PRAYING FOR GLOBAL MISSION

How should we pray for ourselves and others? Every day our staff, and the pastors and missionaries who join us, hear an opening prayer shaped by Luke 10:2. 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.' We shape our prayers around this verse, to help us remain focused on the task we have been called to. Praying through scripture helps us to be shaped by God's heart, to have our eyes opened to his work in the world and to be challenged to see how God has placed us to work out his purposes.

We know that when we pray God is not only moving our hearts wherever we are, but he is also directing people's lives, shaping cultures, opening doors and equipping those he is calling. God's sovereignty, power and might give us confidence to pray prayers that go beyond our understanding of the means to achieve them, or the cost to individuals and churches to see him fulfil them. Our prayers are to see God raise up people ready to cross-cultures and share the good news. So, let us pray through some of Scripture together to help us broaden our prayers, and move from our day-to-day concerns, to praying for God to reach our communities, churches and every nation.

PRAY FOR A PASSION FOR GOD

In Let the Nations Be Glad! John Piper says his *"hope and prayer remains the same: that people, churches, mission agencies, and social ministries become God-centred, Christ-exalting, Spirit-powered, soul-satisfied, Bible-saturated, missions-mobilising, soul winning, and church- strengthening."*[1] Let us pray for a love and enjoyment of God that overflows and transforms lives.

DEVOTED
Let us pray for churches that give their all for God, that devote more of their time to loving, praising and worshipping God rather than discussing business, bills or buildings. Deuteronomy 6:5 - 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.'

CONCERNED
Pray for our churches to be so focused on God's kingdom and name, that they have no concern for their own reputations, but instead long for people to know Jesus. Matthew 6:9-10

DIFFERENT
Pray for our churches to stand firm and be distinct from the world around them. Knowing that we are called to be God's people, strangers in this world, longing for the new creation. Galatians 1:3-5

DISCERNING
We all make mistakes which is why it is so important to pray for our churches to be discerning and to know what is best. Philippians 1:9-11.

Could you gather a group of people to pray these things for your church and the churches around you?

A PASSION FOR OTHERS

Out of a love for God we will naturally have a concern and love for others. However, Jesus calls us to go beyond a love for those that are like us and those we like, to love those who hate us! Matthew 5:44

GREATER LOVE
As we seek to love others, we cannot settle for the least, or even for adequate, we are called to a sacrificial love that reflects Jesus' love for us. John 15:12-13

HOLDING OUT JESUS
It is not enough to love others, real love means sharing and offering them the one who is love. Let us pray that Jesus would help us share what he has done. 1 John 4:10

A PASSION FOR GLOBAL MISSION

In today's Western culture, comfort and convenience are held up among the highest aspirations, yet we are called to daily take up our cross and follow Christ.

SENT
Without others coming to share the good news with us we would not know God's goodness and salvation. So let us pray that God would send us, that we would be willing to go, whether that is to our next-door neighbour or a people group far away. Matthew 28:19-20

EMPOWERED
Let us pray for a reliance on God for his empowering and boldness as his witnesses. Acts 1:8

When we have been moved by God, captivated by Christ and convicted by the Spirit, we will seek his glory to the ends of the earth. As we pray these prayers for ourselves first, let us also pray for our pastors, leaders and fellow church members to truly love Jesus and seek his glory everywhere.