

Becoming a Prayer Warrior for Bible Translation

Roles, Responsibilities, and Expectations
for Prayer Warrior Volunteer Support
at Home and Abroad

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These resources, and others like them, can also be found at:

<https://resources.wycliffeassociates.org/opportunities/prayer-warrior/>

Chapter 1- Why Prayer Warriors?

The Mission of Wycliffe Associates (WA):

Involving people in the advancement of Bible translation.

The Vision:

A Bible in every language by 2025.

Why? Bottom line, we (WA) need God's help, and we need your help to get God's help! Our vision for 2025 is a big, audacious goal, but we serve an even bigger God and with Him *all things are possible!* Prayer is how we ask for, and receive, God's help. The battle is real, and the enemy does not want us to succeed. Prayer is spiritual warfare!

WA recognizes the significance of prayer as revealed in the Bible:

- God chooses to act on behalf of His people according to their prayers (Isaiah 64:4).
- Praying is a matter of obedience (1 Samuel 12:23).
- James 4:2 says, "You have not because you ask not".
- We are weak; He is strong (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- We often know not what to do; He is omniscient (Psalm 139).
- We are limited; He is unlimited (Isaiah 55:8-9).
- God provides the laborers and we are to ask Him for them (Matthew 9:38).
- Without Him we can do nothing (John 15:5); all things are possible with God (Matthew 19:26).
- We are not to be anxious about anything, but instead pray about everything (Philippians 4:6-7).
- The battle belongs to the Lord and we are in a spiritual battle (1 Samuel 17:47).
- The Lord is our helper (Psalm 68:6).

And that's just a hint of why we need prayer warriors. You probably know even more reasons for prayer, which makes you a prime candidate to go to our Heavenly Father on behalf of WA, its people, work, vision, and mission.

Prayer Points to Get You Started:

- Ask God for safe travel for all participants to/from the event as well as equipment.
- Pray all the language groups scheduled actually show up.
- Pray for the families of those traveling to the event.
- Pray for a spirit of unity, love, excellence, joy, cooperation.
- Pray for enough food, villages sending/receiving people, software, computers, electricity, internet, venue, and for rest, health, relationships, etc.
- Pray for God to fill all the translation team members with the Holy Spirit to enable them to do their work well and quickly learn and master the process (MAST, DOT, SUN).
- Ask God to equip them with energy, enthusiasm, excellence, and endurance.

- Pray for significant progress both during and after the event, along with a commitment to complete their Bible translation.
- Pray prayer warriors (on site or at home) are in tune with the Holy Spirit so they will know how to intercede.
- Pray that any plans of Satan would be exposed before any harm can be done, that they be delivered from evil.
- Pray that God will protect the families back home and meet their needs.
- Pray that El Roi, the God who sees, will shine His light on each person letting them know that they are treasured, loved, empowered, and chosen.
- Pray that Jehovah-Jireh would provide whatever skills and resources each translator needs to get the job done, as well as what is needed to sustain their families back home.
- Pray that God is there for each person attending no matter his/her situation or circumstance.
- Pray that Jehovah-Nissi would be the banner over each event and language group represented, that they will rally under that banner and work as a devoted team.
- Pray that Jehovah would be their strength and their song.
- Ask God to bless and multiply the work of their hands (Psalm 90:17).
- Pray many souls be brought into God's Kingdom because of their work.
- Pray for open doors to other language groups without Scripture that hear about the work that is being done at these events.
- Ask God, who gives us all things, to give a Bible in every language present (1 Timothy 6:17).
- No good thing does God withhold from those who walk in integrity (Psalm 84:11). Pray that all walk in integrity and receive a Bible in their language.
- Pray every person in attendance will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord (Habakkuk 2:14).
- Pray for the translation to be completed with excellence and impeccable accuracy.
- Thank God for what He is doing with MAST, SUN, DOT.
- Worthy is the Lamb and His costly sacrifice to have His word in languages at this event (Revelation 4:8-11).

As you read scripture, you will find more ways to pray. God's word is powerful and praying it back to Him pleases Him.

Chapter 2 - Introduction and Pre-Event Preparation In-Country and Home

Introduction to Translation Workshops

MAST (Mobilized Assistance Supporting Translation), Deaf Owned Translation (DOT) and Symbolic Universal Notation (SUN) are the types of translation workshops you may be assigned to support as a Prayer Warrior. Some workshops will focus on the New Testament (typical if there is no existing Bible in that language), others the Old Testament or specific books of Scripture chosen by the local church, and still others on Bible stories. Story-telling is the universal communication tool used by all people groups throughout the world.

