Interceding for leaders and churches and for the Holy Spirit to draw all people to Christ.
WHAT IS PRAYER?

How do we understand Prayer?
WHY DO WE PRAY?

Because.....??
HAVE OUR PRAYERS BEEN ANSWERED?
HAVE OUR PRAYERS NOT BEEN ANSWERED?

OR EVEN WORSE, HAVE WE GOT THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT WE ASKED FOR?
So, what then is PRAYER to Us?

Why do we Pray?
Prayer is first and foremost a relationship with God. It is an ongoing relationship that we have with our closest friend.
We should not evaluate prayer only in terms of answers or what we get out of it.

[Eg. Talking to a close friend or a spouse]
Prayer is a dependant relationship upon God, THROUGH WHICH WE ARE EMPOWERED & FILLED BY HIS HOLY SPIRIT.
We must realize that we are nothing and can do nothing apart from Him.

John 15:4 Vine-branch relationship

[Eg. Filling the fuel tank]
Prayer is a HOLDING HANDS WITH GOD.

Right hand = You
Left hand = God
We were made to bear God’s image so that we might “fit into” God. Only human beings who were made in God’s image can “fit into” God.
SIN is compared to the thorny burrs between each finger. The right hand (human) can no longer be joined to the left hand (God) because the fit becomes too painful. The result = a separation.
SIN unconfessed and unforgiven hinders prayer. Ps. 66:18.

Sin in a believer’s life breaks that sweet fellowship between himself and God. Pro.28:13
The right hand cannot pull out those thorns. It needs the left hand to help.

How?

Isa. 1:16- “wash..make clean…”

Ezra 9:6-15- confession of guilt and genuine repentance
No one can both sin and pray. True prayer will prevent us from sinning, or sin will prevent us from praying. 1 Jn. 1:9: 3:22

Prayer is the most intense & intimate moment of being enfolded into God’s Spirit so that we are One with Him in mind & spirit.
Prayer is BEING THE FRIEND IN THE MIDDLE (Intercession) Luke 11:5-13

Do we see the needs of those around us? Do we also realize our inability to meet the needs?
So, do we turn away because we feel we cannot help?
No!
We know WHO can meet the needs and we link those needs with God and His infinite resources.
May be you could not directly minister, but you could pray!
Prayer is WORK. Prayers ARE the Real Work of MISSIONS, not just “support” for various missions effort.
It is by which we would join with Him in His work of redeeming the world.

Ps. 2:8 – “Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance.”
Dr. John Devries compares Prayer to a **Spotlight** – calling for God’s attention, illuminating areas of spiritual darkness and death. He also compares Prayer to a **Sprinkler** – sprinkling showers of God’s blessings for new spiritual life. We may not know it, but we focus the light of God’s love.
WHY PRAY?

It takes two feet to walk with God – PRAYER and WORK.

Being close to God in prayer always results in work to do.
WHICH FOOT FIRST?

⇐ PRAYER or WORK?

Jesus’ model: Prayer first
Gal. 5:25
To begin in prayer means that our first longing is to hallow God’s name and ask that His will be done.
God does not want us to set our own goals, make our own plans, have all figured out, and then bless it with “a word of prayer”!

He must be first and must be glorified in all we do – and not our humanly-inspired plans.
The EXAMPLE OF CHRIST

► Jesus’ ministry commenced with prayer (Mt. 4:1-3; Luke 3:21-22 Baptism-Prayer-Fasting)

► His ministry continued with prayer
- Before the Choosing of the 12 disciples (Lk.6:12-13)
- Prayer defined his duties and directed His path (Mark 1:35-38)

- Prayed at the peak of prosperity & prominence (Luke 5:15-16)

- Prayed at his lowest point – before his passion and death (Matt.26:38-39)
Haddon Robinson: “Where did Jesus do the work of atonement? In the garden? In the judgement hall? Or on the Cross?”

In the garden, while He prayed. Because Christ did the work of prayer, He could enter Pilate’s judgement with quiet confidence and on the cross He could say, “Father forgive them…”
Our Challenge:

EVERY CHRISTIAN, in fact, is A FULL-TIME MISSIONARY!

Are you called like Moses to hold up the staff of prayer or like Joshua to be on the field of battle? (Ref. Exo.178-13)

Which of these types are you?
Discuss/Reflect:
Describe your “missionary” prayer life.
What are the areas you are especially burdened to pray for, and how do you pray for them?
### 50 Largest Unreached People Groups

*Pictures match the listing order*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Unreached People</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Primary Religion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>Pashtun, Nuristani</td>
<td>12,495,000</td>
<td>Islam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>Algerian, Arab</td>
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<td>Islam</td>
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<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Shahis</td>
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<td>China</td>
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<td>Han Chinese, Xiang</td>
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<td>Uyghur</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Banias</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Bihari</td>
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<td>Chamar</td>
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<td>India</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Rajputs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Sobering Facts

- All these people groups have less than 2% Christ-followers and have very limited access to the Gospel.
- One in five people on earth live in these 50 unreached peoples.
- These 50 unreached people groups are comprised of 1.565 billion souls.
- Every group is larger than 10,000,000 in population.
- None have an indigenous church capable of taking the Gospel to the entire group.
- Primary religion: 22 are Muslim, 10 Hindu, 5 Buddhist, 3 Ethnic Religions, 1 non-Religious, 1 Sikh.
- 46 of these 50 unreached people groups are in the 10/40 Window, 43 are in closed countries.
- For every dollar of Christian resources less than a penny is directed at reaching unreached people groups.

www.joshuaproject.net 10/2012
### 100 Largest Least-Reached Peoples

**From Joshua Project**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Population % Eng</th>
<th>People Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Population % Eng</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algerian, Arabic-speakers</td>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>Arabic, Ageran Spoken</td>
<td>35,263,000</td>
<td>0.16%</td>
<td>Kummar</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Hindi</td>
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<td>Gujarati</td>
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<td>Turkish, Turkmen</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Arabic, Arabic Melasjol</td>
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<td>0.03%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0.05%</td>
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<td>India</td>
<td>Bengali</td>
<td>27,422,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Report 1:10

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**Hyderabad, India**  
**June 19-22, 2013**
Missions Resources used for Praying for Missions Workshops:

Who needs to be prayed for and how… in order to make disciples in all the nations and take the church to where it is not yet?

Jesus Film Harvest Partners: *Imprisoned for the Gospel*

http://www.jfhp.org/progress/jfstories.cfm

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church:

www.opendoors.org
www.idop.org

Hyderabad, India       June 19-22, 2013
Missions Resources used for Praying for Missions Workshops: (continued)

Prayer Mobilization Line:  
http://nmi.nazarene.org/10026/story.html

PML on Facebook:  
https://www.facebook.com/NMIPrayer?sk=wall

Operation World:  www.operationworld.org

Joshua Project:  www.joshuaproject.net

Nazarene World Week of Prayer (requests from each Nazarene region):  
http://nmi.nazarene.org/10057/story.html
Psalm 2:8 – “Ask of Me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.”