



Raise Up the Intercessors!

Please allow me to introduce you to two aspects of intercession that I feel are critical in praying effectively for our missionary families.

First—Our Missionaries Have Names!

It pains me to hear the almost flippant phrase, “Lord, bless the missionaries around the world.”

While serving on the West Texas District NMI Council, I delighted to hear then District NMI President Octava Fike pray for our missionary families. She knew their names! She knew their children’s names. She corresponded with them, sent and received Christmas cards. She put the cards on a special Christmas tree and left it up for months! She taught me the importance of crying out to God, calling the names of those called to serve Jesus continents away from their families, friends, and churches.

Start by identifying your LINKS missionaries and pray for them by name. Make them part of your intercessory list on a daily basis. Then add more names from Web sites such as the Prayer Mobilization Line as their needs are listed.

(Mrs. Fike, 90+, resides in Amarillo, Texas, and is still an intercessor for her Lord!)

Second—Praying Can Be Done in any Position, but Kneeling Before God Is an Act of Humility.

If kneeling is impossible, at least find a comfortable spot and make it yours.

Gwladys Heap served the Church of the Nazarene as a missionary for 34 years in Colombia, Peru, Guatemala, and Panama. She was a kneeler. While serving on the Kansas City District NMI Council, I attended Olathe Westside Church with her and called on her often to pray. I enjoyed it most when she would pray in her mother tongue, Welsh. I didn’t need to understand her words to know she touched heaven on behalf of missions for our church. She would kneel beside her chair and weep and pray. Sometimes her prayers were long; but every time, heaven came down and touched my soul.

(Mrs. Heap is the mother of Stephen Heap, missionary to Brazil; Philip Heap, a pastor; and Christiana, wife of Pastor Charles Pickens. Mrs. Heap stands among those waiting in heaven to welcome us home.)

This is the day of “instant everything.” Unfortunately, our prayers take on that same description. In Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting, we “open in a **word** of prayer” and “close in a **word** of prayer.” We are careful not to call on anyone who might pray long prayers. These women patterned their prayer lives after Jesus as He knelt in the garden to pray.

Become an intercessor!

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PRAY without ceasing