



**CHANGED  
FOR LIFE**

**CONGREGATION RESOURCES**



# CONGREGATION PRE-DECISION PRAYER GUIDE

## Congregation Resources

- ✦ Pray for leaders discerning whether or not to engage in a short-term mission experience.
- ✦ Seek that we might be wise stewards of the time and money God has given us.
- ✦ Pray that we might challenge conventional wisdom (i.e. we always do a trip every year; we have to go overseas to minister).
- ✦ Pray for a relationship to develop that could extend far into the future and where the STM team, host, and partner agency could experience lasting change.
- ✦ Pray for clear motivation and the ability to discern the role we could play joining in the work of God already occurring at the host location.
- ✦ Seek God's direction in what the purpose of the mission trip would be.
- ✦ God desires change in our hearts. Pray for that in the decision-making process.

## Pray through Scripture

*"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"*

(Matt. 28:18-20)

*"It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way."*

(Prov. 19:2)

*"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear."*

(Matt. 13:3-9)

*“Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”* (Eph. 5:14-16)

*“Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith; test yourselves. . . . Christ Jesus is in you.”* (2 Cor. 13:5)



# COMMISSIONING

Congregation Resource

**Scripture:** Joshua 1:7-9

## **Litany:**

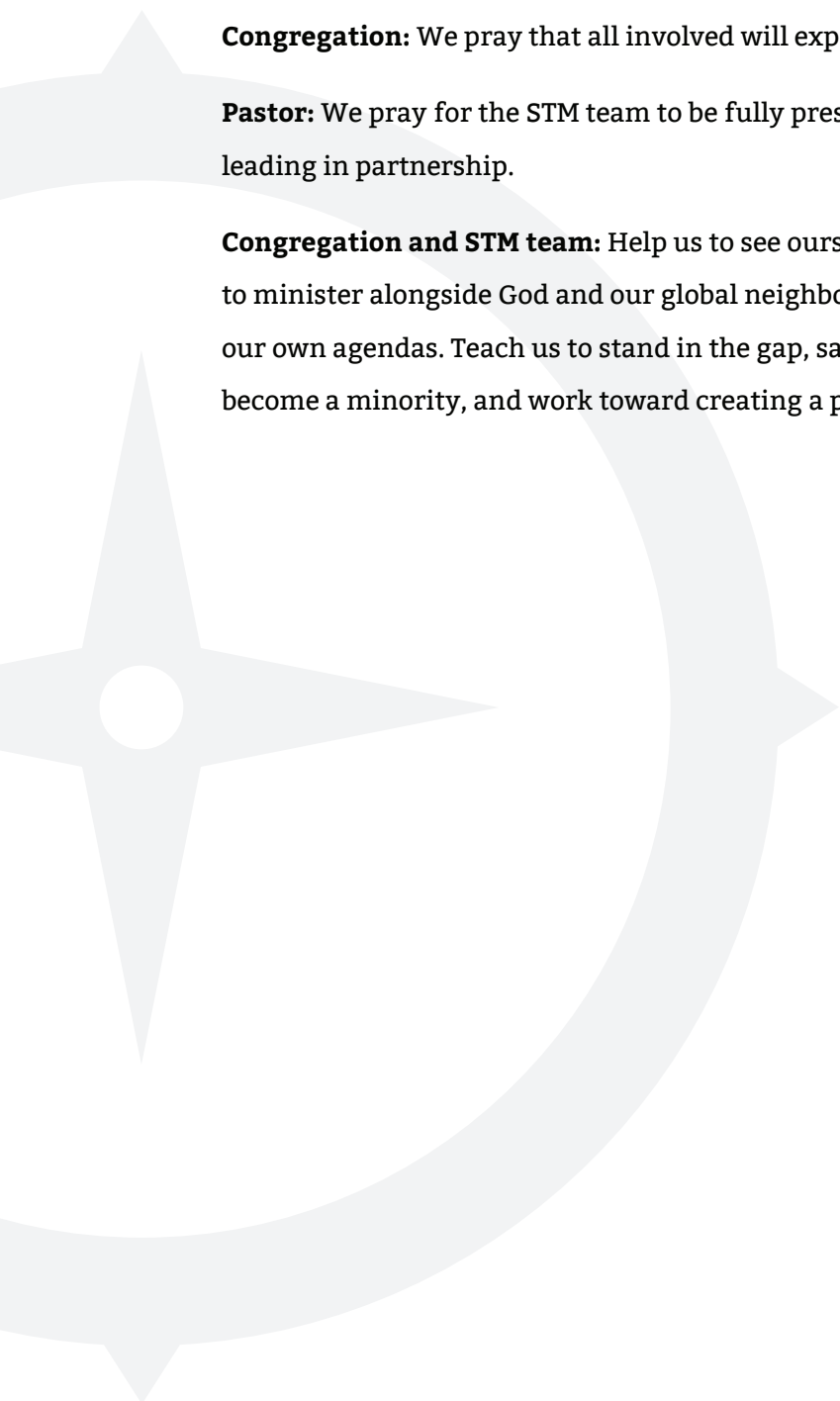
**Pastor:** God, we thank you for allowing us to be a part of your redemptive plan and your work on earth.

