

GOD SPEAKS

READ GENESIS 12:1-3

This Word from God is excerpted from a study prepared by Rev. Dr. Victor Belton for God's Sending Heart, Study 3, "GO-ing with the Father's Blessing." Download the entire devotion and book at thegreatsending.org.

Our missional God has reached nations on His agenda from the very beginning... His command to Abraham is to "Get up and Go!"

As an extension of His blessing, we get up and go knowing that the Sender has the desire for us to be in His service. Perhaps, the church, the body of Christ on earth, is having such challenging times because we are busy doing many things, saving lots of money, and avoiding the ethnic groups around us instead of going in accord with the command of our Heavenly Father, the Sender, to our earthly father, Abram, the sent one. We are to be going, blessing others, being a blessing, and introducing those in our world to the God who loves them to the degree that He willingly, even joyfully, sacrifices everything necessary to bring the nations to Himself, including His only begotten son, Jesus.

Please note this most important element of the narrative. There is no indication that Abram had any special training or degrees. The text does not indicate that Abram is a linguistic expert who will understand every language and culture. Our Father is interested in Abram being obedient to the call "Get up and go!"

Our Father sometimes sends those who are equipped to go, but He always, without fail, equips those who are sent as they are going. Get up, dear saints! Let's go, anointed of our Father. You are being sent! The great, all-powerful, loving, and resurrected God of all Creation goes before you; He has given you all His blessings to share, love to impart, and relationship with Him for this world that does not know Him. Let's go!

Father, thank You for Your consistent message for us, that You are sending us to GO and disciple people for your sovereign purposes to advance Your Kingdom... Send us Your Holy Spirit, Father, to breathe on us and inspire us as we GO in accordance with Your will and Your command. Come on Jesus, come on Holy Spirit, bless us to get up and go. Amen.

Genesis
12:2

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing."

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

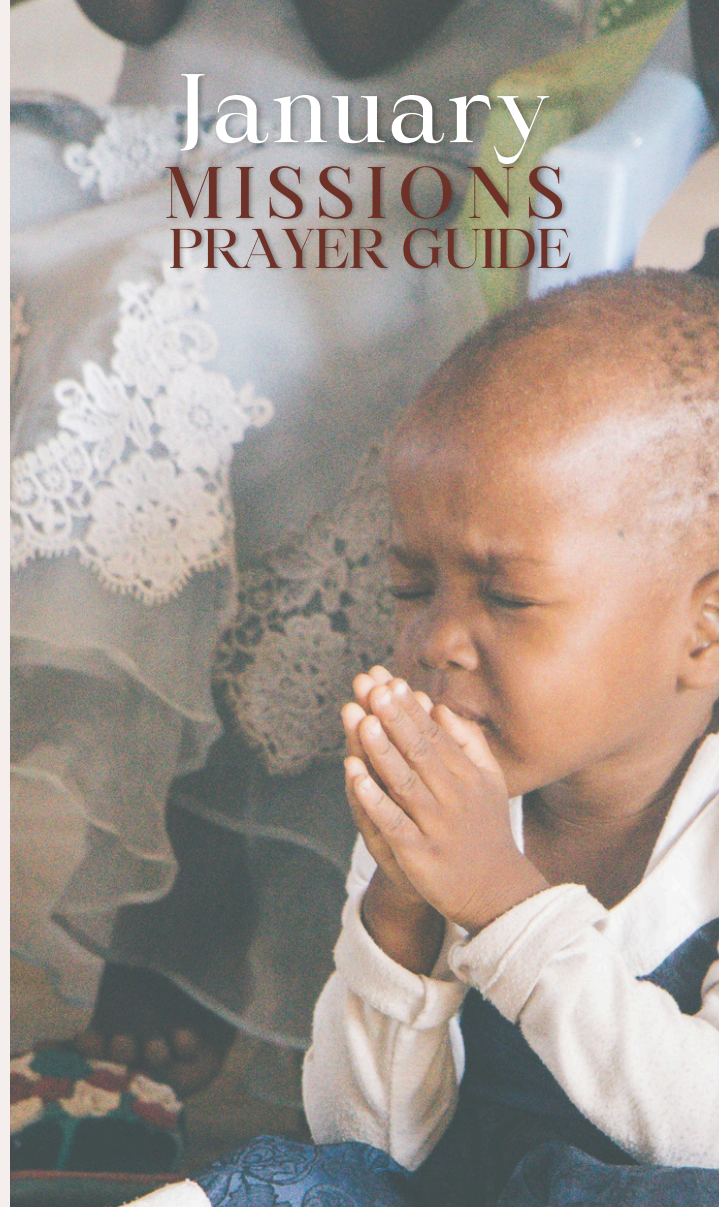


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January MISSIONS PRAYER GUIDE



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



1 New Year's Day & The Naming of Jesus – We begin this New Year in Your precious and powerful Name, Jesus, our Savior! Let our first thoughts today be of You, our first impulse to worship You. Bless us today and throughout this year with Your continual presence and peace!

