

A Great *Multitude* + You
Rev. 7:9

November 29 – December 6

2020
WEEK OF PRAYER
— *for* —
INTERNATIONAL
MISSIONS



I saw a great multitude from every nation and all tribes...

REVELATION 7:9

Your prayers for the multitudes transform lives.

In this guide, you'll find stories about and specific ways to pray for IMB missionaries during the Week of Prayer for International Missions, November 29 – December 6. This is just a glimpse of the incredible impact your prayers have on the work of taking the gospel to the multitudes.

In-depth prayer stories are available at imb.org/lmco and in the December 2020 issue of *Missions Mosaic* from WMU® at wmustore.com.

To receive daily prayer reminders via email during this year's Week of Prayer, please sign up at imb.org/lmco.





DAY 1 • Sunday, November 29

NAIVASHA CHILDREN'S SHELTER, KENYA

Hundreds of thousands of boys sleep on the streets in Kenya, rejected by their families or seeking their independence for a number of reasons. They're marginalized, beaten, sexually abused, and arrested. Many Kenyans regard them as worthless and not to be trusted. They call these boys "trash eaters."

International Mission Board missionary Kristen Lowry and the staff at the Naivasha Children's Shelter in Naivasha, Kenya, see value and worth in the life of each boy. They seek out these boys and bring restoration to families and rehabilitation to broken lives.

If a boy is willing to be rescued, one of the social workers from the shelter schedules a time to pick up the boy from the street and bring him to the shelter. Once there, the boy learns skills, participates in counseling, catches up on education, takes responsibility for chores, and ultimately experiences love and a stable environment.

The shelter is not an orphanage but a place where each child receives personal attention and encouragement, all building to the goal of reuniting him with his family.

“

If I could tell a friend on the streets one thing about the shelter, I would tell him, 'Come to shelter and change your life and find your family.'

FRANCES, A BOY LIVING AT THE SHELTER

”

PRAY that Frances and other boys like him will find new life in Christ.

PRAY that as the boys are reconciled with their families, the families will also find hope in Jesus.

PRAY that God will bless the work of the shelter's staff as they reach out in love to boys who are hurting.

**MISSIONS ON AND
OFF THE STREET**



DAY 2 • Monday, November 30

ZAGREB, CROATIA, RADIO MINISTRY

After living in Croatia for more than 22 years, missionary Eric Maroney has witnessed the reluctance of people to believe the truth of the gospel and has endured their skepticism toward evangelical churches. Only one Baptist church stands in western Zagreb — an area of 250,000 people — where Eric's team lives and works.

As a church planter, Eric — who serves with his wife, Julie — looks for new strategies to share the gospel. Giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® supports his efforts. In 2014, he embraced the idea of a radio ministry pitched by a Brazilian ministry partner. The team now includes nine local partners who serve as speakers, translators, and technical support.

The group fills the airwaves twice a week with a sermon, spiritual songs, interviews with believers, and questions from callers. Ratings reported from the radio station's director show that more than 40,000 people listen to each broadcast. In a country with only 7,000 evangelicals, the number of listeners is significant.

“

We trust that the seeds that are being sown will one day soon bear fruit and that the churches that are being started will one day start other churches in the towns that surround them.

ERIC MARONEY, MISSIONARY

”

PRAY that more national partners will choose to be a part of sharing the gospel across Croatia.

PRAY that more church plants will result from the radio broadcast ministry.

THANK GOD for the tens of thousands who hear truth from God's Word each week.

***FILLING THE AIRWAVES
WITH THE GOSPEL***



DAY 3 • Tuesday, December 1

DOUG DERBYSHIRE IN THAILAND

Doug Derbyshire goes to many places in Thailand where there are no Christians, and it troubles him deeply. But the lack of a gospel witness in Baan Po troubled him the most.

For six years, Doug — a medical missionary with the International Mission Board — faithfully visited Baan Po. He brought medical teams from the US to host mobile clinics and tried every evangelism technique he knew, including knocking on countless doors. But there was still no church in Baan Po, and Doug couldn't let that rest.

