Advance
Baptist Mid-Missions
Spring 2019

An audience with the King

16 biblical intercessions to pray for your missionaries
In this copy of Advance, you will be given some great ways to pray for missionaries you know. Read through these suggestions carefully and have them in front of you as you pray. Here’s a secret to praying effectively: know your missionaries well. Get to know what is happening in their lives to pray specifically over the areas suggested in this Advance.

The Apostle Paul asked the Thessalonian Christians to pray specifically. His request could reflect the heart of every missionary, that the Word would run swiftly and be effective as it was in Thessalonica. All missionaries long for spiritual fruit in ministry, and they desire your prayers for this. In addition, Paul reminded the Thessalonians that there are wicked men in the world, and that they (Paul’s missionary team) would face severe opposition.

Missionaries instinctively know this as they move into arenas of ministry where Satan has had uncontested reign and rule. They expect severe opposition. Many of them will rehearse for you their need for prayer to face and survive these very personal attacks on their family and to be victorious in the spiritual battles they are waging. These attacks can be spiritually and physically brutal. This is a reason why it is important to know them personally, know their family, and know their ministry environment. It enables you to be an effective prayer warrior who meets them at the Throne of Grace, which is where you bind your heart to the heart of your missionary as you both seek God’s face for answers to hard issues.

So please pray, and pray specifically and knowledgeably for your missionaries. They are dependent on your intercessory prayers at the Throne of Grace.

**Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.”**

II Thessalonians 3:1–2
Prayer
It’s an essential component to missions. Like the gas that fills our cars’ tanks, without prayer missionaries can go nowhere.

Great is our God
God’s work through BMM in the 1960s.
“Not enough can be said about prayer and the missionary life. It is the gas that fills our tanks. Without it, we could go nowhere.”

—Bob and Becky Bass (Peru)
What a wonder it is to have an audience with the King. In our humblest of postures, our hearts join with the Author of Life to seek His purposes and to further His glory. Our quiet entreaties have power to move mountains.

Prayer strips away the impossibilities of so monumental a task as missions. It wrenches power from the evil one and ushers in life. It speeds protection and provision. Prayer lifts weary hearts and sustains the heavy-laden.

In this issue, we share 16 biblical prayers for missionaries, compiled by Jonathan Stilwell, BMM Administrator for Spanish-Speaking Latin America. And our missionaries offer stories of how prayer has made a difference.
1. **Peace in the countries we serve**  
   Jeremiah 29:7—“Seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away ... pray to the Lord for it.”

2. **Sustenance for missionaries, ministries, BMM, and donors**  
   Matthew 6:9,11—“In this manner, therefore, pray ... Give us this day our daily bread.”

3. **Deliverance from evil: moral failure and Satan's schemes**  
   Matthew 6:9,13—“In this manner, therefore, pray ... deliver us from the evil one.”

4. **More laborers: missionaries and nationals**  
   Matthew 9:38—“Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

5. **Unity among missionaries and with national leaders**  
   John 17:21—“That they all may be one ... that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

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**Nate Beckman—Thailand**

Ever wonder if regular prayer for missionaries is worthwhile? It is. God is allowing things to come into our lives that we have never faced before.

During a wedding rehearsal, an emotionally unstable man came to the church saying he was a friend of the groom. He had painted his face black to “disguise” himself, and he was telling anyone within earshot about his grievances. I told him that the family respectfully asked him to leave, and I offered to drive him home. Grudgingly, he accepted.

While I drove him on a Bangkok interstate, he became extremely emotional and began rummaging for something in his bag. I pulled over as soon as I could, and he allowed me to take the bag from him, in which I found a crudely made single-shot gun. He allowed me to keep the gun until we arrived at his house. At that point I told him, for his own safety, I would keep the gun. What a day! I missed the wedding completely. It was a top-three experience of being afraid in my life. Thank God for His protection!