**STM Team:** We enter into this mission experience with humility as a part of God's work already taking place in *(name host location.)*

**Congregation:** We pray that all involved will experience life-long change and growth.

**Pastor:** We pray for the STM team to be fully present, poised to listen, and open to God's leading in partnership.

**Congregation and STM team:** Help us to see ourselves and others with open hearts. Prepare us to minister alongside God and our global neighbors in God's great mission. Help us to set aside our own agendas. Teach us to stand in the gap, sacrifice our own self-interest, be willing to become a minority, and work toward creating a peace-filled society.



# PRAYER PARTNERS

## Congregation Resources

STM team participants need encouragement and accountability to truly experience change and growth. Partner each member of the short-term mission team with a congregation member. They will commit to holding one another up in prayer and praying together that all those involved would be changed for life.

### Mission Trip Participant

### Congregation Member

1: _____	_____
2: _____	_____
3: _____	_____
4: _____	_____
5: _____	_____
6: _____	_____
7: _____	_____
8: _____	_____
9: _____	_____
10: _____	_____
11: _____	_____
12: _____	_____
13: _____	_____
14: _____	_____
15: _____	_____
16: _____	_____
17: _____	_____
18: _____	_____

**Mission Trip Participant**

**Congregation Member**

19: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

20: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# PRE-TRIP PRAYER GUIDE

## Congregation Resources

### **Session 1: Changed for Life**

Pray that all those involved with the STM team, the host group or partner agency, and the congregation would be changed for life by the partnership. Ask that the hearts of everyone on the STM team would be open to ministering alongside the work already being done in host location.

### **Session 2: Missio Dei**

Pray that all those involved with the STM team, host group or partner agency, and the congregation would be changed for life by the partnership. Thank God that we can be connected to his work that has been going on from the beginning of time. Pray that God would give the STM team eyes to see what God is already doing in the host location.

### **Session 3: Global Contrasts**

Pray that all those involved with the STM team, host group or partner agency, and the congregation would be changed for life by the partnership. Pray that everyone would grow in the knowledge of global contrasts. Pray that all hearts would be softened by this knowledge and that a passion would move in us to participate in God's work.

### **Session 4: Cultural Intelligence**

Pray that all those involved with the STM team, host group or partner agency, and the congregation would be changed for life by the partnership. Pray for the STM team to be sensitive to their host culture and the people they encounter. Pray that everyone could offer that same respect to the people we encounter in our everyday lives.

### **Session 5: Poverty Is a Reality**

Pray that all those involved with the STM team, host group or partner agency, and the congregation would be changed for life by the partnership. When seeing others' poverty, help us all to address the brokenness in our own lives. Pray for a partnership that might help alleviate the suffering that our brothers and sisters experience globally.

## **Session 6: Poverty and Development**

Pray that all those involved with the STM team, host group or partner agency, and the congregation would be changed for life by the partnership. Pray that the STM team could address poverty the way Jesus did. Seek for justice to be done and for the STM team to understand their role as a partnership with the host group.





# PRAYER GUIDE DURING STM EXPERIENCE

## Congregation Resource

- ✦ Fill out specific dates and requests with team leaders ahead of the trip.
- ✦ Make copies (or send via email and Facebook) of the daily prayer guide for the congregation to join in prayer over the team during the trip.

### Example:

**Pre-field:** Pray for the team leaders as they prepare to lead the team as they travel.

**Day 1:** Pray for safe travel. The team leaves at (time) on (date) and expects to arrive in (host location) at (time).

**Day 2:** Pray for the STM team and the host group to become better acquainted. Pray for hearts to be open to what God wants to teach. Pray for the first day of partnership projects and for teamwork between groups.

