

Mission Prayer Pack



AWAKE

Suffolk Coastal Mission 2025



Seven tips for mobilising prayer in your church for mission

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Welcome

Our Mission begins with God our Father. He loved the world so much that he himself came to us and He sends us. Praying for mission must therefore start with listening to what is on his heart for our community.

Something to think about:

“Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:10.

The Foundation

Jesus in speaking about his own mission said “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing” John 5:19 His whole life and ministry were built upon an understanding of what His Father wanted to do and say.

We can only expect answers to prayer and meaningful results from your mission, when we listen and gain clarity about what Father is planning to do. It all begins in the place of prayer and will only have lasting effect when sustained through prayer.

Our listening and asking prayer at a personal, local and regional level is foundational to the strategy, the effectiveness and the lasting impact of this mission.

The Pattern

When Joshua led the people in battle against the Amalekites, Moses took up position on a hill with hands uplifted before the Lord. However, he required the support of Aaron and Hur, who represent priesthood and people, to maintain his stand. *“Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady” Exodus 17:10-12.*

The writer to Hebrews reminds us that Jesus ever intercedes for us, but it is also clear throughout the New Testament that he invites us - his chosen people, his royal priesthood, *1 Peter 2:9*, to support him in prayer as the armies of your mission go out into the field.

We not only need an army of people on the ground but we need those whom the Lord calls to stand before him in the place of prayer before, during and after the battle is being fought.

This Prayer Pack ...

...is designed to encourage us to be committed, creative, supportive and effective in our prayers for your mission. You may see things old – worth doing again, or new – that you’ve not done before. You may have ideas of your own not found here, then - go for it! - but please tell us about it, so that others can share your ideas too.

Do ask for help if you wish to. If there is any way that you feel you could benefit from support, or advice, or to invite someone to come and share with you in any of your prayer initiatives please contact Through Faith Missions, who oversee the preparations and have experience in relating prayer to mission.

Prayer for the Walk is being coordinated by **(insert the name of your coordinator)**

What is important is that, **however we do it, let’s pray.** Some will pray and also be out there as part of a mission team. Some of us will know that our part is to stand “on the hill” of prayer and keep hands lifted up for our armies until the battle is done.

May the Lord lead you and bless you as we join our prayers

Prayer Tip #1

Join the Network.

Many are standing together with you in prayer. Whether your mission is a single church, a group of churches in a town or villages, or a wider area, get the message out. Making the right connections enables us to encourage one another and to pray together in unity of purpose.

Something to think about:

“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.” Matthew 18:19-20.

Encourage people to join in

It may also be possible to send regular Prayer Bulletins via email. Let FM know if you would like help to set this up. If you don't have email access why not team up with someone who has?

Making it work

The mission Prayer Network will only be effective if we make personal contact and communicate regularly with one another. This is how it works and there are some ideas later in this guide that may encourage and help your praying ...

- **The Individual** - you and I praying wherever we are, when we can and as often as the mission comes to mind.

- **The Group** - being part of a praying group who have agreed to work together in prayer for a specific mission goal or for the mission in your own community. You may perhaps meet together or use the telephone or email.

- **The Area** – Appoint a **Prayer Co-ordinator** for you're the mission or more than one if many churches are involved. Details of how to contact the co-ordinator will need to be publicised. Their role is to assist in any way they can to encourage and sustain prayer

before, during and after the mission. If advice or help is needed to support individuals or groups; or folk want to find more prayer contacts, Prayer Co-ordinators are the point of contact.

Mission Strategy

Make sure folk know what the aims, strategy and programme of the teams is so that they can pray intelligently.

Set up **Prayer Teams** and commission them to do this work

Take Action!

Don't think someone else is doing the job. What action will **you** take to join the Prayer Network?

- When will you do it?
- Who else will you talk to and share this guide with?
- Again when will you do it?

Prayer Tip #2

Survey the Field

Prayer is the beginning of mission and we need to do it with our eyes open, listening to the Lord and at the same time surveying the field of operations so that we have the right strategy for our mission.

Something to think about:

“I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.” John 4:35.

Field Surveys

It is important that in praying for your mission in your area that you work together with all those involved.

Pray with your eyes open. Listening, observing and talking to those around us who have responsibility in the community can provide insights into what is going on in the area. Communicate. Do your best to establish communication with church leaders, mission preparers and those planning local mission programmes. This will inform your prayers and enable you to feedback any wisdom or insights you gain in praying for the mission.

Take Action!

Who are you going to talk to who can increase your understanding of what is happening in your local church and community?

- Discover who is involved in Mission Preparation and planning for your community.
- How can you support them in prayer?
- Who are you going to communicate and share any insights with as you pray?

Feedback can also be sent to admin@throughfaithmissions.org

Some Questions to Consider

Here are some questions you may wish to consider when praying, listening to the Lord and surveying your local community. But consider, what are your questions?

