

Prayer Refuge:

31 Days of World Changing Prayer

It is said of Jesus that he often arose before daybreak and went off to a solitary place to pray. His prayers were emotional affairs punctuated by loud cries and tears: the heart of the God-man being poured out to heaven. The writer of Hebrews tells us that Jesus was heard not because of the loud cries and tears, but because of the *reverent submission* that they indicated. He filled his priestly role by coming to the Father on our behalf, a habit he still keeps.

In his last hours we were in his prayers. In reverent submission to God he prayed, “*not my will but Yours be done.*” Even from the cross he prayed for those who tortured and crucified him. He not only continues to pray for us, he listens to our prayers.

Though we are not perfect, we come into the throne room with confidence, being covered by Jesus’ blood and appearing before God in the white robes Jesus provided us. We, like our Messiah, confidently intercede for our friends, enemies, governments, leaders, coworkers, children, spouses, etc. We connect with Jesus deeply in the hour of prayer.

Following are thirty-one opportunities for you to connect with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit on behalf of the Owen family, Pioneer Bible Translators, and scores of missionaries scattered around the world.

Go to that place where heaven meets earth, the place the Celtic Christians of another age called the “thin places” where the veil between heaven and earth is torn. With passionate cries and

tears cry out to the Father on our behalf. Ask him to change the face of our world, the face of our generation. Change the world.

NOTES



Day 1— *“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.”* Col. 3:1 Pray that as we begin our month, we will indeed set our hearts on God’s agenda, his majesty, his character. Ask God to keep our hearts close to his as we serve this month.

Day 2 — *“You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.”* 1 Thess. 1:6 Pray that we will so imitate the Lord that those to whom we minister will be drawn to him. Pray that both in the U.S. and abroad, our message will be received with joy in the Holy Spirit.

Day 3 — *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 4:6-7. Pray that we will continue steadfastly in prayer. Ask God to grant us his peace day by day. Ask him to guard our hearts and minds in Jesus.

Day 4 — *“May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.”* 1 Thess. 3:13 Ask God to make us strong in Him and fit for his presence. Ask God to keep our minds and hearts turned toward that Day when He will come with all his holy ones.

Day 5 — *“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.”* 1 Thess. 3:12 Ask God to give us genuine love for you, for our fellow missionaries, and for the people to whom He has sent us.

Afterword

I thank God for you. Thank you for praying through these 31 days with us. My confidence in the success or impact of this venture in faith is deeply rooted in the belief that our Father loves us and delights in our fellowship.

My prayer has been that not only that heaven will be filled with the pleasing aroma of the incense of our prayers, but also that each of us praying through these select Scripture passages will have also been changed by the time, focus, and reflection given to praying.

Further, my prayer is that the fruit of our prayers will be the advance of the Kingdom of God, whether it is where you live or among the Somau Garia people of Papua New Guinea. The vision God has for the culmination of all time is that people from every nation, people, tribe, and language will be gathered around the throne and in front of the Lamb, worshipping. *Every nation. Every people. Every language. Every tribe.* We must be intentional about cooperating with God in this fulfillment of his dream. Prayer is involved in the cooperation. Sending is involved. Going is involved. Being sensitive to the direction of the Holy Spirit as he directs us into our calling, our gifting, His desire for us is vital to the Body working together to fulfill God's dream.

Thank you for investing the time and energy in praying. It is pleasing to the Lord and makes a difference.

Day 6 — *“Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.”* Heb. 3:1 As we close the first week of the month, ask God to keep our thoughts fixed on Jesus. He is our message, He is our center, He is our very life. Pray that His life will be evident to all who are with us, that His name might be lifted high.

Day 7 — *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.”* James 1:2-3 Mission life is filled with trials. Pray that as we finish the first week we will find joy in good times and challenges alike.

Day 8 — *“Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin.”* 1 Peter 4:1 As we begin week two of the month, pray that we will be armed to the teeth in the inner man, i.e., with the attitude that sin has no place in our lives, that we might walk in the Spirit and minister by His power. Ask God to work in his mighty power through us to bring transformation and times of refreshing to those with whom we interact.

Day 9 — *“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”* 1 Peter 5:6-7. Pray that in troubling times, when our hearts are prone to anxiety, that we will remember this word of exhortation. Pray that we will be faithful in casting our anxiety upon him, that we will humble ourselves, that we will look to the hand of our master to lift us up in His time.

