

Sample Prayer Itinerary

Use This as a Guide When You Write Your Family and Friends

Prayer can make the difference between a successful Sister Church visit and one that is flat and lifeless. You **must** have it. You should not leave home without it! It is the lifeline that you will hold on to! This is a sample prayer itinerary that you can share with your family, friends and prayer warriors. Copy and adjust it to fit your particular ministries and schedule. Print it out and send a copy to your supporters and those who have promised to pray for you. Post a copy on your church's missions bulletin board. You may want to include a copy in your church's bulletin the Sunday before the team leaves.

Dear _____,

Prayer is an essential to my trip to Haiti. My team and I are going into a land where the spiritual battle between God and Satan is clearly evident. I know that Satan will do everything he can to disrupt our trip, discourage us and make us feel like failures. He will use everything he can to stop us: plane delays, lost luggage, vehicle breakdowns, flat tires, weather, opposition, illness and even each other. To God's glory, I want to bind Satan's working while we are there. I firmly believe that your prayers will help combat these things. This is a prayer itinerary of where we will be and what we will be doing that day. Use this guide as you pray daily. I've sent it to you so you can pray with specific information.

Friday, March 1 (or whatever is the date of your travel to Haiti)

Today we travel from _____, through Miami, to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and then on to Cayes in southern Haiti on a small domestic plane, arriving late afternoon. The culture shock will be staggering to our team. Poverty beyond anything we've seen, feeling of extreme minority as most all faces will be black and language foreign, and the smells and sounds will not be soon forgotten. The guesthouse in Cayes is "ok", not too bad accommodations for our first night in the country. Pray for our ability to adapt to what we experience, so we can fully engage tomorrow. Of course pray for safe travel, smooth transitions in the various airports, no lost luggage and smooth passage through customs.

Saturday, (date of the 2nd day of the trip)

This is our first whole day in Haiti. We will re-organize, meet as a team and get ready for the trip to our Sister Church after lunch. Pray for us as we begin to encounter the heat. Pray for safety and vehicle integrity (no flat tires or engine trouble!). Pray for our Sister Church as they make final preparations for our arrival. We'll be greeted by people from our Sister Church outside of the village and escorted into town to the church like celebrities. Pray that we will not be afraid to hug and be hugged, to smile, laugh and maybe even cry a bit. Pray that we remember our Creole since now is when we will need it! Our team will see and experience things they have never imagined...mud huts, barefoot people, donkeys as main transportation, people living as they did 300 years ago...and the spiritual battle of Voodoo in contrast with Christianity. Pray for spiritual safety, physical safety, and much wisdom from God as we learn and seek to encourage men and women living in such an environment. And finally, pray that after supper we can sleep well despite all of the excitement and newness of our surroundings.

Sunday, (date of the 3rd day of the trip)

Today we get to meet and worship with our Sister Church! It will be a long day. The morning service will last about 3 hours - there will be many special choirs and groups singing special songs for us, each of us will be greeting the church and _____ will be preaching. After the service, many of our Haitian brothers and sisters will come up to greet us individually with hugs, kisses and handshakes. Lunch will be soon afterward. In the afternoon we will be _____. The evening service will be an evangelistic open air meeting in the town square. We'll be showing an evangelistic film in Creole on a huge, double sided, 10' X 12' screen and giving our testimonies in the intermission. This day pray for us as we encounter the culture full force. Pray again that will



remember our Creole. Pray for good weather and boldness as we reach out and show our love to our new brothers and sisters. Pray that God will open hearts and bring new people to salvation through the open air service.

Monday, (date of the 4th day of the trip)

Today we will be building 12 benches (or whatever your project is). Many Haitian brothers and sisters will be there to help us. After lunch the ladies will be holding the Ladies' Reception. In the evening, we will all be meeting with the pastor and deacon committee. This will be a time of sharing from both sides. Pray for physical strength and energy as we deal with the heat, new food and culture shock. Pray that no one gets sick. Pray that our interactions with our Sister Church and between each other will be loving, patient, and God honoring. Pray that we remain humble. Pray for our meeting with the deacon committee. Pray that we will get to know them and their hearts for God and their community. We want to make sure that we are an encouragement to them in their incredibly challenging task of ministry to such an impoverished people.

