

# SPOTLIGHT

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## A Prayer for Missions

By Daniel Killermanjaro

Heavenly Father,

I thank you once again for surrounding my life with so many blessed and committed Christians that have helped lead me to you. I don't have to think back further than one year to remember when I was living selfishly, with arrogance and in ignorance. Thanks to your provisions and your working through our supporters, by the time this prayer is printed and distributed, thirteen members of your church and I will be on our way to India. The India team has grown so close these last few weeks, obviously since we have been spending so much time together, but also because we are united by a higher purpose. All of us know that we are going to India to do your work and bend to your will. None of us will come back the same.

God you are real, and you are SO GOOD, and you love us all to a degree that we cannot even fathom. When I think back on all the years that I lived in rebellion, my heart becomes so heavy with regret. How many chances have I missed to share with other people the joyful news of your son Jesus? If I had opened my heart to you sooner, how many lives could I have helped to change; how many souls could I have helped save? Did I stumble others when I should have been uplifting? I searched for so long before I realized that I could be nothing without your blessings, and without you in my life I would be without purpose. Thank you so much Lord God for giving me this great opportunity to go to your sons and daughter in India and work to spread the light of Christ to all those living in darkness. Thank you God, for working in the hearts of my friends and family so that they were inspired to join and be a part of our summer missions. Thank you Father, for giving me this chance to redeem

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## Our Haiti Team

By Keziah Kim

My mind was blank. How could I possibly convey everything that I was thinking and feeling in one concise letter? What words could fully describe my desire to go to Haiti for a short term mission trip? "God, I need your help," I cried. Once my support letters were sent out, I waited. One week went by and then another but still, nothing came in the mail. How could I possibly raise \$1500 to be able to go? "God, I need your help. You are the God of provision." That day, several checks came in. And they kept coming in! I recently transitioned into a new job. The normal company policy is that an employee cannot accrue vacation/leave days until 6 months after hire. I was afraid that taking the job meant that I'd have to sacrifice going to Haiti. "God, I need your help. Please make a way. Your way is sure." After emailing human resources about my situation, they, along with my manager made an exception and agreed to allow me the time off to go. That's been the journey so far: God showing me my shortcomings and limits, God teaching me to trust and obey, God proving Himself faithful and true.

One of the greatest blessings so far has been witnessing God actively work through His people. Our Haiti team (along with the India and Mississippi teams) would not be able to go apart from the generous giving of the church and through faithful, prayerful senders. It's amazing to see the entire church body come together for one purpose: to make Christ known. It's like when Paul talks about the church in 1 Corinthians 12 and how the church body has many members but ought to function as one. In verses 4-6 he says, "Now there are

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## Mrs. Ippi

By Yong Lee

So the past few weeks people who'd hear down the grapevine that I was going on missions would ask me about it. And the conversation would go something like this:

Person: Hey I heard you're going on missions this summer!

Me: Yeah I'm going with my church, GNC!

Person: Oh, awesome! Where are you going?

Me: Mississippi!

Person: ...Mississippi? Like the state? In the USA?

Me: Yeah!

Person: ...Oh, ok... that's cool. ....have fun! \*goes home and throws away my support letter\*

I'm totally kidding about that last part. But the general consensus, at least from my experience, is that Mississippi isn't the hottest place to go for missions. For most people, the countries that come to mind in terms of mission trips are India, Nicaragua, China, Haiti, Africa, etc. – basically all places that have few similarities to the USA. Don't get me wrong, I'm not calling anybody out. When my good friend Sharon Ahn told me about her Mississippi trip last year and asked me for support, I couldn't help thinking, "What the heck? Why Mississippi?" I suppose it begs the question – what images come to mind when one thinks of people who are in dire need of the gospel? If I were a betting man, I'd wager that the vast majority of us would see some half naked and emaciated kid with flies buzzing around his somber face.

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*cont. of "A Prayer for Missions" by Daniel Killer-manjaro*

myself for all the years I wasted living in selfish arrogance.

Please Lord, keep the GNC missions teams and all missionaries out in the world safe, and please open the hearts of all the people that we meet in the missions field. I have been so amazed by the support I have received for my mission to India; I know you have called me there God. Lord I know you love the people of India, and it is a country that you have blessed with beauty and wonders. But India is also a place of darkness and great suffering, and there are still many that have not heard the great news. The news that all the suffering and hardships we face are temporary and that eternal joy is available to us because you sent your son Jesus to SAVE us from the deadly wage of our sins. That he rose from the grave, he lives with us now, and will walk with us as we enter the kingdom of Heaven.

You have grown me so much this past year, but I am still a willing slave to my sins, turn my heart again Lord. I promise to make the most of my time in India, and work my hardest and with my heart wide open so that through my body the Holy Spirit might affect the lives of all the people I meet during and after my trip. I don't want to waste any more of my life; Use me God, to proclaim your name to the world and to build your kingdom here on earth.

