

Tool #1: Holistic Mission Prayer Guide

Prayer is at the heart of mission. Holistic ministry is God's work, and God works through prayer. Prayer frees us to witness, empowers us to do good works, guides our ministry decisions, and renews our hope. Here are some suggested specific prayer points.

Pray for your church:

- Pray for a spirit of love, unity and harmony around the church's mission.
- Pray for vision, wisdom and discernment in making ministry decisions — that church leaders and the congregation as a whole would do God's will in God's way.
- Pray that your congregation would be guided by Christ's example: that you would have the mind of Christ, see your world through the eyes of Christ, serve with the love of Christ, and seek God's Kingdom with the humble obedience of Christ.
- Pray that God would give your congregation a burden for the things that grieve the Spirit, and for the courage to act.
- Pray that you would serve in the power and love of the Spirit, not just in human strength and goodness.
- Pray that God would overcome any obstacles to ministry, and that people would be convicted of attitudes and actions that hinder God's will being done.
- Pray for ongoing transformation and spiritual renewal in the congregation.
- Pray that God continues to work in and through your congregation to break down barriers of race, gender, class, and culture.
- Pray that God would continue to raise up and equip those who can lead the church in ministry.
- Pray that your church's ministry would bring glory to Christ (Matt. 5:16).
- Thank God for the many ways that your congregation is already faithfully serving and witnessing.
- Thank God for what God has done, is doing, and will do in and through your church.

Pray for your ministry community:

- Pray for those individuals whom you are seeking to reach with the Good News and good works of Christ.
- Pray for the neighbors of church members and those who live near the church building.
- Pray for other churches and agencies in your area; ask God to lead your church into fruitful partnerships.
- Pray for schools, hospitals, government social service offices, the police, courts, and other institutions that serve the community.
- Pray for people who hold power within your community or make decisions affecting your area.
- Pray for the "invisible" people, those who are on the margins of your community and whose voice is seldom heard in places of power.
- Pray for God's justice and *shalom* (peace) to reign in your community — that God's will would be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- Pray with confidence that our Lord would triumph over spiritual principalities and powers set against God's good plan for your community, and that God's people would be delivered from evil (Eph. 6:12, Luke 11:4).
- Ask God to search your heart and life, and ask forgiveness for any ways that your own actions, lifestyle, or prejudices may have contributed to problems in your community and world.

- Give thanks for all those who in ways big and small are sharing God's love and serving the community.
- Thank God for the unique and positive aspects of the community, and for all that brings glory to God.
- Praise God for His amazing love and grace for the world — and for all of us — in Christ Jesus.