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**Dave Santos—Brazil**

As we were raising construction funds, we had five friends approach us and express a desire to help. I told them to hang on and that I would contact them when we needed them. We had a project going to raise money already, but it didn’t include the roof. I “guesstimated” that it would cost around $13,000.

When it was time, I called each of our friends and let them know we needed a roof. I told them to give what they felt the Lord wanted them to, and I never shared with them the total amount we needed. Only four of the five were able to give. The total of the four gifts was $12,800 and the actual roof cost came out to $12,860!!

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**Dr. Mary Broeckert—retired**

God has worked in great ways through Baptist Mid-Missions’ hospital in a Creative Access Nation over the years. Through this ministry, the gospel has gone out throughout the country, and many churches have been started. In July 2018, their old ultrasound machine quit working. Attempts to repair it were unsuccessful.

A prayer letter was sent out asking God’s people to pray that God would provide a new machine. “You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many” 2 Corinthians 1:11. Within a few days, a donor

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**God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying there is in the world the better the world will be, the mightier the forces against evil.**  
— E.M. Bounds
asked if they could contribute the funds to fully cover this item.

Several people were involved with a search for the best machine. The hospital administrator went to the capital, and was able to order a brand-new ultrasound machine that fit the need. Within several months, it arrived at the hospital. We give thanks to God for blessing through the prayers of many.

**Creative Access**

**Nation missionary**

After many years of praying for someone who could plant a church for our children’s village, we saw the Lord raise up someone from among the children to whom we ministered, who desired to go to Bible college. He graduated in 2018 and came back to start a church in the near future! It has been the most exciting answer to prayer I have ever had!
6. Safety in travel: some countries especially
Rm 1:10—“Making request if, by some means … I may find a way in the will of God to come to you.”

7. Salvation of the lost: genuine conversions
Rm 10:1—“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God … is that they may be saved.”

8. Deliverance from persecutors: various levels by country
Rm 15:30–31—“Strive … in prayers … that I may be delivered from those … who do not believe.”

9. Boldness and skill to witness
Eph 6:18–19—“Praying always … that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel.”

10. Open doors for the gospel
Col 4:3—“Meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word.”

**Herb Hunter—South Africa**

During a visit to our hospital’s hospice wing, my ministry colleague Dave met a 75-year-old man with terminal cancer, Theo. When Dave shared the gospel, Theo showed interest. The next day, at our men’s theology fellowship meeting, we prayed by name for Theo. That afternoon, Dave and I visited him. Theo said he was ready, so I led him in a simple prayer to receive Christ. It was a precious moment.

That night I e-mailed my supporting churches and, of course, I received several encouraging notes assuring me of prayers for Theo. Well, when Dave and I visited him on Thursday, we found him excited because he had been sharing Christ with one of the nurses who cares for him. We found out she was already saved but had dropped out of church because of strange experiences she’d had in charismatic churches.

So I invited her to join me at church on Sunday—which she did. We have since met for counseling, and she is interested in learning the Word and growing in her faith. The ripples of Theo’s decision continue to spread!

**Rachel Tarvin—Peru**

A few years ago, an evangelism team and I traveled to a remote jungle tribe in Peru. When the group stopped to swim, a seminary student swam too far and called for help. A summer intern, Jay, rescued him but lost his glasses in the process. One of the unsaved tribal men, Jaime, began mocking the group, saying it was impossible to find the glasses. I looked him squarely in the eye, saying, “My God can lead us to find those glasses.”

I prayed, “God, I put your name on the line here. Give us an opportunity to make much of you.” The group searched and searched the river as Jaime snickered from the shoreline. I prayed more fervently, “God, let Jaime see you.”

Then I retraced my path to a drop-off in the river. Reaching as far as I could with my foot, I grabbed what felt like a leaf...
stem—but felt lenses. I gave a jubilant shout as my eyes locked on Jaime’s, “My God….my God!! HE did this. He is Powerful!”

