

# 40 DAYS OF *prayer*

## WEEK 6

### ALLIANCE MISSIONS

The work of the U.S. Alliance spills out all over this world. This week we stand with our international workers as we intercede on their behalf. We will also cry out to the Lord for the unreached people groups that still do not understand who Jesus is and have never had a clear witness of His gospel. Pray that this will be a year when the light of Jesus shines brightly in the darkest places of our world.

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## LOST WITHOUT JESUS

TIM CROUCH

People are lost without Jesus. This is a biblical truth we affirm but often fail to adequately grasp. While we rejoice in our salvation, we can grow numb to the tragedy of those who remain lost.

Lostness is first about life on earth without knowing and trusting Jesus. Without the Savior, the Bible sees us as under the domain of Satan (see Acts 26:18, Colossians 1:13, Ephesians 2:1–3) and as blinded or ensnared by the evil one (see 2 Corinthians 4:3–4, 2 Timothy 2:25–26). While there is something of the image of God in each person, life without Jesus is not neutral—it is a living lostness (see Romans 1). This is earthly experience apart from Jesus, and many live it without awareness.

Secondly, lostness is about eternity and hell. God’s Word makes clear the terrible, eternal implication of lostness. While frightening images of hell abound in Scripture (see Mark 9:43, 48; Luke 16:19–31; and Matthew 22:13, 26:24), it is eternal separation from God—conscious of having wound up with what I chose in rejecting or ignoring Jesus—that most fundamentally characterizes lostness. This is the “after-earthly” experience without Jesus, and people will be very aware of it.

Just as we were all lost, many of our neighbors, friends, and family members—not to mention billions of our fellow earthlings—remain in this precarious position. We do well to keep this fact in view. Happily, we can also keep in mind God’s perfect provision for lost people and tell others. As Paul wrote, “Wretched man that I am, who will save me from this body of death? Thanks be to God, it’s through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Rom. 7:24–25).



### PRAYER POINTS:

1. God, take me back to the stark truth that I was lost—and restore my joy in my salvation.
2. Lord, help me live daily with my eyes open to the lostness of people You love.
3. May I be used by You today, Lord, to help lost ones be found—both nearby and around the world?

## UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

AL STOMBAUGH

According to the Joshua Project, more than 4,000 people groups have little or no gospel access. This represents 3.4 billion individuals who will be born, live, and die without knowing Jesus.

Scripture clearly links prayer to the spread of the gospel. In the Gospel of Luke, when Jesus sent out the 72, the first thing He told them to do was pray. Through prayer, workers are sent (Luke 10:2); doors are opened (Col. 4:3–4); and witness is emboldened (Eph. 6:19–20).

My wife and I became acutely aware of the power of prayer during our first term as international workers in Gabon. While seeking to reach the Bakota, we endured tremendous opposition including sickness, resistance from authorities, and spiritual attack. Yet God worked amazingly! A powerful chief and sorcerer was transformed as he gave his heart to Christ. We saw deliverances from demonic bondage, physical healings, and many Bakota saved.

At the end of that term, I visited an Alliance church in New Jersey. The Alliance Women's president asked if I'd heard of the Bakota people. "Yes," I replied. "Why do you ask?" "Our women's group has been fervently praying for them," she responded. "Can you tell me—has God done anything among them?" Imagine our joy as I shared how God had answered their prayers!

In this season of COVID-19, might the Lord be offering us the opportunity to enter new rhythms of prayer for the world's unreached peoples? Might He be calling you to more fervent prayer for the lost?



### PRAYER POINTS:

1. Adopt one unreached people group to pray for using the [Joshua Project website](#).
2. Learn to pray strategically for the unreached by visiting the [Orality website](#).
3. Ask a prayer partner to keep you accountable in your prayer commitment.

## ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS/FAMILIES STEVE FOWLER

*I urge you, . . . by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me (Rom. 15:30).*

One morning my wife and I awoke at 3:00, heavily burdened to pray for our son, Chase, in South America. Our intercession felt like a wrestling match; we both wondered aloud, “What was that all about?”

Months later, when Chase was back in Salem, I remembered that prayer time and told him about it. “Did anything happen while you were away that might have prompted the Holy Spirit to wake us up to pray?” He looked at me wide-eyed and told this story.

He was walking through a neighborhood with a large amount of cash in his satchel belonging to the mission team. A man with a gun appeared in front of him. A pistol was pressed against the back of his head. There was a lot of yelling by the two men who were preparing to rob him. They searched his pockets. One grabbed the satchel. Chase yanked it back from them, saying repeatedly, “I am a missionary who belongs to Jesus Christ. I am a missionary who belongs to Jesus Christ.” Holding onto the satchel, he turned to walk away. He heard the hammer on the pistol click into position, along with more yelling from the robbers. But he kept walking, now shouting, “I am a missionary who belongs to Jesus Christ!” He walked to safety with his satchel.

Leonard Ravenhill said, “The church has many organizers, but few agonizers. Many resters, but few wrestlers. Many who are enterprising, but few who are interceding.” Today Alliance families worldwide are counting on people like you and me to wrestle and agonize on their behalf.



### PRAYER POINTS:

1. Who are the two or three international workers you are praying for?
2. Pray for a breakthrough in the ministry they are committed to.
3. Pray for a holy boldness to clothe them as they serve Christ.

## NEW WORKERS TO BE RAISED UP

STACY DOUGLAS

The Joshua Project estimates that more than 40 percent of the world's people groups have no indigenous community of believing Christians able to evangelize their own people. This is heartbreaking and stirs within me an urgency to appeal to the Church to pray.

Please join me in interceding for more workers to be called, equipped, and sustained in their calling so that we can complete Christ's commission for the gospel to be "preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations" (Matt. 24:14). I invite you to join me today in praying the following.



### PRAYER POINTS:

- 1.** Pray that many new workers will be called to provide the least-reached with access to the gospel. As Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Lk. 10:2).
- 2.** Pray that those called will intentionally "wait in their Jerusalem" until they receive the empowerment from the Holy Spirit to be effective witnesses, bringing Christ's presence into every situation and place they enter (see Acts 1:4-8).
- 3.** Pray that our new workers will be sustained in their journeys through an ever-deepening relationship with Christ—that even "As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; . . . go[ing] from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion" (Ps. 84:5-7).

## **BREAKTHROUGH FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

**TIM MEIER**

*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work (2 Cor. 9:7–8).*

In most cultures, talking about money can be awkward at best and extremely uncomfortable or even taboo at worst. It's weird to talk about finances because it's personal and intimate. Further, with so much inequality in the world, we can end up feeling guilty, jealous, or somewhere in between based on how much we may or may not have at the moment.

Asking people to give feels like a violation of their personal “space.” In a me-centric culture, we often feel our finances must be protected at all costs. But the vision of the Kingdom of God paints a different picture about our resources. Not only are they to be shared—but they're not even ours to begin with.

If everything we have comes from the Creator who provides all we need, our posture shifts from self-focused greed to open-handed generosity. Instead of wondering how to invest for our own gain, we start to wonder what a Kingdom investment could reap.

In His Kingdom, God uses His people's generosity to create breakthrough in Kingdom spaces as more become open to hear the gospel and more workers and ministers are resourced to share it.



### **PRAYER POINTS:**

- 1.** Pray for a move toward generosity in our own hearts and throughout the Alliance family so that more will hear, know, and be transformed by Jesus!
- 2.** All we have is from God; pray that we will steward it well.