- How would the condition of your locality or community be described? Think about it in various ways such as its governance (e.g. Local Authority, Parish Council); the spiritual atmosphere; environmental and economic conditions; business health; social conditions; use of leisure and so on.

- What initiatives are being taken in your community? Who's doing what and why? (e.g. church, authorities, businesses, voluntary groups).
- What would people in the community like to see changed and how?
- In what ways does this bring about the kingdom of God?
- In what ways can your mission help towards achieving these things?
- What are the mission goals of the church(es) for your area?
- Is there agreement about the desired outcomes of your mission in your locality?
- How will you know when your mission goals are achieved?

Prayer Tip #3

Take the Initiative - Pray!

'We are the people we have been waiting for!' If you are reading this and you're getting stirred up to pray then it's up to you to take the initiative!

Something to think about:

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send?
And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8.

Where do I Begin?

Just begin to pray, now, turn these notes into prayers. The Holy Spirit is with you now to help you and guide you, our part is simply to open our mouths and pray. Your first prayer might be "Help Lord, where do I begin?" It's a cry He loves to answer.

- **Let the Scriptures speak.** Is there a piece of scripture that sums up your community? Half an hour in prayer with a basic Bible concordance can lead us to scriptures in which we can root our prayers.
- **Who's who?** What do you know so far about your mission? Who is involved locally in planning or preparing for the mission? Ask them what they would like prayer for.
- **Take a walk.** You can do this literally or in your imagination. Walk the highways and byways of your community. As you pass by homes or businesses, pubs or clubs, sports centres and playing fields – listen! What comes to mind? Anything can be turned to prayer and remember, Jesus is already praying these prayers - we're simply joining in!
- **Prayer Bulletin.** If there is one use it as a prompt to pray for your area and for the whole mission across the region. If there isn't one, consider starting one so that everyone is kept informed.
- **Find a Friend.** Is there one other person who would be willing to support you by a weekly phone call to encourage you; or to join you in praying. Take the initiative and ask them; it could be the start of something new in prayer!

Take action!

On as many points above as possible ... today!

Prayer Tip #4

Form a Group.

We are the body of Christ and each of us has a unique contribution to make in our praying. Together we find the encouragement to persevere; this is a battle, there's also safety in numbers.

Something to think about:

“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.” Matthew 18:19-20.

Forming Up

- **Existing Groups.** If you are already part of a praying group consider together how you might contribute in prayer for your mission.
- **Starting from Scratch.** Ask one other to join you in prayer. Once you've begun each ask one other, then repeat that with new members. Before long you'll have a significant group. The more you recruit means there'll always be a core available to pray together regularly.
- **Unable to meet with others?** Agree to pray together regularly on the telephone. Even triplets can pray together on the phone using 'Three Way Calling' (contact your phone provider for this service). Or use video calling such as Skype!

Praying Together

- **Time.** Before you do anything else agree how long you are meeting for and honour one another by sticking to that time.
- **Worship.** Jesus taught us first to say “Hallowed be thy name”. Experiment with spoken or sung worship using Scriptures, Psalms, appropriate Poetry, or prose. If you wish to sing you can use Tapes/CD's of songs or hymns.
- **Listen!** Our praying can be much more effective if we have listened first and have a sense of what God has on His heart for the mission in our area. Sometimes we use too many words! Don't be afraid of silence. Embrace it.
- **Focus.** Decide beforehand what your focus will be for that meeting. You may still give time for other matters but having a focus helps us to come prepared and keep

us together. If we don't know how to pray for a particular issue – listen and share your thoughts with one another.

- **Light & Shade.** Avoid being restricted to one topic or style of prayer. Take short breaks for reflecting back. Play a short piece of instrumental music as a reflective interlude.
- **Be Creative** – God is! If you find something that works well share it with the network through your Area Co-ordinator or the Mission Prayer Coordinator.

The Prayer Agenda

See Prayer Tip #3 on taking the initiative.

Ask the Lord to lead you; Let the Scriptures Speak: Invite Prayer requests from those involved; and adapt some of those ideas for use in your group

- **Survey the Field** (see Prayer Tip #2). Work together to survey your community, your district and consider the whole region. Remember your community is a small part of the whole. Feed back to the Walk website anything you feel has wider relevance.
- **Community before Mission.** Focus on praying for the community and let prayers for mission activities and events flow out from that.
- **Take one theme** or mission facet and don't necessarily try to cover everything in one session.
- **Listen.** Ask the Lord how He may want to impact the community through Your mission or related initiatives.
- **Keep a Diary.** Note down key things prayed for and the expected and actual outcomes. Feedback to the network answers to prayer to encourage others
- **Prayer Bulletin.** Produce a localised prayer bulletin for your community and mission activities. Distribute it to everyone you know and ask them to pray!
- **Twin.** Occasionally join forces with another prayer group. Invite the prayer co-ordinator to join you.

Take Action!

What steps are you going to take to become part of a Your mission prayer group? Is there one to join or should you start the ball rolling?

