



# The Missions Toolbox

## Helping Missionaries

### Praying for Missionaries

As a teen growing up in a church that actively supported missions, I remember nearly every missionary speaker fervently asking for prayer. The pattern was so regular that my mind simply tuned out most of what they said. Prayer was just a religious exercise and no more. Many years later, I had the opportunity to visit a foreign mission field and to listen to a veteran husband-wife missionary team pray for fellow missionaries around the world. They prayed for two or three ministries after dinner for just a few minutes. Their earnestness and petitions changed my attitude about prayer for missions. Prayer was a vital part of their ministry! This motivated me to study the Scriptures about praying for those in God's work. The word "pray" occurs 35 times in the 28 chapters of Acts. God used these believers to change the world. What could happen when we pray?

- Acts 6:4 Prayer is the focus of the ministry.
- Acts 10:9 Prayer is associated with opening new ministries.
- Acts 12:5 Prayer is needed during persecution and crisis.
- Acts 13:3 Prayer is a part of sending out new missionaries.
- Acts 14:23 Prayer is a part of church planting.
- Acts 16:25 Prayer is associated with people being saved.
- Acts 28:8 Prayer is required in meeting physical needs.

Our prayers for missionaries should follow a similar pattern.

- Acts 6:4 Pray that missionaries would themselves pray effectively.
- Acts 10:9 Pray for new fields of opportunity to spread the gospel.
- Acts 12:5 Pray for safety and for expansion of the work during crises.
- Acts 13:3 Pray for additional workers.
- Acts 14:23 Pray for new churches to be established.
- Acts 16:25 Pray for people to be saved from their sins.
- Acts 28:8 Pray for the opportunity to show others the love of Christ.

*Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: II Thessalonians 3:1*