

partners in the gospel

Tips on praying for mission work around the world.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of

Gospel ministry involves people working together in a partnership based on prayer. God's mission in the world needs to be at the heart of our prayer lives.

Here are some ideas that may help you to encourage and include others in that partnership as you pray for mission around the world.

Think global: Develop a broad interest in mission

- Deliberately follow world news events. Find out what is going on in the world so you can pray for current needs.
- Look for ways to be involved in cross-cultural ministry yourself. Start to learn about crossing a culture.
- Develop a gospel dimension in your ministry. Seek opportunities to tell others about Jesus.

Remember, it's about real people

- Receive prayer points for two or three missionaries. Get their regular prayer letters, read them and commit to praying for them. Stick their prayer card on your fridge to remind you to pray. (Contact your CMS Branch office to get on a missionary mailing list.)
- Do some research on your chosen missionary's particular country so you can pray specifically and intelligently for the people who live there. *Operation World*, a book by Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk, has detailed information about countries. Online news websites can also help you to find out current events and

issues in your area of interest. Some good sites include the BBC website (<http://news.bbc.co.uk>), the United Nations humanitarian news agency (<http://www.irinnews.org>) and SBS World News (<http://www9.sbs.com.au/theworldnews>).

Don't go it alone: pray with others

- Join or start a mission prayer group. (See pages 10-11 for more information on prayer groups and tips on how to start one.)
- Take the initiative to bring one or two mission prayer points to your Bible study group each week, and encourage others to do the same.
- Give simple, up-to-date mission prayer points to the person leading prayer at your church each week. Mission prayers for churches can be found at www.cms.org.au/pray/church.

Be well informed: Make the most of CMS resources

- Daily prayer points are listed on the CMS website at www.cms.org.au/pray. Subscribe online and have the weekly prayer points delivered to your inbox.
- Become a CMS member. You will receive an annual Prayer Diary and monthly prayer updates to help you pray in an informed way for the work of CMS around the world.
- Go to events and conferences such as Summer School to meet missionaries and find out about their prayer needs. Your nearest CMS Branch can tell you more about upcoming events.



Young woman prays.



Daily prayer points on the CMS website, as well as other prayer resources.



SummerView Conference in Tasmania, using the Prayer Diary to pray for world mission.



Pray for mission in your Bible study group.

Tips on praying when there is a lack of information

Some CMS missionaries work in countries where Christian freedom is limited and outreach is forbidden. For security reasons they only send limited information back to supporters.

Even if you don't receive specific prayer points, these workers and their ministries rely on the faithful prayer of their partners in Australia.

Learn to read between the lines

- Sometime missionaries use indirect references in their prayer letters. For example, they may use 'father' to refer to God.
- Even if their letters don't contain explicit descriptions or prayer requests, pray using the information that you do have.

Pray for the national church

- Pray for the spread of the gospel where the missionaries are working, even if you don't know what country they are in.
- Keep praying for the many thousands of un-reached people groups with no access to the gospel.
- Ask that local Christians would be strengthened in their faith and witness, and bold in their proclamation of the gospel to their family and friends.
- Ask God to raise up more workers for his harvest field.

Remember universal prayer points

- There are some general prayer points that you can use to pray for any missionary.
- Pray for their safety, especially those living in troubled parts of the world.

- Remember their spiritual growth. Pray that they might be joyful in spirit, radiant in life and steadfast in hope, and that they may know joy and peace in serving Jesus Christ.

- Uphold in prayer the children of missionaries, either on location or living away from their parents.

Use the Bible

- Pray using verses from the Bible. Some of the prayers at the start of Paul's letters in the New Testament are helpful.

Remind yourself to pray

- It can be hard to remember to pray when you aren't receiving regular prayer updates and points. Set aside a regular time to pray for missionaries. Use the CMS prayer diary to pray for them monthly, or have a set day of the week that you commit to praying for them.

faithful pray-ers

Bruce and Libby Hayes, Nepal



We feel very privileged to be supported and encouraged by many faithful pray-ers; both individuals and prayer groups. During the period of the people's movement in April 2006, we particularly appreciated the folk who wrote of their prayerful support.

When this brought massive changes in Nepal, and the change to a secular state, it was great for us and these faithful pray-ers to know that through our prayers, we had played a part in God's work in changing this country. Much prayer is still required!

A street in Kathmandu.

Recently we received a letter from a dear sister whom we first met in a small country town 20 years ago and whom we haven't seen for 18 years. It was so encouraging for us. She wrote: "When your newsletter arrives, I pray for every point as I read it. Then, with the general situation in my mind, Friday is the day I look at your photo in the Prayer Diary. I treasure this privilege and the relationship which reaches back so many years in Oz."

It is this very clear sense of being 'partners in the gospel' that we share with so many special people.