needs and the wisdom to spend them well. Bless those who give quietly and expect nothing back. Bind senders and goers together in one purpose, and let the whole work bring not our name but your Son's name to the ends of the earth. Amen.