2 We give thanks for the joyful privilege of being included as partners in Your mission, sharing the Good News of freedom from sin and death, and release from captivity to shame and guilt.

3 In these initial days of the New Year, we rededicate ourselves to Your service and love toward our neighbors. Use our words, deeds, and influence to be a channel of Your love and compassion to the lives of those around us.

4 Give thanks to the Lord for the privilege and joy of being chosen by God to share His blessings through our relationships.

5 Give thanks for our Florida-Georgia Prayer Partners and Intercessors; we pray that the number of praying partners and 10:02 pray-ers grows in this year!

6 Epiphany of our Lord – Let Your light and joy and power pour out and remain with us throughout this day. Be our guide through every uncertainty and darkness, and use us to share Your gifts with those with whom we live, work, and play.

7 Forgive us for our lack of awareness of those around us who need to hear Jesus' message of Good News, of not noticing those on the margins who need the welcome of our Savior.

8 Pray that every congregation will see themselves as participants in planting the Church – making new disciples, starting new ministries, and planting new churches.

9 Forgive us for not living every day in the awareness of our anointing and sending as the Baptized; Jesus, use us today as ambassadors of Your Good News!

10 Ask that the Lord of All will protect pastors and church leaders from the Evil One's temptations.

11 Baptism of Jesus – as we celebrate Jesus' baptism for us today, we thank You for Your powerful grace given to us in our own baptisms. Thank you for saving us and sending us to carry out Your mission where we live.

12 Lord, remind us to treat elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity. And honor widows who persevere in faith and love.

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 for those who God has called to serve as our District Staff. Pray for our executive staff which meets today: President Rockey, Laura Zirbel, Jay Wendland, Jennifer Tanner, Eric Sahlberg, and Rusty Huseman. Thank God for our Support Staff: Andrea Ellis, Cindy Hammerstrom, Debbie Arington, and Tais Brekke.

15 Pray that every believer will feel a burden for the lost, will pray for open doors, open hearts, and boldness in witness and service.

16 Lord God, keep me from doing anything today that goes against Your will; do not let me shrink from any sacrifice that Your will demands. Suggest, direct and guide every thought and action that it may glorify You and bless my neighbor.

17 Thank you, Lord God for the Christian example of saints, apostles, prophets, and all the disciples who have gone before us, especially for Jesus, the author of our faith. Help us to profit from their example and to be a godly example and witness to others.

18 Pray today for missionaries, pastors, church planters, leaders and all who battle with depression, self-doubt, that Satan will not destroy or weaken their witness.

19 Martin Luther King Day – Give thanks for Dr. King and for all who like him, have been a voice of conscience for justice, freedom, and racial harmony. Ask God for courage to live out God's vision of mercy and justice for all, hospitality for the immigrants among us, and the healing of all wounds.

20 God, give us hearts to love others like Jesus with grace and forgiveness. Forgive us when we fail to love our neighbors with Christ-like love.

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 Give thanks for the Tim Abel from Pelican Ministries (Naples) who reaches out with the Gospel to the Muslim community in South Florida.

23 God, we give thanks for our Lutheran schools, teachers and administrators. Bless them as they serve in communities across Florida and Georgia.

24 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 strong presence.

25 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.

26 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.

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 Pray for Middle School students learning to find their identity in Christ. Ask God to protect them from the pressures of the world and to find confident joy as His children.

29 Give thanks for those who serve our congregations and District as Circuit Visitors. Ask God to give them wisdom, mission vision, and Jesus' heart as they carry out their responsibilities.

30 Thank God for our District Board of Directors which meets today. Ask God to give them vision and leadership in our district and among our churches and schools.

31 Lord, by Your Spirit lead us to someone who needs to hear the Gospel today.