

Mobilizing Specific, Frequent Prayer (Java Team)

Consistent communication to intercessors at multiple levels is crucial to mobilizing specific, frequent intercession for the work the Lord has entrusted to you and your team. For the purposes of this discussion, we will use the prayer mobilization strategy that has been used by the Java Team for the past few years.

Consistent: frequent and consistent, but not too much. Not too much content (keep text to a minimum) and not too often (every 2-3 weeks in most cases).

Communication: could be in the form of email via MailChimp, Epistle, or Constant Contact, or via WhatsApp Broadcast Groups, or in less restricted contexts, social media like Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter. Consider what you want your intercessors to pray, and how you want them to pray it. The Java Team has found that oftentimes the best way to help intercessors engage (especially the busy ones!) is to state the needs of the moment generally, and then actually write out a handful of prayers (3-5 max), so that readers can quickly grasp the issue or situation needing prayer, and then pray along with the team by simply reading and agreeing with the prayers. Of course, if the intercessor wants to go deeper, they certainly can, but this at least makes it easier for people to read and pray in a simple way.

To Intercessors at multiple levels: Hopefully you have developed (or will develop!) multiple levels of intercessors (read *Prayer Shield* by Wagner for more information on this idea). When the Java Team began sending their broad, ministry-focused prayer updates (called "Island Intercessors") several years ago, they sent them to every team member's update lists, meaning that the same prayer requests were going out to several hundred people. Since that time, the team has employed a WhatsApp broadcast group to convey more personal or more urgent requests to a smaller number of people who have signed up to receive those requests, and also submits prayer requests to a larger organization that mobilizes prayer for Indonesia on a bi-monthly basis, as well as to the Nations Prayer app which focuses on mobilizing prayer for AMI teams.

A few further thoughts on prayer updates:

Keep in mind that many prayer letters are a chore to get through, and many prayer letters mix personal updates with ministry prayer needs. This is not an inherently bad idea, but you might consider separating the two (personal and ministry) for the sake of clarifying your prayer needs.

The Java Team currently sends out family updates (which also touch on ministry, but are longer and more personal in tone) every 3-4 months, but sends out ministry prayer updates (Island Intercessors) every 2-3 weeks.

These ministry prayer updates focus exclusively on ministry needs, are very short (usually one paragraph of intro \ explanation and 3-5 requests which are 1-2 sentences each), and therefore tend to receive a higher level of engagement from more people.