**Day 3: (example of a specific request)** Through a team update we learned the area is expecting heavy rain today. Pray that the projects the teams began can continue despite the weather. Pray for meaningful conversations to occur between groups about how we can continue to support one another after the trip.

### Ideas:

- ✦ Share prayers that specifically address what the team will be doing that day.
- ✦ Continually ask that both groups might be changed for life through the experience.
- ✦ If you receive team updates, adjust requests accordingly (weather, challenges, praises, concerns).
- ✦ Continually pray for the host group to be encouraged through the STM team, and for the team to listen to and respect the host group.
- ✦ Pray for STM team members by name and for the host group by name.
- ✦ Thank God for the opportunity to be a part of his redemptive work in the world.

# POST-TRIP RESOURCES

## Congregation Resource

Make space for the STM team to share their experience with the congregation, allowing conversation for how the entire congregation can be changed for life by continued relationship with the host group.

### **Dedicate a service to sharing about the STM experience:**

- ✦ The group could share about the STM experience and introduce the congregation to the host group and its ministries.
- ✦ The STM team could create visuals to share with the congregation.
- ✦ Consider doing a Skype chat with the host group.

### **Consider keeping prayer partners praying together after the trip:**

- ✦ Partners continue praying together for the continued partnership between the two groups.
- ✦ Offer prayer support to STM trip participants to continue using their gifts in the congregation and community.

### **Congregational prayer:**

- ✦ List the top praises and needs of the host group to keep before the congregation.
- ✦ See Prayer List Calendar Resource for additional ideas.

### **Continued partnership:**

- ✦ Share with the congregation how the two groups hope to continue the partnership.
- ✦ Help congregation members find partnership goals they would like to be involved in.
- ✦ Connect congregation members with STM trip members who are leading each initiative.
- ✦ Consider inviting congregation members to attend the STM team's post-trip assessment meetings.

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

## Congregation Resources

Brainstorm ideas for the STM team to find space to minister in the congregation and local community after the trip.

### Examples:

- ✦ A team member enjoyed praying with an elderly community member in Honduras. That team member could be paired with someone from a local nursing home and pray with that person regularly. They could also commit to praying for the host community together.
- ✦ Another team member loved leading worship on the trip. Can you make room on the worship team to welcome that person in?
- ✦ When a local leader talked about farming injustices in the community, a team member thought about it for days afterwards. Is there an advocacy group they could join that addresses labor inequalities?
- ✦ Another team member's favorite memory was making tortillas with a single mother and her three children. Is there a single mom in the neighborhood that could use help cooking one night of the week and would love the company of a shared meal?
- ✦ A team member found great joy in the relationships she built with the children in the host community. Could she teach within the congregation or be paired up in a community mentoring program?

### Serving the Congregation:

- ✦ Where do gifts and interests align with congregational needs?
- ✦ How can you connect STM team members with congregation teams?

### Serving the Community:

- ✦ Where do gifts and interests align with community needs?
- ✦ How can you connect STM team members with community partners?

**Drawing the Congregation in:**

- ✦ Can you share STM team members' stories to inspire congregation members to practice using their gifts in the community and congregation?
- ✦ Are there STM team members who might like to serve alongside a congregational member? Congregational members who would partner well with an STM team member?

