



WEEK OF PRAYER *for International Missions*

2023 PRAYER GUIDE

WMU®



INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD

This prayer guide will lead you to pray for the lost and for your missionaries who are steadfastly present among them.



EUROPEAN
PEOPLES

NORTHERN AFRICAN
AND MIDDLE EASTERN
PEOPLES

AMERICAN
PEOPLES

173,451
LOST
DYING DAILY*

7,225
UNREACHED
PEOPLE GROUPS

*Approximate numbers calculated using IMB global population and evangelical Christian estimates, excluding the United States.

4.6 BILLION PEOPLE ARE CONSIDERED UNREACHED.

Over 90% of IMB teams actively engage
at least one unreached people or place.





DAY 1

WE WILL REACH THE LOST **THROUGH OBEDIENCE**

Heavenly Father,

Our hearts are burdened for growing lostness among the nations. We know 59% of the world's population remains unreached, and unless something changes, they have little to no chance of hearing the gospel in their lifetime.

We are thankful that You've called missionaries to be a steadfast presence among the lost. We are thankful that You've put it in the hearts of Southern Baptists to pray, give, go and send so we may reach the nations, together.

Today, we pray for the ministry of Don and Pam Lynch in Belgium. They serve among Europeans who are now just 1% evangelical Christian, despite a rich faith history. They answer rising depression and suicide rates with the only hope—Jesus Christ. Let each of their meetings and relationships point to You and lead to gospel conversations.

We thank You that You've provided the opportunity for these International Mission Board missionaries to share the gospel and share life with those in Belgium who need it most.

**Read full Week of Prayer stories
at imb.org/weekofprayer.**



WE WILL REACH THE LOST **THROUGH INNOVATION**

DAY 2

We are thankful that in today's world, You provide innovative opportunities to share the gospel. We praise You for the ministry of Justin and Michaela Knippers. They are leading very real people to know You through virtual reality gaming opportunities. They are using gifts and skills in technology for Your glory.

We pray for the Knippers as they use virtual reality to connect with people who are lonely, hopeless, wary of society and looking for a way to connect with others. We pray for those who experience *hikikomori*, the Japanese word for severe social withdrawal, anxiety and reclusiveness that is common in Japan.

Thank You that these IMB missionaries can use a tool built for entertainment to impact the lost. Through innovative gaming, the Knippers have met people who do not have access to the gospel in their home countries. Bless these opportunities for Your kingdom.

Also be with the Knippers as they learn the Japanese language during this first term on the field. May You receive all the glory for their innovative work to share the gospel with the world's lost.



DAY 3

WE WILL REACH THE LOST **THROUGH RESEARCH**

Thank You that IMB missionaries are willing to go the distance to see the unreached hear the gospel. We pray for the researchers at the IMB, as they commit to finding and engaging people groups so far off the map that not much is known about them.

Thank You that through the new initiative, Project 3,000, IMB missionaries are committed to making this research practical. New missionary explorers are traveling the mountains, deserts, islands and cities to find more than 3,000 unengaged and unreached people groups. They will journey into the unknown to discover where these people groups live, learn about their culture, discern their literacy, develop ministry strategies and find effective partners in the task.

We pray for the explorers' boldness, strength and safety as they travel to regions like South Asia, where the largest concentration of these people groups live. Equip them daily for the paths ahead and the uncertainties that each day may bring. Please call more people to serve through Project 3,000, so more may hear as we work together toward the Revelation 7:9 vision.



WE WILL REACH THE LOST **DAY 4** **THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS**

Today we praise You for the partnership between IMB missionaries, two Florida churches and national church leaders in North Africa. Thank You that this partnership is the fruit of decades-long prayers. And thank You that through this partnership national believers are being empowered and mentored to multiply and plant new churches.

Thank You for the movement You've already begun among these North African peoples. Just a short time ago, these partners can remember when no one in this area was even interested in Jesus, let alone sharing the gospel. They are so thankful to see churches request training and be equipped to multiply and reach the lost.

We ask for continued fruit in the work of IMB missionaries Matt and Gretchen Clay, who are a steadfast presence among the lost. We pray for the work Fruit Cove Baptist Church and Aspire Church are doing in partnership with the Clays and local believers. Bless these churches as they bring a wealth of experience in prison ministry to North African churches and equip local believers to do the same.



