



Intercessory Missionaries

In a 1948 issue of the forerunner to *Mission Connection*, the term “intercessory missionary” was used by an unnamed source. Because prayer is vital to the ministries of missionaries, an explanation of this support role follows. It has been updated from the original text.

Intercessory missionaries are laborers who cannot go in person to the field but who have set themselves apart to pray for the definite details of missionary work.

These servants deserve titles as important to those who are appointed as global missionaries. Their distinctives are that they are working in the spiritual realm instead of the physical and that there are no restrictions regarding the number of intercessors, their place of residence, or the variety, sweep, and completeness of the results accomplished.

Gail L. Sawrie • NMI Editor

How to Do the Work of an Intercessory Missionary

- **Consider intercession for missionaries a ministry.** Just as your pastor has a responsibility to your congregation, so you have a responsibility to Nazarene missionaries.
- **Schedule intercession into your day/week.** This way, other activities are less likely to take precedence.
- **If a ministry of intercession is new to you, start simply.** Babies do not start out running; they generally crawl, then walk, and before you know it, adults have difficulty keeping up with them. So it is with prayer for others.
- **Ask the Lord of the Harvest what part of the “field” you should pray for.** This may vary over time. You may feel impressed to pray specifically for your church’s LINKS missionaries one day and for a request from the Prayer Mobilization Line the next. You might be directed to pray for each of the missionaries in a world area during a particular month or for a missionary who has spoken in your church.
- **Learn the names of Nazarene missionaries and their families, and pray for them by name.** The names of missionaries are listed on the Global Information Network on the

NMI Web site <www.nazarenemissions.org/gin> by world area. Click on a region; when the map of the region comes up, you may scroll down to view field names and the world areas within those fields. Click on a world area name; when that window appears, click on the tab that says missionaries.

- **The better you know the missionaries, the more effectively you can pray for them.** For information about missionaries, their work, and their families, go to the World Mission Web site <www.nazareneworld-mission.org> and click on Missionary Profiles toward the top of the page. As you read about them, think of ways you can pray for them. When missionaries speak in your church, make note of ways to pray for them and subscribe to their newsletters (if available) for updates.

- **Form the habit of being quiet before God, allowing Him to guide your prayer.** There have been many instances when people have responded to God’s nudges, only to discover that the missionaries for whom they prayed, desperately needed their intercession.

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