

GOD SPEAKS

READ ISAIAH 49:1-7

And now, says the Lord, who formed me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him so that Israel might be gathered to Him; for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God is my strength - He says, "It is not enough for you to be my servant, raising up the tribes of Jacob and restoring the protected ones of Israel. I will also make You a Light for the Nations, to be My salvation to the ends of the earth." (vv5-6).

Why did God send Jesus? Why do we celebrate the Advent and Nativity of our Lord? These verses from Isaiah are a great summary of God's Great Sending. Isaiah reminds us that God's servant, Jesus, was formed from the womb to bring Israel back to God. But there's more! It was not enough for Jesus to bring God's beloved Israel back; Jesus is also sent as a Light for the Nations, to bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth! Advent focuses our attention on this Great Sending, God sending Jesus to bring the Gift of Salvation to all people everywhere, to the ends of the earth.

Of course, Jesus accomplished His Father's will by His perfect life and His all-sufficient suffering and death on the cross. Because He has done this for us, we worship and adore Him! But it is not enough to worship and adore Him as the Christ Child - we honor and praise Him as our Living Savior and we share this Good News of Great Joy with the Nations.

We are sent ones too!

Isaiah
49:6

"It is not enough for you to be my servant raising up the tribes of Jacob and restoring the protected ones of Israel. I will also make you a light for the nations, to be my salvation to the ends of the earth."

CALL TO PRAYER

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.

SET YOUR ALARM FOR 10:02



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December MISSIONS PRAYER GUIDE



**EQUIP, EMPOWER, ENGAGE,
CONNECTING PEOPLE TO JESUS.**



- 1 Give thanks for the joyful privilege of being included as partners with God in His mission, sharing the Good News of His reconciling the world to Himself in Christ Jesus.
- 2 Praise God for the holidays we will celebrate this month and the unique opportunities they offer for witness. Give thanks for the special people God will bring into your life with whom you can share the message of hope, renewal, and life in Jesus.
- 3 Pray for the Lord's blessing on today's gathering of church-planting leaders from many denominations at Biola University in La Mirada, CA. Ask God to bless our Mission Executive, Peter Meier, who meets with this Church Planting Leadership Fellowship, so that he will learn, grow, and bring back innovative ideas for mission.
- 4 Give thanks to the Lord for the privilege and joy of being chosen by God to share His blessings through our relationships.
- 5 For our Florida-Georgia Prayer Partners and Intercessors, Pray that the number of praying partners and 10:02 pray-ers grows!
- 6 For the privilege and joy of being Along-Siders with people in our homes, neighborhoods, and places where we work and play.
- 7 Ask God to bless loved ones who we think of as we send and receive Christmas cards and greetings.
- 8 Pray that every congregation will see themselves as participants in planting the Church - making new disciples, starting new ministries, planting new micro-churches and multi-sites, starting new congregations, or leaving a mission legacy.
- 9 Ask God to forgive our lack of courage to speak of His salvation boldly in the face of the world's opposition and for our failure to depend on His strength, wisdom, and creativity as we plan our outreach and engage in congregation activities.
- 10 For Circuit "Winkel" meetings taking place around the District today, that God will bless the fellowship, study, and conversation of our pastors. Pray for joy in ministry!

- 11 Give thanks and ask God's blessing on our District leadership for pastors and local church leaders who understand the Church's purpose and take mission seriously, especially in these challenging times.
- 12 Lord, especially in this season, forgive us for our business and hurry when we really need to spend time with You and Your word.
- 13 God, use me as a worker in Your harvest fields. Give me the opportunity to build a caring relationship with (name of your friend, family member, co-worker). Help me become whatever kind of Christ-like servant they can identify with so that by all possible means they will be saved.
- 14 Give thanks to Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords, who promises to return and who, in the meantime, rules all things together for good for His church.
- 15 Jesus, forgive us for thinking that proclaiming the Gospel is the work of only a few well-trained individuals rather than the ministry of every believer.
- 16 Pray that every believer will feel a burden for the lost and will pray for open doors, open hearts, and boldness in witness and service.
- 17 That all people in our nation, beginning with our leaders, would respect life as a gift from God, seeking to protect all life from the unborn to the elderly and vulnerable
- 18 Give thanks for those who God has called to serve as our District Staff. Pray for these servants as they gather to celebrate staff anniversaries today: President Rockey, Laura Zirbel, Jay Wendland, Jennifer Tanner, Peter Meier, Rusty Huseman, Kathy Keene, Cindy Hammerstrom, Debbie Arington, and Meridith Swanson.
- 19 Pray against the lying spirit of powerlessness, hopelessness, confusion, discouragement, and burnout for pastors, leaders, and every disciple; that we will instead learn to fight as effective warriors with Christ ahead, behind, and beside us.
- 20 Pray for the many not-yet-believers who attend our Lutheran schools and Early Childhood Centers. Pray that God would work through His Gospel - especially in this season - to bring them to faith in Jesus and that they would share this Good News with their families.

- 21 Ask the Lord to use your mouth and hands to bless others in His name, and that others will be ready to receive our loving witness.
- 22 Pray that God's people will be blessed with perseverance, especially when facing challenges to their faith. Pray for boldness in sharing the Gospel and assurance of God's presence.
- 23 Pray that every language will have God's Word so that all may know the Good News of Jesus and that all may be well-equipped to withstand the temptations of the Evil One, and with Christians everywhere, give Jesus honor and praise.
- 24 **Christmas Eve** - We join with the angels and the shepherds to give praise to You, Lord Jesus, our Savior and King! Thank you for the personal message of the angels, "Unto **YOU** is born a Savior - Christ the Lord!"
- 25 **Christmas Day** - Fill us with perfect and holy joy, dear Lord, at the Good News of our Savior's birth for us! Let this great joy give troubled hearts everywhere Your gift of perfect peace and rest, and give us opportunities to share it today!
- 26 Pray that each believer will know the Father's heart in such an intimate and beautiful way that they will be moved to share God's great love with others in their lives.
- 27 Pray that your neighbors will experience the joy and peace that are found in Jesus alone and that you might have the privilege and opportunity to share these gifts with them.
- 28 Give thanks for all in our communities who serve during holidays. Ask for God's protection for our nation and its people, especially for protection of our military personnel and their families, for police and firefighters as they serve and protect our communities.
- 29 Give thanks for opportunities to worship together with other Christians and for the joy of seeing others come to know Jesus as their Savior, forgiven, loved, restored, and precious in His sight.
- 30 We thank and praise You, Heavenly Father, for the great gift of a small thing—a baby—who is also our greatest treasure. Let this news make our hearts glad and fearless as we share it with others. All is well because of Jesus!
- 31 **New Year's Eve** - Father God, on this last day of the year, we give all honor to You for Your gifts of forgiveness, life, salvation, and a certain future. Every good gift from this past year comes from Your generous hand. Thank You!