I pray these things in the name of your son Jesus, Amen †

*cont. of "Mrs. Ippi" by Yong Lee*

But the fact of the matter is, there are people here in the US who are going about and living their ephemeral lives without knowing the good news of Jesus Christ. We know them. We sit next to them on the bus. We work alongside them. Some of us may even live with them. Are these people not also in desperate need of a Savior to wash them of their sins? Over the past few months, as this thought brewed in my head, my initial surprise at the choice of Mississippi as a missions field gradually turned into excitement and heartbreak. Excitement because we are not going on a vacation – we're going to spread the love of Christ and share how His grace has saved us and how there's more of it for anybody else who wants it! And heartbreak because I began to see a small glimpse of the youth of Mississippi as Jesus sees them. As children without a Father. As sheep without a shepherd.

Pastor Jasper Bacon, a Canton, Mississippi native, has this same vision. His ministry, In His Steps, targets at-risk youth and shows them love and care in an attempt to steer them away from a life of violence,

*cont. of "Our Haiti Team" by Keziah Kim*

varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone." I believe that there is power and effectiveness when the church is unified in Christ. Every member of our church body has a unique and vital role and it is God who empowers us to strive together for the expansion of His kingdom.

It's also been a blessing to see God's sovereignty at work. Though we are a team of imperfect people, it is the perfect team because He has brought each of us together. God brought all 12 individuals, each with his/her unique gifts and talents to form a well-rounded whole. I've only barely gotten to know some of my teammates but I can genuinely say that I love every single one of them! The team would definitely not be the same if we were missing any one of them. I mean, who would take awesome pictures if Yosh was not on the team (not to mention, who would I rebuke)? Who would cheer us up with warm, kind smiles if Sam weren't there? Who else would make us laugh 24/7 like Ernie could? Who else would make signs and color and do whatever else you tell him to do as gladly as Steven? Who else could be as caring and serving as the lovely Esther? Who would keep record of our finances and keep our team on track like Helen does? Who else would be as entertaining and amazing at acting out the VBS skits like Nancy? Who else would be as willing to humbly step up and serve in any way like David? Who else would guide us in body worship practice as gracefully and cutely as CC? Who else would bring their artistic talent and abilities to our team the way Janet does? And who could be as fearless and bold like our leader Michael, and keep us grounded in prayer and the Word the way he does? Praise God for His sovereignty! I am certain that He has great plans to use us mightily individually and as a team to bring Himself glory.

We needed much prayer throughout this time of preparation, and as we near our departing date we need your prayers more than ever! I've been reading through the book of John and Jesus reminds us that "apart from me [Christ] you can do nothing" (Jn. 15:5). God has also pressed on my heart the need to pray for unity, as a church and as a team. Our Savior Himself specifically intercedes for us, His followers, asking "that they may all be one...so that the world may believe that you [God] have sent me [Christ]" (Jn. 17:20-21). I believe that our love for one another and our unity as a team will be a powerful witness of Jesus Christ in Haiti. Please also pray that many doors would be open for us to share the gospel and that God would grant our team eyes and hearts of faith to see Him working around us. May we be alert and faithful to His leading, not only in Haiti but even when we come back to our respective communities. †

drugs, and crime, and towards a better future in the arms of our Savior. Through simple programs such as VBS and basketball camps, Pastor Bacon is showing the children that there's an alternate future than the one they're used to seeing. To children whose role models are often older siblings and friends who are drug dealers and gang members, Pastor Bacon is a shining beacon of hope pointing towards a better and infinitely satisfying life in Jesus.

Our team consists of 10 members exactly. We will be partnering with Crossway Church, who is also sending a team to partner with us. Please pray for us in the following ways:

-Our team – for unity in Christ. It's always hard for a group of people to come and work together without any conflict. Please pray that we would be humble servants to one another and also to the people we'll be witnessing to.

-Pastor Bacon & company – Please pray for the Bacons along with any helpers/staff. Their lifework is this ministry, and they too are desperately in need of

our prayers and support. Please pray that God would continue to do great things for His Kingdom through In His Steps.

-The people of Mississippi – Please pray for God to soften the hearts of those in Mississippi. Join us in prayer as we intercede on behalf of the youth of Mississippi, that the gospel message would pierce their hearts. "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." Hebrews 4:12

We as a team can't thank you enough, our church, for mobilizing and enabling us to go on this mission trip. We thank God, since obviously without Him none of this would have been made possible. We trust that though we are simple and foolish jars of clay, the message that we bring will be sowed by the great sower Himself, God the farmer. I mean, the Father.

With love in the Savior, Mississippi Team 2k11 †