

SECURITY AND COMMUNICATIONS

It is important to remember that due to security issues many missionaries are unable to openly communicate. This does NOT mean that prayer support is not desired or needed; instead, it should be given without expecting the missionary to be involved in direct communication. These missionaries often have stateside advocates that communicate prayer and ministry needs on their behalf. Therefore, your expectations should be guided by what is best for the individual missionary and his or her people group.

Every missionary is serving in an area that is characterized by one of the following three security levels. It is important that you have an understanding of security issues before attempting to contact a missionary on the field. If you are not sure, please contact IMB at (800) 999-3113 or imb@imb.org for assistance.

FIELD PERSONNEL SECURITY LEVELS

ALWAYS consult with security level 2 and 3 missionaries before publicizing any family member's name, photo, bio, affinity served, or any other personal information. Do not publicly distribute their information, e.g., FaceBook, MySpace, Twitter, other social networking sites, blogs, church or personal websites, printed materials, newsletters, emails, etc. This is for the safety of each family and the peoples they serve.

Level 1: *OPEN COMMUNICATION*

- Presence of missionary and evangelism is openly known and practiced.
- No restrictions on communication from or to the field.
- Media coverage is governed by common sense.
- Missionary may ask from time to time to be cautious about certain items.

Level 2: *CAUTIOUS COMMUNICATION*

- Environment is tolerant but suspicious toward evangelism.
- There may be limited physical danger and the risk of loss of presence.
- Communication is indirect and guarded.
- Communication with public is prudent and limited.
- Always consult on means of communication with missionary.

Level 3: *RESTRICTED COMMUNICATION*

- Environment is intolerant and antagonistic toward evangelism.
- Field personnel relate to IMB only through limited circle of administrators.
- Communication to/from the field is restricted to the essentials and must follow the leadership of the missionary.
- No public statements about work.

Two-thirds of the missionaries currently serving on the field through IMB are in level 2 or 3 assignments. Therefore extreme caution must be taken in all communication for the sake of the missionary, for the sake of local believers who could experience physical harm and/or persecution, for the sake of the work of the Kingdom among those peoples!

In your communication, here are some examples.

Avoid the following words in your email correspondence:

- Missions
- Missionaries
- Ministry
- Converts/Conversions
- Religion
- God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit
- Church
- Salvation
- Evangelize/Evangelism
- Pray/Prayer
- Believers
- International Mission Board/IMB
- Southern Baptist
- Any reference to Politics

Try using these words instead of:

- Church – meeting place or group
- Salvation – found the Way
- God – Father
- Jesus – Master
- Missionary – worker
- Bible – the book
- Pray – think or remember
- Christian – brother or sister
- International Mission Board/IMB – the company

SOMEBODY'S PRAYING FOR ME

“Ask any missionary what they need most from the local church to be effective in their mission and they will almost certainly answer prayer. Ask any missions leader what helps mobilize a local congregation for missions and they will almost certainly answer that it begins with prayer.”

“Without question, the single most important ingredient” in the missionary connection “is the fresh, focused and fervent prayer that takes place *before, during* and *after* everything else. It is in and through such praying that the natural becomes *supernatural* and the ordinary becomes *extraordinary* in God’s marvelous mission fields.”

30 WAYS TO PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES

1. Focus on God

Pray for missionaries to stay focused on God and His plans above all else. *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you (Matthew 6:33).*

2. Faithful Bible Study

Pray for missionaries to spend much time in the Word and ask God to give them discernment. *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).*

3. Confession and repentance

Pray for missionaries to regularly seek examination by God and to repent from any errors that have crept into their lives. *Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way (Psalm 139:23-24)*

4. Humility

Pray for missionaries to have a spirit of humility and to willingly ask God for wisdom in carrying out their assignment. *Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without criticizing, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)*

5. Purity

Pray for missionaries to be so renewed by God's Word that no sin will have dominion over them. *Make my steps steady through Your promise; don't let sin dominate me (Psalm 119:133).*

6. Boldness

Pray for boldness in the missionaries when they share the gospel or preach. *Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel (Ephesians 6:19).*

7. Rest

Ask God to help missionaries recognize their need for weekly rest away from ministry responsibilities. *He said to them, 'Come away by yourselves to a remote place and rest a while' (Mark 6:31).*

8. Guard the treasure

Pray for missionaries to stay focused on the gospel of Jesus Christ and not be distracted by issues of the day. *Hold on to the pattern of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and*

love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard, through the Holy Spirit who lives in us, that good thing entrusted to you (2 Timothy 1:13-14).

