

Crafted Prayers for Local \ Insider \ Near-Culture Partners

Local brothers and sisters are not only crucial to catalyzing a movement (98% of existing movements were catalyzed by teams comprised of either all local believers or mixed expats \ local believers), but if we outsiders are doing Kingdom relationships right, they may also become some of our closest friends. Obviously prayer for these dear ones will be shaped by current circumstances and individual needs, but there are a handful of basic areas to cover in prayer that are nearly universal, and also crucially important. This is just a starting point, obviously feel free to add to or edit anything that follows for your own use and benefit!

Passion for Jesus

Jesus, stir in their hearts a deep thirst for You, for connection with You, for time in Your presence. Draw them in close to Your side, help them to listen for and to hear Your voice. Teach them to wait patiently for You, to rest in Your absolute and unshakeable goodness at all times, in all things. Build in them vast faith in Your kindness, mercy, and power. Strengthen them to pursue You faithfully in all seasons of life. Remind them daily of your unchanging love for us, which is based not on what we do but on Who You are.

Inner Healing and Heart Restoration

Gentle Father, we know that so many people in this broken world have experienced so much trauma, loss, and abuse, and we know that this past trauma can be a major hindrance to ongoing discipleship and spiritual formation. So Lord God, we ask that You would gently reveal each and every area of life where these dear ones have been wounded or experienced trauma; bring Your light, but also Your healing touch to every one of those memories. Father, supernaturally reveal to our brothers and sisters that You are able to walk with them into the dark places of their lives, bring light and healing, and then bring them out again. Grant us and them wisdom, Lord, to know when to seek out more experienced help. Show each of us the ways in which the enemy would seek to destroy us through our own roundedness, and help to actively pursue You in our brokenness so that our pain could, like Yours, bring healing to others. Grant all us a supernatural outpouring of discernment and wisdom to know Your heart for each of us, Your passion for the healing, wholeness, and joy that is our birthright in Your Kingdom.

Mercy in Marriage

Lord, You are the One Called Alongside - You walk with us in all the seasons of our lives. In our and our partners' marriages, Lord, we ask for Your mercy and tenderheartedness. Help us and our partners to walk in humility and soft-heartedness toward our spouses. Grow us in humility and faithfulness, and teach us to be quick and joyful repenters. Open our eyes to the ways we can appreciate our spouses, the ways we can be open and vulnerable; show us how You want to work through our marriages to bring greater healing, wholeness, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Teach us to serve out of a heart of godly love, not obligation. Grow us in faithfulness, Lord, and form us through life's daily circumstances, to be a source of strength for one another as we reflect Your immutable goodness and mercy. Father, reveal to each of us clearly the places where the enemy could inject lies into our marriage relationship that could cause deterioration in trust and openness. Show us where we might be tempted to go astray into unhealthy attachments to others, and shock us with a clear picture of how easily we could fall into sexual sin apart from Your presence and grace. Help us to make wise decisions and create healthy boundaries around our marriages so that we would not fall prey to the deception of the enemy and allow him to destroy us and others in this way. Deepen our passion and resolve to fight for one another in prayer, in seeking healing, in becoming instruments of healing in each other's lives.

Compassion in Parenting

Lord, for those with children, soften their hearts toward their children. Help them to see beyond the moment into eternity. Deepen and strengthen their bonds with their children, build bonds of trust that grow out of humility, vulnerability, and repentance. Speak and work through their brokenness - shine through their past wounds to bring healing to their own hearts and to the hearts of the next generation. Grow them into loving families that represent and reflect Your Kingdom in all of its beauty and hope for restoration.

Wisdom With Finances

Lord, we know that many people are tripped up by temptation in the area of money. We ask for a healthy fear of You in regard to handling money and accounting for its proper use. We know that we are not above this temptation either, so help us to seek out help, to put proper boundaries in place, and to model a healthy relationship with money for partners who may be coming out of more financially deprived backgrounds. Help them to live above reproach and to handle money wisely - both their own, as well as the money of others that has been entrusted to them. Help them rightly perceive the traps the enemy would lay for them, and grant them grace to avoid those traps consistently.

Power and Position

Lord, help us to remember at all times that we are servants, not masters. Whether in the beginning or late stages of a movement, form us in humility and grow us in seeking out opportunities to lay our lives down for others. In cultures where power and abuse of power or position is a temptation, help us to mimic your example of humility and service in all things. Help us to see that we are not successful in the Kingdom unless we can freely give power away, rather than keeping it for ourselves. Grow in us this culture of power-giving leadership and partnership that builds genuine community and true equality and partnership in all aspects of our work and lives together.

Vision that Sees Into the Future

Open the eyes of their hearts to see where You are moving, what You are speaking, what breaks Your heart. Grant them vision to understand and rightly perceive how You would have them walk, not according to the dictates of their own perception, but as they rely utterly on Your daily guidance. Broaden their vision for Your desired future, and help them know how to pursue it, and how to spread Your vision to others! Lord, keep us hungry, not easily satisfied; increase our spiritual appetite, grow us as humble learners, and keep growing our desire be increasingly transformed into Your likeness.

Wisdom that Implements in the Present

Lord, help them to take vision of what could be and turn it into clear and measurable action for today. May Your vision for their life not just sit on a shelf - may it be activated, implemented, worked out to the furthest reach and smallest detail. Grow them in discipline and wisdom to passionately pursue everything You put before them, and to kindly ignore everything else. Help them to be singleminded in their pursuit of Your dreams for their lives, and raise up partners for them who can help them along the paths that You are laying out before them.