



## PRAYING FOR THE NATIONS

Prayer Points: October 2021 Contributor: Michelle Brooks-Young

When Jesus commanded his followers to “make disciples of all nations” in Matthew 28:19 (NIV), the word Jesus used for nations in Greek is “ethne,” from which we get the English word “ethnic.” Jesus commanded us to make disciples from every ethnic people group. In Matthew 24:14 (ESV), he said, “And this gospel . . . will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” But how can we make an impact? We can start with our most important tool—the ministry of prayer.

Often the needs seem so vast, so overwhelming, that we reduce our prayer to a simple, “Bless you.” Below are several focused prayer points as our movement gives attention to the mission call. I invite you to use this outline and focus on one directive each day. Be specific as you pray and focus on the name of a missionary or leader in another country.

### Prayer Focus:

#### New Horizons and New Territory

Often closed doors, closed borders, and closed minds are a discouragement to leadership. Like Jabez, we pray 1 Chronicles 4:10: “Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my territory (NIV)/enlarge my border [property] (AMP)/enlarge my coast (KJV).”

#### Anointed and Available Leadership

Multiplication of leadership allows better mobilization and relational ministry. Pray for direction, preparation, and the equipping of leaders and ministers who are both available and, more important, anointed (Matthew 9:37, 38; Romans 10:15; Ephesians 4:11, 12).

#### Unreached People Groups

According to current statistics of the Joshua Project, more than 2 billion people have never heard of the gospel of Jesus Christ! This equates to more than 7,400 unreached people

groups. While we realize the mandate that the gospel will be spread to every person, let us pray for favor, connection, challenges with language barriers, and relationship opportunities. No nation is exempt from spreading the gospel. Let us pray in unity that all may hear the good news—Jesus saves (Matthew 24:13 ESV; Revelation 7:9)!

#### Provision and Resources

Often ministries are located in areas with little to no financial options. Government or humanitarian assistance is not always readily available. Pray for specific resources and projects as well as the personal needs of the missionary, leader, ministry family, or nation (Philippians 4:19; Psalm 23:1).

#### Encouragement

“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works” (Hebrews 10:24 NLT). As we pray for the nations, let’s remember to pray for encouragement. Physical, spiritual, and emotional obstacles are often prefaced by a season of discouragement.

#### Safety and Protection

We live in a world filled with fearful events and political and social situations that can become volatile in an instant. In some areas, safety and assurance of security have never been a way of life. As we pray for spiritual protection, let us include physical safety, protection of the family, strength in marriages, and safe homes and places of worship. Pray for safety from injustice, division, and hate (Isaiah 41:10-12; 2 Thessalonians 3:3-5; Psalm 17:8-10).

Ultimately there is no right or wrong way to pray for the nations. Whether we focus on one directive or cover them in scriptural prayer, our goal is to be a conduit to “make disciples of ALL nation”! Pray that you will be a vessel through which the Holy Spirit may accomplish God’s purposes and bring him glory.



#### ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTOR:

Michelle Brooks-Young serves on the Tennessee State staff as Tennessee Missions Connection coordinator, connecting vision needs with funds and supporting the value of missions, both stateside and worldwide. She has traveled internationally for over 20 years spreading the gospel in various avenues. Michelle attends the Restoration Fellowship COGOP in Murfreesboro, TN.