What follows is a brief description of MAST and its workshop. A DOT event is similar except that the translation is in sign language and the translation end product is typically captured as video on tablets/laptops. A SUN event differs in that it is a translation using symbols. It is used with the blind, deaf, and deaf/blind people of the world. The “final product” of a translation may be a book, audio or video files, or symbology, depending on the target audience.

The MAST technique is based on proven linguistic principles, enabling native speakers of the target language to create a translation that is both accurate and clear. MAST can be used even with small groups of believers in the most remote locations, opening up a pathway for thousands of new translation projects that would otherwise not be possible for decades to come!

In a MAST event, teams of national Bible translators gather in a workshop setting to collaborate, translating multiple passages of Scripture in parallel, and they check and revise their translation drafts throughout the workshop. The national Bible translators work through an eight-step process of drafting a translation and then checking and editing their translation with their team. Here are the basic steps which are taught and put into place during an event, with an event usually spanning one or two weeks.

Drafting Steps

1. Consume: The Bible translators read or listen to the text being read in the gateway (source) language, typically one chapter.
2. Verbalize: The Bible translators describe to a partner what they have just read/heard, using their own mother tongue.
3. Break into Chunks: The passage is broken down into smaller, workable sections, called chunks. This is usually two to four verses.
4. Blind Draft: The Bible translators each take a chunk of their chapters and draft their translation of that portion without looking at the source text or any other resources. It is a thought to thought translation exercise, not a literal word by word, for increased comprehension.

Checking Steps

5. Self-Edit: The Bible translators open their source text and check their own blind draft for completeness and accuracy, making any necessary changes to the draft. Here they may also consult other resources, like translation dictionaries or commentaries, if any exist in the gateway language.

6. Peer Edit: The Bible translators trade portions and check each other's work, suggesting edits or changes to the translator of that portion.
7. Keyword Check: The passage is checked to confirm that the meaning of each keyword (including abstract spiritual terms and biblical and geographical names) is clearly represented in the translation of that portion.
8. Verse-by-Verse Check: The Bible translators work together as a team or in pairs, using whatever resources are available to them to go through each verse, systematically checking to make sure that every aspect of the original source text is represented in the translation.

After the book is complete, the translation (draft) is taken through further checking steps with the community of other speakers of the target language and with leaders of the local churches. Final approval of the translation is given by the local church.

Initial Preparation

Who are the translators (generally) and what are the challenges they typically face? National Bible translators is a fancy sounding term, but it encompasses people from all walks of life: pastors, factory and farm workers, tribal leaders, business people, and just about anyone with a heart for God and the skills to communicate in their native language as well as a "gateway language." A "gateway language" is a second language which is spoken by the translation team members and which also has a Bible translation available to be used by the translation team at the event. It is their source text.

The National Translators face many potential challenges: they may be traveling a greater distance than ever before, may experience new cultures at the event, find themselves away from family longer than before, deal with new (to them) technologies, and meet with active persecution, government opposition, and interference from outside sources.

Who is the Point of Contact (POC), who are the key players for your event, and how should you communicate with them? The POC will be your stateside Prayer Coordinator if you are supporting the Translation event from home. If you are attending the event your Recruiter will provide the POC (most likely the WA regional coordinator for that area, or someone working closely with that person). They, and your Recruiter, will be helping you with all of your travel details.

Guiding Your Prayer Team

One of the qualities your Recruiter looks for in identifying excellent candidates for Prayer Warrior is regular participation in group prayer. The expectation is that each Prayer Warrior has invited their prayer partners to join them in praying for the translation events, becoming their Prayer Team for the event. You will pass on information from your POC, as well as add your own holy-spirit led encouragement, following the security guidelines provided by your Recruiter, to your Prayer Team.

Prayerful Preparation

Make certain you have made time in your schedule to make this a regular part of your daily routine for the next few weeks. Begin to integrate it into your daily routine now so that it is not a challenge as the event draws near.

Keep your spiritual oil full so your lamp won't go out! Gather scriptural references relevant to the task and situation at hand. Make certain you apply the full armor of God every day, that you have cleaned house spiritually and removed obstacles between you and God. There are a number of prayer-focused

resources in the Appendix, please take a look at them and spend time getting yourself ready spiritually. You might also consider some form of fasting prior to, or during, the workshop.