Jaime looked like he’d seen a ghost. After another prayer of thanksgiving, one of the men climbed into Jaime’s canoe to share clearly with him how Jesus can rescue lost causes and save lost souls like his. I am so thankful that God answers prayer and shows Himself strong. He worked everything for good, personally revealing Himself to Jaime even over a pair of lost glasses.

**Bob and Becky Bass—Peru**

For those of us living and ministering in the Peruvian cloud forest, travel is part of life. To purchase fresh produce, visit the doctor, or get our mail means driving nine hours on dangerous one-way roads.

During one of our medical campaigns, we had a visiting dentist tell us that she always prays for us when we post on social media that we’ll be traveling in or out of the jungle. Once she traveled those same roads with us, she clearly understood why we asked for prayer each time.

When we brought our two-month-old son home to the jungle for the first time, we came upon a mudslide, just as it was sliding. This caused a two-hour delay. After 45 minutes of digging, the other drivers decided it was best for Bob to drive across first to pack down the mud and rocks. It meant Becky would have to walk across the mudslide with her newborn and watch Bob drive across the unstable, newly formed road.

When we finally arrived home that night, we heard of many individuals who had been faithfully praying for us throughout the day. Each and every time we travel, we need and are so grateful for the faithful prayers of our family, friends, and supporters.

**Steve and Charlene Giegerich—Campus Bible Fellowship International**

Back in 1999, Steve left a gospel tract on a nearby university campus in Indiana. It got into the hands of campus authorities, and Steve was told he could no longer come on campus and do ministerial work. If he were ever caught, he would be arrested.

We prayed, “Lord, are you closing the doors to this university? Are there other doors you want to open? Please give us clear direction.” We still had freedom to serve on another campus, but our house was very close to the university we were praying about.

We sought other ways to reach this university. We tried an off-campus used furniture giveaway for international students, and we started ESL classes. Through these, the Lord opened ongoing ministry to these students. Several years after being told we could not do ministerial work on campus, we were actually asked to be spiritual advisors and give devotions at an event connected with this campus. Our ministry among the international students continues, and the day after Thanksgiving 2018, we witnessed the baptisms of two internationalals whom we led to the Lord!

**Les and Carol Carew—Chad**

We had been praying for a good turnout for our first-ever kids’ games/Bible club event that we were holding in the middle of a refuge camp. The Lord amazed and shocked us with sending over 700 children, with more than 100 making decisions to follow Jesus! We stand amazed each day at His goodness!
Ruth Coleman—Honduras

I was pretty excited! In March 2017, after my church held a special prayer meeting, my remaining 25 percent of support came in just one month. I could leave for my first term in Honduras.

The Tuesday I purchased my plane tickets, I developed a sore throat that I thought was a cold. But five days later, half my face wouldn’t move. It was Easter Sunday, and after church I drove to a care clinic. They diagnosed me with Bell’s palsy. The doctor told me it could take 4-6 weeks to get movement back in my face, and sometimes 100 percent movement may never return. How could I move to Honduras in the next month with half my face not working?

That night God gave incredible peace that He was in control. My home church and others began praying for me every day, and during the third week, I regained all movement in my face. I could only attribute it to God’s answering all those prayers for me. Last fall in Honduras, I shared my story and Jeremiah 33:3 with my Wednesday night children’s class. I told my kiddos that when they look at my face and see me smile, they can remember who our God is because He is the one who healed me and allowed me to smile again.

Charlie and Gai Jewell—Central African Republic

After Charlie was scheduled to speak at the Bible school graduation in Bambari, the ceremony was postponed due to major fighting in town and the murder of a Catholic bishop. Graduation was later rescheduled, and Charlie again made plans. Because the bridge on the road to the BMM station was being fought over by two warring factions, Charlie stayed at another guest house. Bible school leaders didn’t want him riding a motorcycle back and forth to the school because he may have been harassed or attacked as a foreigner, so a car was rented.

Each night as Charlie lay awake listening to the gunfire in Bambari, all he could do was pray. At home in Bangui, Gai was also praying, and she sent notes to supporting churches asking them to pray. Every day they were able to hold four hours of classes.

