



One of the first things I did as a new Christian back in 1992 was to keep a journal. I have no recollection of who suggested it, but it served three key purposes:

1. To write down encouraging bible verses
2. To write down prayers and celebrate answered prayers
3. To write down the names, every day, of 5 friends / family I wanted to see come to faith in Jesus.

I must confess that some days when I was tired, I didn't write much, but I always wrote those 5 names. Some days the only thing on the page was their names: Jason, Jeremy, Davy, Mark and Colin. Within eight months four of them had responded to the Gospel. It took about 15 years for Colin to respond (typical big brothers lol).

I am absolutely convinced that the greatest tool we have in evangelism is praying for lost people and praying with them. The first is intercession, the second is prayer ministry. (Yes, prayer ministry is not just for Christians after a service!)

I want to challenge each of you to sign up for the prayer room (see link) and set aside 1 hour each day to pray into evangelism. This resource contains 12 prayers to help you pray for friends and family and also to pray around the nature and function of evangelism. For many, the thought of praying for 60 minutes is a daunting prospect. However, when the hour is broken down into smaller slots, the time can go in surprisingly quickly.

The idea is to use each prayer as a tree trunk, and branch off in your own words allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you as you think of particular people or situations that can be included.

We have also created a prayer walking group via Strava. Let's see how many miles of prayer we can clock up!

Click here to join:

<https://www.strava.com/clubs/joytotheworld>

Let's pray:

1. Personal Reflection

Father God,

Teach me how to pray for others who do not yet know you as both Lord and Saviour, give me a fresh revelation of the Cross and the only hope it brings to mankind, show me the reality and tragedy of a lost eternity.

Forgive me when I have become complacent in my praying, when I have taken my eyes off you and relied on human engineering. Forgive me when I leave the great commission to others, when I abdicate my position as an ambassador for you and become inward focused.

Teach me how to weep for lost people, break my heart with what breaks yours, give me a heavenly perspective of the Gospel and my role as an agent for transformation and hope. Lock me in with you this hour, may your Holy Spirit equip me and give me the words and unction to pray for my friends and family.

Your word says, *'In the same way the Spirit [comes to us and] helps us in our weakness. We do not know what prayer to offer or how to offer it as we should, but the Spirit Himself [knows our need and at the right time] intercedes on our behalf with sighs and groanings too deep for words.'*

Lord, help me in my weakness.

Amen

2. A Prayer for Our Prodigals

Father God,

We bring our prodigals before you in prayer. Thank you that you know each of them by name. (You can include their names here).

May your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, love, peace and goodness pursue them and rest on them. May you set them free; delivering them from the illusions and false inspirations that are holding their attention, holding them ensnared.

Father, we ask that you reveal Jesus to each one of them and reveal your word to them in ways they can understand and relate to. Help them and give them grace to respond. Please set them free.

Father, we thank you that you are able and that there is no situation that you can't rescue them from.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Amen

Margret Clarke

3. The Great Commission

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age. **Matthew 28:19-20***

Take some time to meditate on this text.

Father God,

Thank you for including me in the great commission. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your plan to reach the world for Jesus. Help me to fulfil that role today, to be courageous and to make the most of every opportunity.

Amen.

(Think of the different people you can interact with today, on social media, text message, e-mail, face to face etc. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you in each situation to display and share the love of Jesus.)

4. A Prayer for My Neighbours

(whilst walking around your neighbourhood or in your home)

Father,

Thank you for your presence in me. I believe in the promise of your Holy Spirit, that you will fill all who ask through faith in Jesus Christ. Today, I ask that you would fill me again that I might bring you glory and seek your Kingdom in my neighbourhood.

I pray that you would use me in any way you see fit to bless my neighbours, to demonstrate Christ to them and to see people come to faith. I am so aware of how much we need your Kingdom to come! On my street, for my neighbours, will you pour out your Spirit - bring

conviction where conviction is needed, comfort where pain is overwhelming, faith where unbelief reigns, liberation where the enemy has blinded people to your truth.

(Take time to pray for each of your neighbours by name)

A Declaration over your neighbourhood/neighbours' homes:

In the name of Jesus Christ, I reject every scheme of the enemy to blind people to the truth and keep them in darkness. I bless this neighbourhood in the name of Jesus and will stand guard over it as a Christian, full of the Holy Spirit.

Father - may your will be done here, may your Kingdom come. Let the joy of your salvation fill these homes!

Amen

Tim Houston

5. The Church

'I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.'
Matthew 16:18

Father God,

Thank you for the promises of your word. Thank you for the promise that you will build your church, the 'Ekklesia'.

- Pray for your local church, that the leadership will take action to help fulfil the commission of Jesus.
- Pray that the church will act with grace and love as it serves the community.

- Pray that the church will bring good news, compassion and healing to those in need.

6. Mission

(A prayer for those involved in mission both at home and overseas)

O God, bless all those who have gone out bringing the message of the gospel to those on our streets and in other lands.

I pray for those who are enduring hardship, those who are facing peril and danger, those who have left secure jobs, those who have left families behind, those who are struggling financially, those who are discouraged and those who feel isolated.