Gain familiarity with country of event, the language, people, political climate and the location. Research via news outlets as well as Operation World, Joshua Project, etc.

Plan to begin coverage for pre-event prayer needs a week or more from the start of the event, maybe even as soon as you are assigned an event, and extend that coverage several days post event to cover travel home and workshop wrap-up work. It typically takes months of preparation to get to a workshop so there is no such thing as starting too soon.

Consider how you will continue to prayerfully support the translation work once the event workshop concludes. Remember that the majority of the translation team's work occurs **after** they return home. There they are prone to falling back into their daily, pre-workshop routines and often will not have the group interaction and encouragement that was present at the workshop. They will need to draw upon their relationship with Christ to gain the strength and resolve to continue the work they have begun, and your continued prayer support will be critical to their accomplishment of the task.

Remain flexible – we have an enemy who doesn't want to see us succeed and throws all types of curve balls at us, so expect last minute changes.

Chapter 3 - Event Procedures and Expectations – In Country, On Location, Support

Overview

Prayer needs vary as the event progresses – the first day or two often present lots of confusion and uncertainty for the translators as they are exposed to the translation concepts and steps. It can often seem daunting and overwhelming. Not only for those with limited formal education or who have been out of a school situation for many years, but they are representing their village, church, and people group, often for the first time in their lives, and feel a very real burden. Usually by the third day the translators have really caught on to the process, but then they begin to transition to stress about the physical tools (laptops, tablets, or other media capturing devices) and capturing/reporting their work properly.

Confidence for the translators: pray they realize they are equipped spiritually and can grasp the work and can use the tools and follow the processes. Pray they trust God for their family's safety while they are away so that they can focus their time and energies on the translation workshop and generating a product of excellence.

Facilitator/Leader challenges: building relationships with, and within, the team, event logistics, finances, travel plans, outside disruptions such as political unrest, and sickness within the team are just some typical complications which will require prayer coverage. Pray that they communicate effectively, lovingly encourage, and teach with excellence the entire process. It is not uncommon for even the facilitators to need to use translators to communicate with the translation team members. Once the workshop is complete, the translators often return home and teach what they learned to more volunteer translators at home, so it is very important they gain a thorough and accurate understanding of all the concepts presented in the workshop.

Prayer Warrior challenges: For those going to the field be culturally aware of your acts and actions – the Western way is not the only way, and may not even be an acceptable way in that culture. If in doubt – ask! Take a look at the various worldviews on the WA Resources website and see if you can identify the one(s) prevalent at your workshop location. [Eight Worldviews](https://resources.wycliffeassociates.org/additional-resources/culture-preparation/)
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Spiritual warfare is real and will be a regular part of your in-country work. You might consider reading *Slaying Dragons* by Daniel Kolenda. He is currently the leader of Christ 4 All Nations. It is very helpful in understanding the importance of binding the evil spirits that operate in the area where the event is being held.

Be sensitive to cultural norms concerning communication and interaction with the opposite sex! Offering greetings, hugs, eye contact, crossing legs, exposing the soles of your feet/shoes and even eating habits are all areas ripe for potential pitfalls. Be sure to ask your on-site leader/coordinator what to do and not to do so you can effectively, and almost seamlessly, integrate with your new team. Learning, and using, a few words and gestures of greeting in their language is always a great idea.

Daily Routine

Remember where you are. Consider the safety and travel precautions for your location.

Daily devotions. Don't let the distractions of a new location, culture, time zone, etc. keep you from your daily, personal time with God. You need to armor up every day, for your protection as well as the benefit of the translation team.

Keeping a Journal throughout your day can be helpful for capturing the day's highlights, allowing you to succinctly and efficiently communicate with your home prayer team any immediate needs. It is also an invaluable resource for post-trip reporting and sharing your experience with others once you return home.

Consider a prayer walk of the exterior of the event space/location, when safe, and cover the event space itself prior to the start of each day. Plead the blood of Jesus, or Psalms 91, over all participants, the people involved in these events, their families and their work.

Conduct proactive spiritual warfare throughout the day. Be discreet and not distracting. Be aware to not draw attention to yourself, especially outside the event space. Remain aware of the participants' mood and morale and build relationships with the participants by being friendly, supportive, and loving.

Once the event begins, seek input and feedback from the team lead on topics such as prayer needs, integration with the group, issues and challenges with the event/location/participants, etc.

Regularly email your home prayer team on prayer needs/victories, but remain vigilant that you do not share details (e.g. specific location, people group) which could endanger the workshop or the translation team. Bible translation and Christianity are often not welcome in many cultures and locations!

