

A PRAYER FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Lord, we know each of us are called to share the Gospel, whether in our own communities or in the far corners of the earth. Thank you for the privilege of proclaiming You to the world!

**How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"**

Isaiah 52:7 (NIV)

Heavenly Father, we praise you for the men, women, and children who have said "Yes" when you issued the call to go to another world area and share the Good News of Christ.

Current Missionaries

Jesus, every job our missionaries have on the field is important. Some work in remote, jungle locations, others in metropolitan areas. Yet, the tasks each one carries out is important to your Kingdom work. Encourage our missionaries today, Father God. Remind them that their part in your mission matters and no one job or location is more important than another. You, Lord, need the hands and feet of many to accomplish your mission in the world.

Missionary Kids

God, there was a time when it was common for the children of missionaries to be away from their parents at boarding schools during the academic year. While there are some who do still attend boarding schools and serve you there, many others get to live with their parents and attend school on the mission field.

We thank you for Nazarene missionary kids (MKs), who have experiences and challenges most other children could only imagine. Sometimes, MKs are thought of as "third culture kids"—kids who are raised in a culture outside of their parents' culture for a significant part of their development years. Sometimes they are referred to as "transcultural kids." The reality is, however we refer to them, MKs have gifts and talents others don't. At the same time, they can feel like they've never had a culture to call their own.

Lord, we pray for Nazarene MKs – those still living at home with their parents on the field, those in college, and those who are grown with their own families. May the

experiences of the mission field enhance and bless their lives and the people they meet on their life journeys.

Retired Missionaries

Lord, we can't pray for missionaries without thanking you and praying for our retired missionaries. These heroes of Nazarene missions gave their lives to serving you and many continue to serve in their churches and communities in their retirement years. Bless our retired missionaries Lord. Provide for them, heal their bodies if they are struggling with health issues, encourage and remind them that the work they dedicated their lives to mattered...then and still today. The work they did paved the way for today's missionaries to further the holiness message around the world, disciple new believers, and plant churches.

We pray also for former missionaries who served many years and then answered the call to another place of service before they retire. These people too made a significant difference in the world, Lord, for you. Bless them today!

Closing

Jesus, we acknowledge that what we've prayed has only scratched the surface of ways to pray for missionaries. Help us to be diligent in our prayers to lift high the ones who have answered your call to go as Nazarene missionaries. We thank you for each of them. Let them feel your love and provision today.

Now, as we close this time of talking with you, God, we are encouraged by the challenge issued in 1959 by the late Elizabeth Cole, retired missionary to Swaziland, who wrote in the mission book Give Me This Mountain, the following words:

"It is said that those who climb mountains and think they are at the top discover that there are other peaks ahead.

*Today there are mountain peaks ahead,
mountain peaks that are high indeed.*

New trails will need to be blazed to reach them.

Rocks and boulders in the way will need splitting.

*But if the Church goes according to the pattern which He gives,
even the dizziest heights of those mountains are surmountable."*

Lord, these words Elizabeth penned in 1959 hold true today. Help our missionaries to keep climbing, to know that you are with them on the mountaintops and in the valleys, and that we are praying for them.

To God be the Glory forever and ever. Amen.