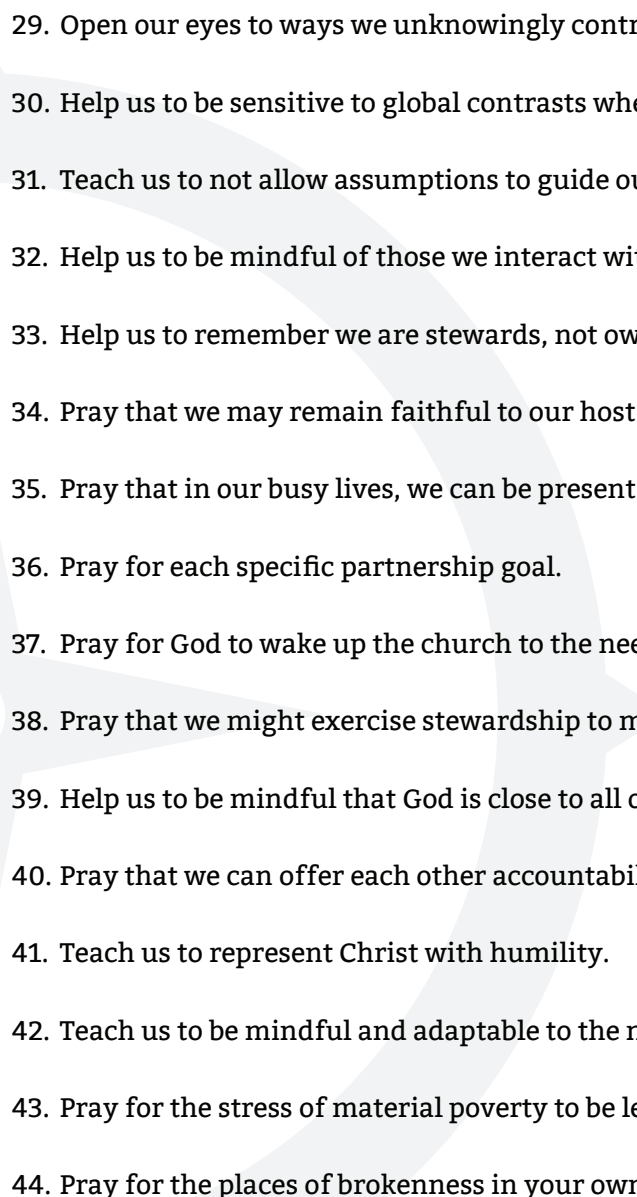


# PRAYER CALENDAR

## Congregation Resources

(STM team can fill in details post-trip on blank calendar template.)

1. Pray to continue to be part of God's mission in the world.
2. Ask God to deepen your congregation's cultural intelligence.
3. Pray for your specific host location.
4. Pray for your specific host organization.
5. Pray for your host's partner organizations.
6. Pray that we might listen and give voice to others.
7. Pray that we might approach mission with humility.
8. Thank God for including us in his work.
9. Pray for the partnership to strengthen and evolve.
10. Pray for goals to be refined and made stronger as time passes.
11. Pray for the people of the host location by name.
12. Pray for discernment in how often to visit.
13. Pray for our gifts to be given freely to the congregation.
14. Pray for our gifts to be given freely to our local community.
15. Help us to stand in the gap beside our neighbors.
16. Teach us to accept supporting roles.
17. Help our knowledge of poverty to affect our everyday actions.
18. Pray for lasting heart change.
19. Help us accept the slow process of growth and be committed to it.
20. Deepen the relationships of our partnership.
21. Teach us to be intentional, thoughtful, and gentle in our mission work.

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22. Thank God for the new things he is teaching.
  23. Thank God for the changes he allows to take place in our hearts.
  24. Show us how to seek justice for the oppressed, allowing them a voice.
  25. Thank God for our hosts and their hospitality.
  26. Thank God that our hosts would allow reciprocal ministry.
  27. Thank God that his redemptive plan continues despite our weaknesses.
  28. Thank God for the diversity of his people and our planet.
  29. Open our eyes to ways we unknowingly contribute to injustice.
  30. Help us to be sensitive to global contrasts when making consumption decisions.
  31. Teach us to not allow assumptions to guide our actions.
  32. Help us to be mindful of those we interact with.
  33. Help us to remember we are stewards, not owners.
  34. Pray that we may remain faithful to our host location and God's mission in that place.
  35. Pray that in our busy lives, we can be present.
  36. Pray for each specific partnership goal.
  37. Pray for God to wake up the church to the needs of the world.
  38. Pray that we might exercise stewardship to make the most of every opportunity.
  39. Help us to be mindful that God is close to all of his creation.
  40. Pray that we can offer each other accountability and encouragement.
  41. Teach us to represent Christ with humility.
  42. Teach us to be mindful and adaptable to the needs of those we serve.
  43. Pray for the stress of material poverty to be lessened through the partnership.
  44. Pray for the places of brokenness in your own life.

45. Pray for the places of brokenness in your own community and congregation, whether they are material, spiritual, relational, or emotional.
46. Pray for the systems that contribute to injustice and poverty in your host location.
47. Pray for peace in your host nation and all the nations of the world.
48. Teach us to be wise with our resources and good stewards of what God has given us.
49. Thank God for providing supporters who contributed with finances and prayers.

### **Recommended Reading**

[Sermon: Building Altars to the Lord, Sidney Greidanus](#)



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