While walking in the village one day, Charlie and an African went by the house of one of the rebel group’s generals. Charlie and his companion were allowed to talk with him. At Charlie’s invitation, the general, his wife, and others attended the graduation, where they heard a gospel presentation. Praise the Lord for this and for other contacts made to promote God’s work in CAR.

Lauren Peavy—Dominican Republic

On January 1, 2017, we moved to the Dominican Republic for our first term. In the span of four months, our almost three-year-old son, Michael, had gained a new baby sister and moved to a new house in a new country with a new language, and he was struggling with his world being turned upside down. He didn’t want to attend church, and even birthday parties were difficult.

I began to question myself as a parent, if we had done the right thing uprooting our family. I called my mother and a few of our supporters, asking them to pray for Michael, especially for friends. My mom asked two Sunday School classes to pray that Michael’s worries and fears would calm. On that Sunday, Michael went from crying to standing in front of the church with his class for their presentation.

God put two families in our path. The children knew no English, but they were kind to our son and made a point to include him and give him hugs. Three wonderful young men in our church, who also attend the seminary we serve in, made Michael their little friend. As he transitioned, Michael was very grumpy, but the men let him be quiet, joined him in playing, and even brought his favorite treats. Instead of seeing him as an angry little boy to be ignored, they loved on him and prayed for him. Today, Michael is a happy, well-adjusted five-year-old. We are forever grateful for those God put in our path in answer to our prayers.

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.
— Colossians 4:2
Our prayer was that God would give us a national pastor from our church people. In 2008, our daughter married a man who was a teacher in the church’s Christian school. After their marriage, he went to Bob Jones University for Bible training, and God called them back to our country as missionaries.

Our mission church appointed him as pastor on January 7, 2018. Thank God for answering our long-time prayer that the church would have its own national pastor.

We regularly ask supporters to pray as we begin ministry in this Muslim nation. God’s answers have been amazing! The mother of our son’s friend was interested in a Bible study but feared reprisal from her Muslim family. But when she and her husband sought a home closer to their boys’ school, they bought the house next to us! She has been coming to our Bible studies and has started praying to Jesus and wants to follow Him.

We opened our community fitness/English center December 1, 2018. Fifty adults signed up the first week, and we’re adding more each day. The people of our country are typically cold to outsiders, but the center has broken down much of this resistance. God has given a platform to be very open about our faith and share the gospel. We often have people stopping by our house for visits, and we were invited to a wedding recently. We may be the only Christians our community members meet, and God has opened many ways to share Jesus with them.

**11. Authorities: salvation, just rule for freedom of the gospel**

1 Timothy 2:1-2—“I exhort first of all that supplications … be made … for kings and all who are in authority.”

**12. Spiritual life to overcome discouragement, envy, etc.**

Hebrew 13:18—“Pray for us … in all things desiring to live honorably.”

**13. Health: capacity to minister the gospel**

James 5:16—“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.”

**14. Adaptation to language and culture** (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

**15. Family: spouses, children** (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

**16. Ministries: church, Bible college, Bible translation, camp, literature, radio, university students** (Matthew 16:18)
Great is our GOD

The story of Baptist Mid-Missions

Photos, clockwise from top left: Hal Miller (back row, left) with CBF students; Sango Bible missionary translation team; 1964 Congo evacuation; Irene Ferrel; BMM President Allen Lewis; background: BMM’s home office from 1965 to 1986
Until the 1960s, BMM had been led by pastors and Council members who sacrificially gave of their time to oversee our global operations. However, Mission growth and the increased complexity of handling business affairs made this form of leadership no longer feasible. In 1960, Rev. Allen Lewis was installed as our first full-time president. Early in his tenure, Lewis would oversee the challenges of missions in a rapidly changing world.

Peace and rebuilding had marked the 1950s, but turmoil simmered below the surface. Colonialism was largely dismantled in Africa by 1960, but its roots were not as easily erased. The new, independent nations also lacked economic strength and trained leadership, creating a volatile climate.

