

# THE POWER OF PRAYER IN MISSIONARY CARE

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Why discuss on a subject pertaining to missionary care? Because we are living in challenging times! Missionaries are facing tough times on a daily basis, and that risks are too much to bear sometimes.

The world is suffering from the pandemic, COV 19, Delta variant, and now, Omicron. These are viruses that had spread to nations, affecting people from the youngest to the oldest.

Then we hear of the invasion of the country of Ukraine by a powerful nation, Russia! Is it possible that there could be a war in this 21st century? The world leaders are appealing for peace! But the President of Russia continues to send the military, and targets the civilians in Ukraine. The people of Ukraine are fleeing to safety to other countries.

How can we participate as intercessors to the larger community in missionary care?

## INTRODUCTION

A missionary working overseas need our fervent prayer and care. Upon reflecting on their lives, we learned that the intercession and correspondence from the members of the home church attributed to their holistic formation.

We read that,

- *Intercession is a way of loving others* (R. Foster: Prayer).
- *Intercession is coming to God on behalf of another* (Tan SY: Disciplines).
- *Let's rejoice that, All Christians are given the role of intercession* (A. Smith: Veil).

## A. Scripture Text: Acts 12:5-17; Mt 18:19-20

The following are some suggestions for God's people to participate in Missionary care through the Ministry of Intercession:

1. A Listening heart: The emotions are affected.  
Acts 12: 5...The church interceded for the imprisoned Peter. Our hearts need to be filled with God's love for those in need of prayer.
2. A Listening mind: The mental area is affected.  
Acts 12: 6-11 God heard the prayers of the believers and intervened on the night before the trial.  
Prayer for Peter in prison took place in the believer's home. Our minds need to be alert for the many urgent concerns for intercession, that the enemy will be defeated.
3. A Listening will: The response through actions is affected.  
In Acts 12: 12-17, we read that Peter went to the House of Prayer. The prayers of the Christian community had been answered. God has done an

extraordinary thing, through the intercession of the people.

The ministry of intercession is a powerful way to manifest missionary care.

In another Scriptural text, we are inspired to explore on the ministry of missionary care.

*Where are the areas in the world in need of the Gospel?*

During the Lausanne Congress in 2010, two countries were identified as in need of the gospel and missionaries. They are China & Africa. Missionaries and volunteers are encouraged to take up the challenge to serve in these countries. The task of missionary care becomes a greater responsibility to the church, and to the mission care givers.

## B. Scripture text: 3 John v 3-8.

Faithfulness to the truth (verses 3-4)

- a. MISSIONS: COMMITMENT TO THE TRUTH.
  - b. Are we a Missional church? Test: Faithfulness to the Truth?
1. Faithfulness to the Missionaries (verses 5-8)
    - a. Examples of such missionaries during Paul's time were Priscilla & Aquila, Apollos, Phoebe, Timothy & Titus.
    - b. The ministries are pertaining to evangelism, church planting, teaching, nurturing, and leadership.
  2. The relationship between a church and the missionaries was one of love that took place in 3 ways:
    - a. Sending (v. 6)...*You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God.*
    - b. Going (v.7)... Those who go are going out as an act of faith in God's people and loyal to God's Name. *They go out for the sake of the Name of Jesus Christ.*
    - c. Supporting (v.8)... There is an obligation to show hospitality, *so that we work together for the Truth.* What is our main goal: *we will work together for the truth.*

## REFLECTIONS ON MISSIONARY CARE:

What are some reflections as we journey with the missionary, who is our friend and co-worker in Christ:



The picture of the 'Hand' model introduced by my professor, Ted Ward, is illustrated on the previous page. The Hand represents us, that each one of God's created being is important in the Kingdom of God.

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**In missionary care, we need to know the missionary holistically. Each missionary comes with diverse needs. We need to take time in our communication and ministry to the missionary. We need to keep the communication process a meaningful one, through a sincere relationship with the missionary.**

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Let us consider five themes from the Scripture by linking them to the five fingers, in the Hand Model. The Hand is represented in the realms of physical, mental, emotional, social, moral, and in the center is the spiritual core:

From the Scriptures we read of characters that fit into this Hand Model. For example, the Samaritan woman in John's Gospel, chapter 4:1-40. Christ, the Messiah ministered to the Samaritan in all the realms.

Another example is that of Onesimus in the book of Philemon. Paul, the apostle, and a missionary, reached out to Onesimus. This was a holistic approach, showing care and concern.

In missionary care, we need to know the missionary holistically. Each missionary comes with diverse needs. We need to take time in our communication and ministry to the missionary. We need to keep the communication process a meaningful one through a sincere relationship with the missionary.

The following are further reflections and recommendations in the ongoing ministry of Missionary Care:

1. As a church let's continue to...
  - Send out missionaries and by interceding for a particular missionary, and the people of his mission field. Receive information on the work and of the ministries of that missionary.
2. As cell members of a local church, let's continue to...
  - Pray & be on the mailing list to receive regular prayer updates of the missionaries. Utilize time during cell meetings to pray for missionaries and also for the work of missions around the world. Plan to visit the missionary on the mission field or when they are home in their respective countries.
3. As members of the church let's continue to...
  - Participate in the weekly prayer meeting of the church. The prayer meeting is a power house to intercede with other members of the church. God works powerfully through intercessors and the

results are encouraging.

- As friends of the church let's continue to-
- Worship in the Sunday services for the ongoing missions of the church. Our presence in the prayer ministry on Sunday is a meaningful time to meet the Lord and intercede for God to work in the life of a missionary.

## CONCLUSION

The church members and the community will be enriched & empowered in the ministry of missionary care.

The results of missionary care is an encouragement to the urgent work of current and potential missionaries, and this is because of God's intercessors.

### Prayer of Dedication:

Dear loving God & Father, Today, we want to pledge and dedicate ourselves to the ministry of missionary care through the privilege and joy of intercession, together with others in this congregation. Please help us to pray regularly for our missionaries, the countries, and all who serve you here in our county, and around the world, to the end, that your Name will be glorified. In the powerful Name of our Risen Christ, Amen.

### Questions for Discussion/Reflection

1. List some ways whereby we can participate in the missionary care of the church.
2. In my desire for God, what are some insights for a creative and meaningful missionary care through the ministry of intercession?

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