9. Give Glory to God

Ask God to empower missionaries to point people to Jesus and not seek undue recognition for themselves. *In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).*

10. Dependence on God

Pray for missionaries to model a life of dependence on God. *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own understanding; think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths (Proverbs 3:5-6).*

11. Gracious speech

Ask God to give missionaries the grace to know how to respond to each person. *Your speech should always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person (Colossians 4:6).*

12. Spirit of unity

Pray for a spirit of unity as missionaries work together and with other ministry partners. *Now may the God of endurance and encouragement grant you agreement with one another according to Christ Jesus (Romans 15:5).*

13. Resist temptation

Pray for missionaries to be quick to take the escape God provides when temptation sneaks up on them. *God is faithful and He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation He will also provide a way of escape, so that you are able to bear it (1 Corinthians 10:13b).*

14. Retreat with God

Pray for missionaries to take personal prayer retreats to get their direction from Him. *The Lord God has given Me the tongue of those who are instructed to know how to sustain the weary with a word...He awakens My ear to listen like those being instructed (Isaiah 50:4).*

15. Stand firm

Pray for missionaries to stand firm under affliction and to look forward to eternal glory. *For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory (2 Corinthians 4:17).*

16. Daily Prayer

Ask God to help missionaries protect their time for prayer and personal meditation in God's Word. *But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the preaching ministry (Acts 6:4).*

17. Devotion to God

Pray for missionaries to maintain their devotion to Christ. *But I fear that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your minds may be corrupted from a complete and pure devotion to Christ (2 Corinthians 11:3).*

18. Hear God

Ask God to teach missionaries to hear His voice and follow Him. *The sheep follow him because they recognize his voice (John 10:4).*

19. Boast in the Lord

Pray for missionaries to be quick to give God the credit. *So the one who boasts must boast in the Lord (2 Corinthians 10:17).*

20. Directions from God

Pray for missionaries to get their direction from the Lord only. *I am the Lord your God, who teaches you for [your] benefit, who leads you in the way you should go (Isaiah 48:17)*

21. Peace

Pray for missionaries to give all their anxious thoughts to God and rest in His peace. *Don't worry about anything, but in everything through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7).*

22. Prayer support

Pray for missionaries to enlist personal prayer support and ask God to call faithful intercessors to respond. *So Peter was kept in prison, but prayer was being made earnestly to God for him by the church (Acts 12:5).*

23. Strong marriages

Pray for marriages of missionaries to be strong and healthy. *Husbands, in the same way, live with your wives with understanding of their weaker nature yet showing them honor as co-heirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered (1 Peter 3:7).*

24. Eyes to see like Jesus

Ask God to give missionaries eyes to see as He sees and empower them to love the unlovely, the rejected and the outcasts as Jesus did. *Man does not see what the Lord sees, for man sees what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart (1 Samuel 16:7b).*

25. Express love

Pray for missionaries to model loving God completely and others as themselves. *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength (Mark 12:30).*

26. Hunger for God

Ask God to give missionaries a hunger and thirst for Him and His word. *But solid food is for the mature—for those whose senses have been trained to distinguish between good and evil (Hebrews 5:14)*

27. Persistence

Pray for endurance, stamina and pacing for missionaries to insure long-term, fruitful ministry. *I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14).*

28. Team spirit

Ask God to build strong teams among missionaries working together so that He gets the glory. *So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth ...for we are God's co-workers...(1 Corinthians 3:7-9).*

29. Obedience

Pray for missionaries to love and obey God, and to be known for their dependability to obey regardless of outside pressure. *If you love Me, you will keep My commandments (John 14:15).*

30. Sacrifice of holy living

Ask God to empower missionaries to be healthy in mind, body and spirit,...*I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...(Romans 12:1-2).*

HOW TO PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES FROM A TO Z

- Ask for the **a**nointing of the Holy Spirit so that the missionary will operate in the Spirit's Power.
- Pray that the missionary will speak the Word of God with **b**oldness.
- Ask for **C**omfort when they are discouraged, brokenhearted or stressed out.
- Ask that the missionary will sense God's specific **d**irection in ministry.
- Ask God to send someone to **e**ncourage the missionary.
- Pray for them to be able to speak the language so they will be able to make **f**riendships and share the Gospel.
- Ask that the missionary will see people and things from **G**od's perspective.
- Pray for their physical **h**ealth. A lot of our IMB missionaries live in areas of constant exposure to common tropical and other diseases – malaria, amoebic dysentery, hepatitis, tuberculosis and many other diseases.
- Ask God to provide prayer partners who will **i**ntercede on a regular basis.
- Pray that the missionary will be full of the **j**oy of the Lord in all situations.
- Pray that the missionary will desire **k**nowledge of God's Word and apply it consistently.
- Pray for our missionaries as they face **l**oneliness.
- Pray that the missionary will labor from godly **m**otives, not to please other people.
- Pray that the missionary will realize that in Christ all **n**eeds will be met.
- Pray that the missionary will recognize **O**pportunities to share the Gospel.
- Pray for them as some have **p**arents in the states that are not healthy. Pray for God to give them wisdom on when to be with their parents.
- Pray that nothing will keep the missionary from having a quality **q**uiet time each day.
- Ask God to work in the missionary's life so he or she will experience personal **r**evival.
- Pray for their **S**piritual growth.
- Ask God to give the missionary a **t**hankful heart, even in difficult situations.
- Pray that the **u**nsaved will develop a hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ in their lives.
- Pray that the missionary will know **V**ictory in spiritual warfare.
- Pray that the missionary will not grow **w**earied in having too much to do.
- Ask that the missionary will have **X**-ray vision of the heart and desire a cleansed life.
- Pray that the missionary will be completely **y**ielded to Christ and willing to die to self.
- Pray that the missionary will have a renewed **Z**eal to share the gospel.