In 1964, this tension exploded in what is today the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Nationalistic spirit went wild with uncontrolled rebel activity. On January 24, people began fleeing the Jeunesse, youth mobs that killed and burned whatever they chose. BMM missionaries Auguste and Helene Eicher escaped after rebels looted their home and brutally beat Auguste. In Mangungu, Ruth Hege and Irene Ferrel were attacked before dawn on January 25. Irene was hit by an arrow in her throat and died. Ruth was also struck and fell on top of Irene, where Ruth lay motionless while the Jeunesse tore up their home. Ruth later crawled to a garage where Congolese Christians found and rescued her. Irene was the first white woman killed in the rebellion and the only missionary in BMM’s history to have been martyred.

The 1960s saw a world of increasing literacy, where people gained newfound access to materials promoting political ideologies, liberal theology, and immorality. In response, missionaries printed and distributed Christian materials by the thousands. Editorial Bautista Independiente, BMM’s Spanish publications ministry, was organized in 1960.

Across the world, many other BMM publishing and distribution ministries were formed. Stephen Nischik worked among Ukrainians and, in 1968 alone, sent 1,184 Bibles and New Testaments, along with hymnals and tracts, behind the Iron Curtain. In Quebec City, Leigh and Carol Adams distributed French tracts, eventually forming a publishing house, Publications Baptistes Evangeliques, which shipped materials into French-speaking Africa, the Caribbean, and the South Pacific.

Bible translation work reached a milestone in 1966, when the complete Sango Bible was dedicated in Central African Republic. It was the culmination of 40+ years of labor by missionaries and Africans and was the first complete Bible that BMM missionaries produced.

Unrest and uncertainty across the world pulled missionaries out of fields worldwide. During these years, greater effort was expended on North America. Our Mexico and Quebec fields were opened, and two innovative, specialized ministries were begun: In 1967, Mormon Focus Ministries began reaching Mormons for Christ in Utah. In the mid-1960s, BMM saw a great need on college campuses where ungodly ideologies vied for students’ hearts. Soon afterward, Iowa pastor Hal Miller joined forces with BMM to expand his existing campus ministries. Campus Bible Fellowship was formed in 1966 and has reached thousands of North American and international students for Christ.

Next issue: 1970s
Chadian nationals pay the ultimate price for their faith, and BMM expands into new fields
Charitable Gift Annuity—the term seems like an oxymoron! A gift is something I give. An annuity involves something that I receive. So what is a gift annuity and why would BMM promote this type of giving?

First, a gift annuity is a gift. A gift annuity with BMM starts with a desire to give to the Great Commission ministry of BMM using cash, securities, or possibly other assets.

Second, a gift annuity is also an annuity. In exchange for your gift, you become eligible to take a partial tax deduction, plus you receive a fixed income for the rest of your life.

How much will I receive? How is that determined? And will my payment rate ever decrease?

Your fixed income or gift annuity rate is determined by your age at the time of your gift. The older you are at the time of your gift, the higher your rate. Your income payment never changes. Your rate is impacted by other factors: whether your gift annuity is to pay for a single life or for two lives, and whether those payments to you begin immediately or are deferred until later.

However, once your contract is made, your rate remains the same.

How can I increase the amount of income I receive?

Many friends of BMM enter into new gift annuity contracts over the years and receive higher rates for their more recent gifts.

How will a gift annuity help the Great Commission work of Baptist Mid-Missions?

Your gift remains invested until you are home with the Lord. The balance that remains is used to further the Great Commission work of our Mission family.

Can I use a gift annuity to make a gift to a child or grandchild in my will?

Yes! A Testamentary Gift Annuity is funded at your passing by a gift annuity made through your will or trust. In this way you can provide lifetime income for a child or loved one instead of leaving them a lump sum.

If you would like more information, please visit our gift planning website at giftplanning.bmm.org or call 440-826-3930 and ask for Stewardship Ministries.
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