



## Prayer Challenge

Fellow Mission Partners:

For more than 15 years, I prayed consistently for a woman in her 60s from our community. She regularly visited our church, but refused to surrender lordship to Christ, even after countless invitations were given in our services. I prayed, I encouraged, I visited her home, and I kept on praying—for her and her family. As the years went by, I witnessed her two daughters and eldest granddaughter give their lives to the Lord in our church. Not once did she walk to the altar for prayer in all those years, but I kept praying.

I was in the midst of conducting a New Believers class at church in August last year, when I saw this woman walk in and sit quietly at the back of the room. I was moved to tears as I ran to embrace her. I lifted my hands up in a moment of praise and shouted “Thank you, Jesus!” She has since been baptized and received into the full membership of our church and is maturing daily in Christ. God still hears and answers prayer—PRAYER changes....

Without a shadow of a doubt, I believe that prayer is a special ministry given to all of us and that God transforms His people daily through prayer and fasting. It is the simplest and most profound spiritual exercise. I am convinced that the Holy Spirit is calling the Church back to its first priority: “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone” (1 Timothy 2:1, NIV).

Prayer isn’t natural to us; our inclination is to depend on ourselves. Some of us have not learned how to pray. Others don’t pray enough to be comfortable with it. Still others don’t understand enough of God’s Word to pray biblically and get results. Whatever the case, we’ve no excuse not to pray.

One of our four-fold objectives is centered on “praying.” What a wonderful opportunity to meet with Jesus daily and to make our requests/petitions known unto Him! We are able to intercede on the behalf of others around the world, to offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving. The good thing about prayer is that it is something we all can do! Let us:

1. Take the time to pray passionately each day.
2. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us.
3. Lead our churches and people into a variety of prayer initiatives.
4. **PUSH—Pray Until Something Happens.**

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective” (James 5: 16b, NIV).



**Editor's Note:** The following are further ideas on how to help your people adopt a natural lifestyle of prayer. You can print it and make copies for your congregation, mission group, or prayer room. Or to save costs for those members who have computers and access to the Internet, encourage them to go to [www.nazarenemissions.org/10252/story.aspx](http://www.nazarenemissions.org/10252/story.aspx), download the file and print their own version. Feel free to use it as a book mark, or post it in the place where you pray on a regular basis.

## Helping Prayer Become Natural

### A. Learning how to pray

1. Pray to "Our Father in heaven"—simple and direct. It establishes the basis of our relationship with God. It gives shape, value, and confidence to our prayers. (Matthew 6:9; see model prayer—Matthew 6:9–13.)
2. Pray in faith, believing...without wavering (James 1:5-6; 4:8; 5:15; Hebrews 11:6).
3. Offer up prayers of thanksgiving and praise, confession, petitions, intercession for others/world.
  - a. Submission of self and purposeful focus upon God (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

### B. Becoming comfortable with prayer

1. Learn to hand the situation over to God, knowing that He has our best interests at heart (Proverbs 3:4-5).
2. Pray without ceasing—prayer should become a lifestyle, an attitude (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
3. Be fully aware of our acceptance by God (Luke 11:9-13; Psalm 25:7).

### C. Praying Biblically

1. Seek His presence, come boldly, and wait on Him (Hebrews 4:16; Psalm 27:14).
2. Seek His power and authority. Acknowledge that the Kingdom belongs to Him and is strengthened in His hands (Matthew 6: 13).
3. Seek His purpose continually—"Let your will be done" (Matthew 6:10). This releases power in our lives.

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