Bless those who are working especially with children. *(You may want to mention specific ministries, or people)* Bless those who are working as chaplains in hospitals, armed services and in sports.

Help us never forget those who are often out of sight. Help us to give generously of our money to their work. so that it may go where we ourselves cannot go.

We pray also for those who are involved in mission via radio and media. Thank you for the incredible potential of Christian radio and the many thousands that it impacts each year. We pray for those leading each organisation and those who host regular shows. Protect them, encourage them and give them creative ways to share the person and power of Jesus with others.

Father God, bring quickly the day when the knowledge of you will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Amen

Willam Barclay (edited)

7. For Friends and Family

Dear Lord, as we cry out to you for our friends and family who do *not* yet know you. Hear the prayers of our hearts. Words cannot express adequately our anguish. Give us the faith to believe that you are able to do immeasurably more than we can possibly imagine.

By the power of your Spirit, we ask you to work in the hearts of those we pray for so that they may turn towards you with repentance, acceptance and declaration.

Help us to never give up on them. Protect us from discouragement and answer our prayers as we pray together with one accord.

Amen

Lester Manley

8. Our Land

Heavenly Father, after whom every family in heaven and earth is named. We come to You in the mighty name of the Lord Jesus Christ Your Son and praise You that *'the earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it'* (Psalm 24:1).

We thank You for our land. We thank You for the many blessings we have received through our history: both material and spiritual blessings. We thank You for the heritage of men and women of God from the days of Patrick until now. Truly we have been a blessed land, and we have been a blessing to other nations of the world in the spread of the gospel from these shores, through centuries of missionary endeavour. Once we were known as *'the land of saints and scholars.'*

However, we mourn today that we, Your Church, in this land have grown cold and weak and that our people have turned from Your ways.

We repent and ask for Your mercy and forgiveness through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

According to Your promise of 2 Chronicles 7:14 which says, *"If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land"*, we confess our wickedness and repent from all our evil ways (name specific personal sins and sins common in the Church and society).

As we repent, we ask that You would pour out upon Your Church and our society *"times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord"* (Acts 3:19). I pray that we will be renewed as Your people, the lost will be rescued, the sick will be healed, the oppressed will be freed and we will all be filled by Your Holy Spirit. *"Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You"* (Ps 85:6). We desperately need a move of Your Spirit among us in our day and generation.

To this we give ourselves now for Your glory God, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen

David Legge

9. Practical Activity – Praying for family and friends

Draw and cut out a 5-pointed star, large enough to put in the window of your home. On one side write 'Jesus' and on the other side write the names of 5 people who you commit to pray for regularly in the run up to Christmas.

Once you have finished, put the star in the window with the word Jesus pointing out into the community and the five names facing you.

Father God,

Thank you for sending your son Jesus to be the light of the world. Thank you for his birth, life, death and resurrection. Thank you Father for the joy of Christmas as you become Emmanuel 'God with us.' Thank you that you have provided a way for all men to come to you and you are "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

Salvation belongs to you; it is your work and yet you have invited me to intercede and pray on behalf of my friends and family.

I now pray for (name specific friends and family)

I pray the authority, rule, peace and dominion of the Lord Jesus Christ and the full work of the cross over them. I pray the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ against every evil power coming against them — in Jesus name I come against every foul, unclean spirit, every foul power, addiction, habit and device.

I ask Holy Spirit that you would visit (name specific friends and family), convict them of sin, righteousness and judgement, give them a revelation of Jesus Christ and set them free from sin. In Jesus name I come against all the works of the devil that is opposing their salvation.

I know you hear me Father. I pray your love, your peace, your healing and blessing over their lives. Take out the stony heart and replace it with a heart of flesh.

May this Christmas be their first Christmas knowing your Son as both Lord and Saviour.

In Jesus name and for his Glory,
Amen

10. Blessing others

'Do to others as you would have them do to you.'

Luke 6:31

This life really isn't about me, is it, Lord? It's about You. But while I'm in this human body, it's also about others and how I can help them achieve their goals. God, you know how helpful others have been in my life. They were surely Your messengers to keep me on the right road. Now Father, allow me to do for others, what others have done for me. Let me sow seeds where I have already harvested a good crop.

Show me today how I can be a blessing to someone else.

Amen

Hope Lyda

11. Spiritual Revival

Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

Show us your unfailing love, Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Psalms 85:6-7

- Pray that God will renew His church through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for a spiritual revival throughout the whole land.
- Pray for the Kingdom of God to come.
- Pray for church leaders to be encouraged and given renewed vision.

Roly Heaney

12. A Prayer for Opportunity

"² Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³ And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." Colossians 4

Use this passage as a trunk to pray for the following:

1. To be watchful for opportunities
2. That doors may open
3. That you would have clarity in thoughts and words
4. Wisdom
5. To make the most of every opportunity
6. For conversations to be full of grace
7. For the ability to answer questions when asked.
8. Just as Paul asked the Church at Colossae to pray for him, use this prayer to pray for others involved in evangelism including children, youth and schools ministry.