Tuesday, (date of the 5th day of the trip)

We'll be working on the rest of the project today. In the afternoon, we'll be having a YouthFest with the young people of the church. That should be an interesting time since they never have get togethers where they have relays and play games like what we have planned. It will be great fun to brighten their lives and encourage them in this way. This area is so rural, arid and seems more like central Africa than a tropical Caribbean island. It's like being on a different planet! There will be a farewell service in the evening. Again, it'll be 3 hours long, with many special songs, words of farewell from both sides and _____ will preach. Pray that the end of the project goes well. By now we will be on sensory and informational overload. Pray that amidst that, we can hear what God is saying to each of us. Pray that we will be able to show our appreciation for their hospitality. Pray for those who have been caring for us while we have been here. They will have given up their beds, sheets, towels, dishes, chairs and many other things to make us feel comfortable. They probably haven't slept well on those hard floors and they are getting up at 3 a.m. each day to start the day's food for the team!

Wednesday, (date of the 5th day of the trip)

Can it be that this is our last day at our sister church? Where did the time go?! After breakfast, we'll be loading up the vehicles. Our new brothers and sisters will come to say goodbye and have a final circle of prayer before we hit that cow path that is called a road. Lunch at the RMI missionary's home will be great - they are serving American food! We'll have a chance to chill out some, use their computer to send an email, and maybe even to make a phone call on their VOIP phone. We go to the Retreat Center about 40 minutes away for supper. We won't mind heading out for this extra trip since this is our place to relax AND it is on the Caribbean! Pray again for travel safety. By this time we will be very tired, yearning for some US culture and food. We may be getting on each other's nerves from having had to live in such close quarters for all these days. Pray that we can continue to be in good health and spirits. Pray that we will be encouraging to the RMI missionaries and national staff. They have cared for us all this time as if we are the only team they have this whole year when in actuality, they have 15-20 teams like ours this year. Pray for these awesome servants of God!

Thursday, (date of the 6th day of the trip)

We will wake to the sounds of the waves crashing on the beach below the Retreat Center. Today is our day to relax, debrief, and reflect on what we have just been through. It is a lot to process and we want to have open hearts. Pray for us as we try to rest, try to gather our thoughts and listen to what God may be saying to us. An RMI missionary will lead us in a debriefing time. In the afternoon, we will be going to the mission center for some tourist shopping and a final meal (I hear they are serving an "all you can eat" steamed shrimp dinner!). Pray that those who are feeling ill will have a chance to recuperate and be ready for tomorrow's day of travel. Quite a bit of emotions will be running through our heads this last day: reactions to all that we've seen and experienced, trying to sort out our feelings, sadness of leaving our new friends in our Sister Church, happily looking forward to getting home to our families, and real tiredness from days of travel and difficult living conditions in what seems like a completely different universe.

Friday, (date of the 7th day of the trip)

Again, we'll be taking the smaller plane from Cayes to Port-au-Prince, then from Port-au-Prince to Miami and from Miami the final leg home. Pray, of course, for good connections etc. as we all miss our families and want to get home. Don't forget to pray for our re-adjustment back to very sophisticated, wealthy, organized, mechanized, high tech America! It will be sensory overload. Our team will be experiencing "reverse culture shock" so please pray that we adjust back quickly in every way.



Saturday, (the 1st day back home)

Even though we all will be waking up in our own beds, please continue to pray for each of us as we re-adjust to life in the US. We will have so much we want to tell everyone. It'll be hard to communicate everything that is on our hearts and minds! Yes, we'll be chattering away with stories, impressions, reactions and things we feel God taught us and what He wants us to do now. Pray that these things will stay with us and the trip will indeed change our lives. We don't want to stay the same! We want this experience to make us more effective in our outreach to the world. We want to also continue to be active with our Sister Church.

Thank you for your prayers. I really appreciate you standing with me each and every day as I have gone through this short-term mission experience. You have had a real hand in what God has done during this week. I know you will be anxious to hear how God answered your prayers. Please feel free to call me as soon as I get home so I can share it with you!

With love,



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