

HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR MISSIONARIES

Over the years God has richly blessed the missionary outreach of First Baptist Church of Lowell. He has led several from First Baptist to fields of service around the world and here at home. We who remain have the responsibility of standing behind our missionaries through prayer and giving. Our financial support helps supply their physical needs. Our prayer support enables them to win spiritual battles. Both are important.

The Lord tells up in Ephesians 6:12, *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”* The battle is spiritual. Prayer is a key weapon. We are to be on the alert, *“with all perseverance and supplication for all saints”* (Eph 6:18), and especially our missionaries.

How can we pray more specifically for the First Baptist missionary family? Here are seven areas of need shared by our missionaries:

1. Pray for their spiritual growth

Ask God to give them: Quality time with the Lord each day. Right priorities and wise use of time. Strength to confess sin and deal firmly with temptation.

2. Pray for their physical welfare

Ask God to give them: Discipline for proper eating, exercise, rest and recreation. Protection from disease and safety in travel. Consistent financial support.

3. Pray for their emotional health

Ask God to give them: Protection from loneliness, discouragement, depression, and fear. Peace that comes from the assurance of being in the center of God’s will.

4. Pray for their families

Ask God to give them: Quality time with and unity as a family and harmony with co-workers. Wisdom to discipline and educate their children in a foreign culture. Strength to endure times of separation when children are away at school and far from their parents.

5. Pray for their ministry

Ask God to give them: Boldness in their witness and wise use of God’s Word. Faithful disciples who will be able to teach others. A dynamic prayer life and lasting fruit.

6. Pray for their character development

Ask God to give them: Consistent Christ-like love, as well as the other fruits of the Spirit – joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Other needed qualities: courage, availability, decisiveness, loyalty, determination, flexibility, generosity, hospitality, initiative, responsibility, orderliness, joyfulness, alertness and endurance.

7. Pray for their social needs

Ask God to help them: Learn the language of the people. Adjust to the climate, customs, culture, and government of the country. Make several friends with whom they can laugh, cry, play, work and relax.