Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study

"WORLD MISSIONS CONFERENCE 2021: POWERING MISSIONS THROUGH PRAYER"

For individual study or discussion

Many years ago, the extraordinary evangelist Corrie ten Boom visited an elderly Russian woman suffering from severe multiple sclerosis. Confined to a tiny one-room apartment, this servant of the King spent her days typing, with just one finger, portions of the Bible and translations of Christian books so that Russians, Latvians, and Lithuanians could have access to words of life forbidden by Communist authorities. As she typed, she also prayed for the authors—people like Corrie ten Boom and Watchman Nee, then in prison in China. Her husband told Corrie that other Christians in the city were watched, but because his wife had been sick so long, she was able to type all day, undetected by the police. She glorified God and blessed his church despite *and* because of her physical limitations.

John Piper has reminded us in his book on missions that "life is war." He goes on,

"That's not all it is. But it is always that. Our weakness in prayer is owing largely to our neglect of this truth. Prayer is primarily a wartime walkie-talkie for this mission of the church as it advances against the powers of darkness and unbelief." (*Let the Nations Be Glad: The Supremacy of God in Missions*)

We have the opportunity this year to join more fervently and diligently in the battle. Whatever limitations we have faced or may still face because of the pandemic or anything else happening in our country or this world, we need not be hindered in prayer. Take time this week to consider how you can pray more often and more fervently for our missions partners.

TO PRAY: "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God." Philippians 1:9-11

Father of Love, we pray this prayer of Paul's today for our brothers and sisters who are ministering in your name around the world and especially plead this for all of our world missions partners. We ask that your love, which is boundless and perfect, would flow through them to others. When they are met with ridicule and scorn, help them to respond with love. When they shepherd people who are sheep-like in their stubbornness and lack of discernment, displace the natural responses of impatience and frustration with love. And we pray that this love would spring from a deeper and deeper knowledge of and gratitude for you. Give them time and perseverance so that they may drink often from your life-giving Word. Draw them to your throne of grace that they might bring their fears and burdens to you, our tender Shepherd and Friend. May a knowledge-rooted love enable them to discern what is best both now and in the future. Finally, fill them with all the fruits of righteousness that come through Jesus Christ so that their lives might give you glory and praise. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Defender, Savior, and Friend. Amen.



DATE: April 18, 2021

SPEAKER: Guest preachers

SERIES: World Missions

PASSAGE: 1 Pet. 2:4-10 (FH); Matt. 6:9-13 (S)

Family Dinner Table

This weekend LMPC held its annual world missions conference. We often have speakers at our Missions Conference that travel from a long ways away—as far as halfway around the globe! Due to Covid restrictions this year, only those who lived close-by were able to come. Being restricted by Covid does not mean, however, that we cannot continue to pray for our missionaries. There are no limitations on prayer! Whether we are allowed to travel or not, whether we have to stay at home or not, we can continue to pray for our missions partners.

One great way for families to pray for missionaries is to actually "adopt" a missionary or a missionary family. Most missionaries send email newsletters with prayer requests, and they are also happy to respond to emails or letters. You can commit to praying for a missionary and then write to let that person know what and how you've been praying for him or her. The missions conference mailing this year also has a prayer guide that you can continue to use long after the missions conference has ended. Extra copies are also available at the church.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

PCA Committee on Discipleship Ministries

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Charisa and William, supported missionary partners