Be willing to assist in facilitating the event if asked, but not to the detriment of your prayer assignment. You are standing guard over the work being accomplished by the translation team, they need you watching over them, and the Kingdom needs the fruit of their labors!

Potential Services of a Prayer Warrior: only at the request of the team lead— maintain a humble servant mentality! All of these have cultural implications so be supportive, not demanding.

- Leading Devotions
- Leading Worship
- Sharing Testimony
- Conducting Group Prayer
- Preaching/speaking, either briefly during the event, or at a Sunday service pre or post event. This is often expected of visitors to a local church so it might be wise to be prepared should you be asked.
- Offer Individual Prayer – maintain confidentiality!
- Be available – engage with the translators and let them know you are there for them. Be around so it is easy for them to come to you with any prayer requests.
- Be discreet – some may request prayer for personal matters unrelated to the event and these should be treated with the utmost respect, sensitivity, and confidentiality.

Chapter 4 - Event Procedures and Expectations

– Support from Home

Overview

Prayer needs vary as the event progresses – the first day or two often present lots of confusion and uncertainty for the translators as they are exposed to the translation concepts and steps. It can often seem daunting and overwhelming. Not only for those with limited formal education or who have been out of a school situation for many years, but they are representing their village, church, and people group, often for the first time in their lives, and feel a very real burden. Usually by the third day the translators have really caught on to the process, but then they begin to transition to stress about the physical tools (laptops, tablets, or other media capturing devices) and capturing/reporting their work properly.

Confidence for the translators: pray they realize they are equipped spiritually and can grasp the work and can use the tools and follow the processes. Pray they trust God for their family's safety while they are away so that they can focus their time and energies on the translation workshop and generating a product of excellence.

Facilitator/Leader challenges: building relationships with, and within, the team, event logistics, finances, travel plans, outside disruptions such as political unrest, and sickness within the team are just some typical complications which will require prayer coverage. Pray that they communicate effectively, lovingly encourage, and teach with excellence the entire process. It is not uncommon for even the facilitators to need to use translators to communicate with the translation team members. Once the workshop is complete, the translators often return home and teach what they learned to more volunteer translators at home, so it is very important they gain a thorough and accurate understanding of all the concepts presented in the workshop.

Communication Challenges: Regular communications from POC on the team progress may be sparse. It is just a part of long-distance support and a challenge we must accept. The in-country lead may not speak English, communication channels may not be readily available, and they may not make progress reports a priority. You have to be pro-active in raising the banner and interceding for the team as led by the Holy Spirit.

Daily Routine

First and foremost, do not neglect your personal devotions!

Consider a virtual prayer walk of the event space/location each day. Although you are not there physically you can imagine the location, and maybe even identify a physical map location, and you can walk around it in your mind covering the facility and community where the workshop is being held. Be aware of the time zone in which the workshop is being conducted and pray specifically before the start of their day.

Conduct proactive spiritual warfare throughout your day. Lift up the participants' moods and morale, encourage them in the Spirit to be confident, trusting in God and the gifts He has given them. Pray for peace and provision for their families at home so they can focus on the work to be done, and for their own rest and strength. Refer to the Prayer Points outlined in Chapter 1.

Email your prayer team any needs/victories, and provide them guidance on how to pray for the event. Consider fasting during the event, and invite your prayer partners to do the same. Conduct Group Prayer time/worship, if possible, with your prayer team.

Chapter 5 - Post-Event Support

Your assigned translation event has just concluded - are you wondering what now? Fear not, there is more to be done!

Pray for safe travels home for the translators as well as all the facilitation team, for post-event reporting, and successful wrap-up of all loose ends.

Pray for the remaining translation work to be completed in a timely manner and for the team to remain focused, as well as for the translators to overcome any technology challenges (their work has to be uploaded to the WA servers on a regular basis).

Pray for the translation team to grow in size by recruiting and training new members while retaining all trained translators.

Pray for effective community checks and that they are completed in a timely fashion, that the product goes smoothly into publication, and is distributed to the target peoples.

Event Summary

It is very helpful to WA for their Prayer Warrior to write up a post-event summary of their experience. Please describe what it was like for you, answered prayer, how you saw God at work, how you were personally impacted by this volunteer assignment, recommendations you may have to prepare future prayer warriors, or other observations and impacts. Did it instill in you a new calling, give you a new appreciation for bible translation, or otherwise bless you in some identifiable way? Please share your experience with your POC so we can rejoice with you in the accomplishments and work done by the Holy Spirit, and can continue to improve our bible translation efforts. Your efforts are truly appreciated and we want to celebrate together!