So he pulled together another mobile medical team to take the gospel there in January 2020. After he and the other doctors would meet with their patients, a Thai Christian on Doug's clinical staff would sit down with the patient and say...

“

This is medicine for your body. Now let's talk about what you need for your soul.

A THAI CHRISTIAN

”

On the first day, three people made decisions of faith, and Baan Po is no longer without a gospel presence.

PRAY none of the new Christians would fall away from the faith.

PRAY those who have yet to decide will choose to commit their lives to Christ.

PRAY for the formation of healthy churches in Baan Po.

**MEDICAL MISSIONS LEADS
TO CHURCH PLANTING**



DAY 4 • Wednesday, December 2

AKAWA* IN PERU

The small group of men boards a single-engine Cessna. After a two-hour flight, the men land on a small airstrip deep in the Amazon rainforest. From there, they board a boat and settle in for the ride. Their destination, an isolated village of the Akawa tribe, is still more than seven hours away.

Like many tribal people groups, the Akawa are animists who live in fear of the spirits that inhabit the world around them, said Joe Brewster, an International Mission Board (IMB) missionary. He and his team of IMB missionaries and local church planters began working with the small, unreached tribe in 2018.

“ *As animists, they tend to be pragmatic and go with what works as opposed to what may be right or wrong. They live far up an Amazonian tributary, just a step removed from the Stone Age.*

JOE BREWSTER, MISSIONARY

Joe’s team has a heart to reach them — and partners who share that passion. Edwin Blanco*, a church planter who lives in the Amazon basin, is an integral part of that effort. As the administrator of an indigenous missions organization, he has a burden to reach the Akawa and other isolated tribes with the good news of Jesus. He and Joe are partnering for that purpose.

“ *Fulfilling the Great Commission is difficult work, much like carrying a heavy log out of the jungle. One man may be able to do it, but if we work together and help each other, the work is much easier!*

EDWIN BLANCO*, CHURCH PLANTER

PRAY for Joe, Edwin and their teams as they share the gospel with the Akawa.

PRAY that many members of the Akawa will come to faith in Jesus.

PRAY that new Akawa believers will gather into groups and start churches.

REACHING THE HARD-TO-REACH IN THE AMAZON RAINFOREST

*Names changed for security.



DAY 5 • Thursday, December 3

A LIFE GIVEN IS A SACRIFICE

Throughout their 175-year history, Southern Baptists have maintained an uninterrupted witness among the nations, in spite of famine, war, and civil unrest. This commitment has not come without sacrifice.

About 60 missionaries and children have died because of tragic circumstances while serving with the International Mission Board (IMB) since the organization's founding in 1845, when it was known as the Foreign Mission Board. The causes include accidents such as drowning, automobile and aircraft crashes, and ships lost at sea. They also include deaths as a result of war and criminal or terrorist acts. In some cases, the missionaries were targeted specifically because of their faith or missionary service.

Of those 60, more than 20 IMB missionaries lost their lives "as a result of human hostility in a cross-cultural setting," according to Scott Peterson of the IMB global research team. While the IMB does not typically refer to or describe personnel who died in active service as "martyrs", the sacrifice of those who died while serving cross-culturally is no less significant than those who were targeted specifically for their faith.

Each life given is a sacrifice because of a life lived in obedience to Christ.

THANK GOD for the men and women who, with their children, have traveled to the ends of the earth to share the gospel with those who have never heard.

THANK GOD for the uninterrupted witness of Southern Baptists among the nations for 175 years.

ASK GOD to continue to protect missionaries and their families serving in cross-cultural and often difficult areas around the globe.

**REMEMBERING
LIVES GIVEN**



DAY 6 • Friday, December 4

WORTHYS IN ITALY

The Worthy family recognizes the importance of investing in relationships in Italian culture. For more than 17 years, Charlie and Shannon have invested their lives and ministry in Italy as International Mission Board missionaries.