Day 10 — *“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”* 2 Peter 3:9 Pray that God will grant us the same patience with others that He grants us. Pray that our hearts will greatly desire that unbelievers will come to repentance. Ask God to fill us to overflowing with His Spirit, that the pursuit of our hearts will be for the salvation of the nations.

Day 11 — *“But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.”* 2 Peter 3:13-14 Promise. He has promised. Ask God to capture our hearts with the promise of a new heaven and a new earth, a home of righteousness. Even as we are captured, pray that we will indeed be found spotless and blameless and at peace—through the blood and atoning sacrifice of Jesus.

Day 12 — *“For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost.”* Luke 19:10. It is easy midway through the second week to be occupied with the daily grind, accomplishing tasks. Ask God to remind us today of *his* purpose—to seek and save what was lost. Ask God to open our eyes to those around us, to grant us wisdom and discernment and sensitivity to what *he* wants us to be about today. Tasks? People? Both/and? Pray also today for those lost ones that God brings into our path, that they will have ears to hear what the Spirit is speaking to us.

Day 13 — *“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.”* Romans 8:1-2 This passage is capital “T” truth for tired minds and hearts. The pressures of ministry build and sometimes our freedom is forgotten. Pray that our Father will remind us today of our freedom, forgiveness, and life: his gift to us in Jesus. Pray that we will be good stewards of these gifts as we pour into others.

Day 14 — *“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.”* 2 Cor. 2:14-15 Thank God today that he leads us in victory. Thank God that he gives each of us grace to spread everywhere the knowledge of Jesus. Ask God to give us his strength and his Spirit to

sus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer.” 2 Timothy 2:3-4 Jesus promised elsewhere that in this life we would have many troubles. Ask God to give us the attitude, strength, and ability to endure hardship without losing focus. Ask God to continually turn our hearts toward our commanding officer, who has given us orders to Papua New Guinea, to translation, to evangelism, to discipleship, to walk in the good works that he prepared in advance for us to walk in. Ask God to enable others to be encouraged or impacted by our willingness and attitude amidst the hardships of life and ministry.

Day 30— *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”* 2 Timothy 3:16 Pray today that God will give us satisfaction in our work, that we are walking alongside Somau Garia speakers to provide them with this God-breathed Word. Ask God to help both them and us to use Scripture for its described purposes, that both they and we will be equipped for every good work. Ask God to bring transformation through the power of his breath, this word delivered to us by his chosen ones.

Day 31 — *“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”* Hebrews 4:12-13 Thank God that his word is powerful, penetrating, and living. Thank God for his faithfulness in laying us bare before his eyes that we may be made fit for heaven; for fellowship with him. Ask God to continually slice the disease from our inner man, that we might be holy before him. Ask God to do the same for those with whom we minister, that their place may beside ours before the throne of the slain Lamb, worshipping with the great throng from every nation, language, people, and tribe.

front those who would pervert the gospel and use it for their own selfish purposes.

Day 26 — *“I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”* Eph. 1 18-19 The month is in its final week. It is easy when tired to feel distracted, to allow things to turn our eyes from our hope. Ask God to remind us today of the hope we have in Him. We are his inheritance and valuable to him. He is looking forward to bringing us to be with him where he is, that we might be like him. Pray that we will not only be encouraged and refreshed in hope, but that we might also encourage and give great hope to others through this word.

Day 27 — *“Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you sine like starts in the universe as you hold out the word of life . . .”* Philippians 2:14-16 Ask God for both mercy and strength for us. Ask that he will grant us the grace we need to live peacefully, blamelessly, and in purity. Pray that our light will shine brightly for Him, that others might know Jesus’ true character and be drawn to Him because of his life at work in and through us . . .

Day 28 — *“For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.”* 1 Thess. 1:4-5 Ask God that, not only in our lives, but also in the lives of those to whom we minister, that the gospel will come with power, the Holy Spirit, and with deep conviction. Ask God to enable us to live in such a way that others will be drawn to Him fully. Ask God to help us to remove barriers in our lives that would distract from his gospel, from his message, from his life and character being known through us.

Day 29 — *“Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Je-*

do so more and more.