Prayer Tip #5

Walk the Talk.

We can pray anywhere, at anytime. However, praying 'on site' often gives insights and opens up our understanding of what's needed, in a way that praying at a distance cannot do.

Something to think about:

The LORD said to Abram ..., "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you." Genesis 13:14-17.

Where to Go – What to do?

- **On Site.** Surveying the Field (Prayer Tip #2) will have provided ideas of which locations it may be profitable to pray "on site". As the mission plans develop, locations for events or venues for team visits can be targeted for prayer walks or prayer visits. Listen and let the Holy Spirit lead you.
- **Two by two.** Jesus sent his disciples out in pairs and this (perhaps 3 at the most) is a good way of prayer walking. Experience tells us it's better to keep a low profile but if a larger group is involved, stagger your starting times or routes.
- **Eyes Open to Pray!** As you walk keep your eyes open (not only for safety!) There are myriad prayer prompts to see around us, from thanksgiving, to cries for help. If people ask "what are you doing?" be honest, you might get some interesting responses and insights and create valuable opportunities to pray for or with them.
- **On Site Groups** If you want to have a larger 'on site' gathering, seek appropriate permission and tell people what you are doing and why.
- **Go in Peace to Bless.** Abram was told that he was to be a blessing. Jesus taught us to bless not curse, even when faced by our enemies. The Lord sends us out with good news so we are agents of blessing. He is the Redeemer so is able to turn other people's curses to a blessing. If you are happy to pray "off the cuff" do so, or carry some short simple written prayers of blessing you can use. Write your own or use published material.

- **Take Notes.** Carry a small notepad and jot down observations, prayer points, things you are unsure about for later research, things to pray for with your group. Seek support and help from the wider network if you feel uncertain how to proceed.
- **Keep it Simple.** We go in humility, not aggression. Although our prayer is participating in the spiritual battle we are taking a stand as peace-makers, not aggressors. *(see "stand ... and ... pray" Ephesians 6:10-20)*
- **Be who you are.** It's important that we maintain our integrity and pray in ways that flow out of who we are - in relationship with Christ. That doesn't mean we shouldn't step beyond our comfort zone. **"Be who you are but don't remain where you are!"**

Take Action!

Start from where you live or work. Take a short walk around your locality. As you go, listen to the thoughts that go through your mind and turn them into prayers. Decide now when you will do that set a date & time.

Invite someone to join you from time to time or on a regular basis. Share your thoughts and insights as you go. Who will you speak to about this and when?

Plan a more comprehensive prayer walk or develop a prayer walking programme as part of your group prayer activities. Different members may wish to cover different areas. When does your group plan to start?

Prayer Tip #6

Don't Give Up!

It's natural that if we continue in the same cycle or approach to prayer we will grow weary and feel like giving up. That's the time to vary the approach and try something different for a while.

Something to think about:

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” Ephesians 6:18.

How about ...

- **A Prayer Wall.** Create a Prayer Wall. Ask if there's a suitable wall space in your Church or somewhere where people gather to worship or pray. Alternatively create a portable board that can be moved to different locations. Post notices about training events and local plans for the mission. Use 'post it' notes so people can post prayer ideas or prayer requests.
- **Prayer Room.** Obtain the use of a room in church, hall or other suitable location where people can come to pray. Decorate it with maps of your community, the district and the county. Use photos of the area or other visual aids to prayer. Include a Prayer Wall as part of your room layout.

Prayer Labyrinth. This is a development of the Prayer Room and needs a lot more work. Set out a room to show different facets of community life and different aspects of the mission plans. Participants can spend time praying in one or more areas during a visit. It can be opened for a Day of Prayer or longer.

- **A Day of Prayer.** Using the prayer room idea arrange a rota inviting people to come and pray for ½ to 1 hour either on a rota basis or as available. If you don't think you can do 24 hours start with an 8 or 12 hour rota.
- **Prayer Retreat.** A day or more in a retreat location where your prayer team and those involved in the mission locally can spend time preparing in prayer for the mission.

Take Action!

Which of these ideas will you take up in your church or locality?

Prayer Tip #7

Learn from Others.

Why reinvent the wheel? There is a wide range of resources available and we need to choose those that are most useful and appropriate in our context. However here are some that may be of help

Something to think about:

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.” (Paul - 1 Corinthians 11:1)

Resources

www.throughfaithmissions.org has various resources. Have a look.

Books & Manuals

Red Moon Rising, Pete Greig & Dave Roberts, ISBN: 1842910957.

(The story of the 24-7 Prayer Movement)

The 24-7 Prayer Manual, Pete Greig, ISBN: 1842911627

Taking our Cities for God, John Dawson ISBN: 0884197646

(What is God's Purpose for your community (City, town or village)? Praying for God's blessing)

Needless Casualties of War, John Paul Jackson ISBN: 0854768998

(Thought provoking study on the boundaries of our authority in prayer)