Working alongside Italian and US partners, the Worthys bring the gospel to areas of Italy with little to no evangelical witness. Whether leading a group of students, a group of Baptist state convention executives, or a church group, they strategically place partnering groups in areas of Italy where the church does not exist. These partners are able to engage with the people there and create relationships that impact the kingdom for eternity.

As they invest in the people around them, Charlie and Shannon come alongside local Italian church planters to further the spread of the gospel. Partnering local church planters with US groups, they have seen the gospel pierce the hearts of many Italians.

By immersing themselves fully in Italian culture, the Worthys have made connections on a deep, personal level. As they live life as an American-Italian family in Italy, the Worthy family is pushing back the darkness and bringing the hope of the gospel.

PRAY that the Worthys will continue to build strong relationships in Italy.

PRAY that many Italians will come to faith in Christ as a result of the Worthys' witness.

PRAY that new Italian believers will gather into churches to reach the people of Italy with the gospel.



**BRINGING THE HOPE OF
THE GOSPEL TO ITALY**



DAY 7 • Saturday, December 5

UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP FROM SOUTH ASIA

For 20 years, the International Mission Board (IMB) fought to maintain a gospel presence among the Khaleela*, a Muslim people group in South Asia.

After years of setbacks, Luciano and Sofia Serrano*, a Christian couple from Brazil, moved to the region. The Serranos partner with Ralph and Lovie Adair*, IMB workers who live in a neighboring area. Through the Serranos' witness, a woman from the Khaleela decided to follow Christ and is now being discipled by Sofia and two South Asian Christians.

The Adairs mobilize local Christians interested in serving among the Khaleela, provide ministry training for sharing the gospel with Muslims, and seek out prayer support for their ministry efforts.

“

Make no mistake, the Spirit of Christ has always left Himself a witness among the Khaleela, even if we haven't seen it. But the time has come and is coming when bold national partners rise up to be committed to getting the gospel in a sustained way to the Khaleela.

RALPH ADAIR*, IMB WORKER

”

PRAY local Christians would be bold in sharing the gospel with the Khaleela.

ASK for discernment for the Adairs and the Serranos as they share the gospel and train local Christians.

PRAY the Lord would send more Christian workers to partner with the Serranos and Adairs.

**COMMITTING TO REACHING
THE UNREACHED**

* Names changed for security.



DAY 8 • Sunday, December 6

YOUR GENEROSITY TRANSFORMS LIVES

Every day is appropriate to say thank you to Southern Baptists who give generously so that the gospel spreads to all nations. But in this season of giving, showing appreciation seems especially meaningful.

International Mission Board missionary Reid Karr, serving in Rome, Italy, offers his thanks. “I would like to take this occasion to thank our many faithful Southern Baptists who continue to give faithfully to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®. You will never know the full extent to which your generosity is having [an impact] on the kingdom of God in many places around the world.”

“

We cannot adequately express our thankfulness for the support we receive through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. This year, because of your generosity, we were able to build relationships with national partners, share the gospel, teach the Bible, and even begin a new church!

DAVID AND SARAH MCNEILL

”

From Japan, missionaries Daniel and Tara Rice add their thanks. “The Tokyo Olympics have been postponed due to the current global health crisis. We see this postponement as a blessing and an opportunity given to us by the Lord. Thank you for your continued prayer and support.”

PRAISE GOD for the continued work of Southern Baptists who have remained committed to reaching the lost for more than 175 years.

ASK GOD to send more individuals and churches who will be committed to the vision of reaching all nations and all peoples with the gospel.

THANK GOD for sustaining the work of missionaries through all circumstances, including the most recent global pandemic.

**THANK YOU TO
SOUTHERN BAPTISTS**





2020 Week of Prayer for International Missions

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*“You’re a part of this eternal work
through your giving, your praying,
your sending, and your going.
Every church, regardless of its size
or resources, has a part to play in
reaching every nation with the gospel.
And the nations are waiting.
Thank you for doing your part.”*

Dr. Paul Chitwood, President of IMB

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