DAY 5 WE WILL REACH THE LOST **THROUGH CHURCH PLANTING**

Thank You for IMB missionaries Randy and Kimberly Windham and their passion for teaching Zambians to plant churches and transform lives with the gospel. We praise You for the 17 new churches that have started in and around Lusaka, Zambia—five within six months this past year.

Thank You that the missionary couple is always on the lookout for a pastor or church member to mentor. And thank You for the generous gifts of Southern Baptists to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®, which allows them to walk alongside local believers as they train them.

We know that this is the task You have called all missionaries to, and we pray that as the Windhams continue in faithfulness to the task, they see Your kingdom grow.

God, please bring boldness and wisdom to local believers as they are disciplined. Let healthy churches multiply, so across Zambia people can hear the gospel and come to know and experience Your grace. Thank You for the work You've already done in this country.



WE WILL REACH THE LOST **THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS**

DAY 6

We ask you to be with Rose, a Hispanic Global Missionary Partner currently serving alongside IMB missionaries in the Horn of Africa. Thank You for the churches in Panama and Mexico who support her and give sacrificially so that Your name can be known among the lost.

Relationships with people like Rose further advance the gospel and provide needed encouragement and support for missionaries like Thomas and Lori Beth Bain who also serve in North Africa. Bless this relationship and others that form through their witness. Thank you for their willingness to learn multiple languages and cultures, to serve among the least reached for Your name's sake.

We ask that the ministries of Rose and other Global Missionary Partners serving around the world on IMB teams will flourish. Please bring political peace to the people Rose serves, as You reveal Yourself to be the Prince of Peace. Rose's passion is to see the lost come to saving faith, and we are grateful for her relationship with IMB missionaries that allows her to do so.



DAY 7 WE WILL REACH THE LOST **THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP**

Thank You for the work You are doing through IMB missionary Paul Yount. Thank You that he's uniquely positioned to use his deafness to share Your gospel with other Deaf.

Thank You for Joseph, a Senegalese believer, and how his life is being used to further Your gospel among the Deaf. Thank you for bringing Paul and other Christians into Joseph's life who disciple him in his own heart sign language. Please continue to grow Joseph's faith and understanding of Your Word so he will be able to effectively communicate that to others. Thank you for Joseph's willingness to put gospel stories into sign language for others to understand.

We praise You for national believers and missionaries who feel called to bring gospel access that leads to disciple making to those who may never hear the gospel, but will hopefully, one day see it. Bless the Bible translation work of IMB missionaries and Deaf believers. Let many connect with Your Word as it is presented visually, so that they may come to know and treasure the gospel.

**Read full Week of Prayer stories
at imb.org/weekofprayer.**



WE WILL REACH THE LOST **THROUGH COMMITMENT**

DAY 8

Lord, we praise You for the long-term commitment of missionaries around the world. When disasters strike the nations, our missionaries respond with love and compassion because You have already given them a love for these people. For Your glory, we are committed to love people in times of plenty and in times of great need.

Central Asia is a region where natural disasters are common. Even as this year's earthquakes killed more than 50,000 people, other disasters brought hardships and suffering. Landslides, floods, drought, avalanches, mudflows and extreme temperatures led to homelessness and hunger.

Thankfully, You have called many missionaries to relief work in Central Asia. They are ready to be the hands and feet of Jesus by meeting physical needs and, more importantly, spiritual needs. They are also actively supporting local churches and believers who are taking the gospel to their own people.

We recognize that people's greatest need is the gospel and that through our missionaries, we are delivering the gospel to the lost. With clean drinking water, we bring the Living Water. This is our commitment. Keep us steadfast.

**In the name of Jesus, we pray,
Amen.**

WEEK OF PRAYER *for International Missions*

December 3-10, 2023

Southern Baptists observe a Week of Prayer for International Missions each year before the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® emphasis. Will you join your heart with others to pray for missionaries around the world who are faithfully sharing the gospel?

**How will you continue to respond
through your prayers and
financial support?**



imb.org/weekofprayer

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