Day 15 — *“Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—the is your spiritual act of worship.”* This generation will not be transformed or significantly impacted unless we live sacrificial, holy lives before the eyes of God. Pray that even as we worship God through holy and sacrificial living, others will be powerfully impacted by Jesus alive in us. Pray that Jesus’ name will be revered because Jesus marked out the times and places where we would live—in order that we would find him, but also be living examples, witnesses of his mighty power, love, and salvation.

Day 16 — *“These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.”* Revelation 3:7 It is now the middle of the month. Thank God for his sovereignty and wisdom. Ask God to open a door for our message that cannot be shut. Ask God to close every door that would distract us from running the race He has laid out for us.

Day 17 — *“These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the lampstands. I know your deeds . . .”* Revelation 2:1-2 **He knows our deeds—and the heart that drives the deeds!** Pray here in the middle of the month that both our hearts and our deeds will be found complete in His sight, that He will be pleased with what He sees. Pray that even as we are growing in maturity, in awareness of his presence, in faith, that those we minister to/with will be drawn further up and further in.

Day 18 — *“But if anyone obeys his [Jesus’] word, God’s love is truly made complete in him . . . Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.”* I John 2:5-6 Obedience. Love. Completion. Walk the walk. These are all things that must be present for effective witness to people who desperately need to see Jesus’ life and love lived out before their eyes. Pray for us that we will be faithful to think, breathe, walk, and talk Jesus’ life and the power of his resurrection

at work in and through us. Pray that we will stand. Pray for Somau Garia leaders to fully embrace Jesus' life and to live for and model Him before the eyes of their own people.

Day 19 — *“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”* James 1:5 Not a day goes by that we don't need wisdom and discernment. Ask God for wisdom on our behalf—he who promises is faithful and will give it. Pray that God will give us wisdom not only for the task at hand (translation, discipleship, preaching), but for deeper things like our ongoing relationship with our Father, with one another, with our fellow missionaries, and with the Garia people. Ask God to empower us to live wisely.

Day 20 — *“Kakeri ipaki kanikina, 'Xoiteupo nakau muanum kuna tuku, 'Yeu atapa xokupa sanawapu xuiapue kouneri yeure kunukunuwopineri.' Tinie petua ximiakirouneri wese kakieunuku,' niketai.”* Mark 11:17, Somau Garia translation. This is how the Somau Garia readers read and understand Jesus' blazing rebuke to those who would pervert the purpose of the Temple as a house of prayer. Hard to understand? You bet. Pray for God to give us the daily grace and strength to complete the task: one book down, twenty-six to go! Ask God to remove barriers to the completion of this vital work so that these people might be gathered before the throne, praising the Lamb who was slain in their own mother tongue, Somau Garia. “Xoiteue Kokaipa!”

Day 21 — *“Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.”* 2 Cor. 5:2 Life in this world seems so long and so hard. We face constant trials, hardships, disappointments, and hurts. We are gripped by a heavenly vision and long to be with Jesus where he is, to be like him. Pray that we will not lose sight of that heavenly vision. Ask that as we journey, we will point others to examine that same vision and to long for it.

Day 22 — *“Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.”* 1 Corin-

thians 10:14 The world, the flesh and the devil form an unholy trinity that conspire together to turn our eyes and hearts away from God towards the false gods, the idols, the empty ways of our surroundings. Ask God to protect our hearts when we are tempted to trust in, find comfort in, or pursue anything that draws us away from Him. Ask God to grant us influence and voice to point others to Him for all that we need.

Day 23 — *“Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city.”* Acts 14:19-20 Ask God to give us the kind of pluck and resolve Paul showed here—to take our beatings, the evil intent of those who would (or not) hear the good news, and to boldly proclaim the name. Ask God to fill our lives with boldness and courage to not only stand, but gain victory in Him.

Day 24 — *“At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.”* Titus 3:3-5 It is by His mercy alone that we have life, ministry, anything good. Ask God to help us walk in continual awareness of his matchless mercy. Ask God to give us insight, opportunity, and ability to effectively communicate the depth of His love and mercy to those around us.

Day 25 — *“Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.”* Jude vs. 3 He goes on to talk of those who have turned the gospel message into a license for immorality and denying Jesus (and his rule over us). Ask God to strengthen our hearts so that we may also contend for the faith without fail. Ask God to give us courage to con-