Acronym List

DOT	Deaf Owned Translation
MAST	Mobilized Assistance Supporting Translation
POC	Point of Contact
SUN	Symbolic Universal Notation
WA	Wycliffe Associates

Appendix

1 - Spiritual Warfare in Prayer for Onsite Translators

Fourteen Suggestions for Effective Onsite Warfare Prayers

When one is found invading Satan's territory to translate the Scriptures into the heart language of a previously unreached people group, one must expect Satan and his demons to resist the efforts in any way possible. There are all kinds of ways that Satan will resist your efforts. These include fear in the translators, natural disasters, discouragement, direct or indirect confrontation by unbelieving people in the group, dissension among the translators, governmental interference and others not yet named. So, before starting a translation project, it is crucial that the effort be covered in prayer to learn of God's perspective on what will happen and how **He** will pull this off.

1. Recognize that this translation project is God's project. You may be the instrument that He is using, but He is in charge. His heart breaks over people groups that don't have access to the Word in their own heart language. So in your prayers, tell Him that You recognize He is involved in this project. He's the project director, you are just the worker. So when it is all done, He will get the glory for the translation as it survives in the people group going forward.

2. Know that you are praying in response to His command to pray. There are many places in the Bible that command us to pray. Here is one from Jesus. *"Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart..."* Luke 18:1. Since God commands it, we must pray wholeheartedly!

3. As one enters into prayer, recognize that you are entering into a battle in the spiritual realm. The battle is *"...not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."* Ephesians 6:12. Can you in your mind and earthly understanding battle those spiritually evil things? No, instead call upon Jesus who has already battled those things and won the victory for us. Since He lives to make intercession to the Father for us, He will help us with this battle. Implore Him to make a way in this battle for success in providing the new translation to the targeted people.

4. Gather the team involved in the translation together to hear your prayers. There may be some who can pray along with you, and some that have no experience in these things. But all of them need to hear the cry of your heart to the Father and Jesus for the benefit of the translation work. Be prepared to read aloud passages of Scripture that the Lord brings to your mind for the benefit of the team.

5. You have been briefed on what to expect in the translation project. As you pray, pray through and about all of those expectations. Pray the good ones be accomplished in the Spirit. Pray the bad ones be banned from this project. In Jesus' name!

6. The land into which this translation is to be introduced has probably been defiled by ignorance, evil, and/or wickedness, and has belonged up to this point to the kingdom of darkness. Pray a prayer of repentance for the inhabitants of the land for their part in that, and for the Church in not spreading the Word of Truth to this place earlier in history. In doing so embrace the intention of the project to bring the Word to these people at this time.

7. After this repentance, cry out to God to bring the land and its inhabitants to salvation. Enter into this prayer wholeheartedly. Travail (work hard) in prayer for these peoples who have never experienced God's full salvation. Beg God for His mercy to fall upon them and show them His grace and love.

Travail until you have received a release from God. You will sense this in your spirit. Then your prayers will be prayers of peace. Remember, you are in the struggle for these people's souls and eternal destiny. This is not to be taken lightly. Pour your whole mind, soul, strength, and spirit into this prayer.

8. Once a release has been obtained, thank the Lord for the victory. Begin to praise and worship Him in word and song as you are led. Remember Paul and Silas singing praise and worship to God in the Philippian prison and the resulting earthquake that resulted in the salvation of the prison keeper and his entire family.

9. As this area has been enslaved by the kingdom of darkness, it will no doubt have a territorial spirit assigned by Satan (see Daniel 10). As a part of your travail, ask the Holy Spirit to break his authority as a part of the prayer for salvation, so that the gospel will have free access to the land and its people.

10. Lands under the influence of the kingdom of darkness might have persons who act as channels to the spirit world for the people. Don't pray against that person or any other person, but pray for them and against the principalities and powers that enslave that person. See 1, above.

11. Once a breakthrough is obtained (i.e., a release from travail), you may be used as God's instrument to perform prophetic acts (miracles) to keep the project moving forward. Don't use those to draw any attention to yourself. Remember the source of the miracle is God, not you. Refocus attention for the act onto God, for He is validating His Word and the gospel, not you and your part.

12. Declare to the people a prophetic proclamation that the breakthrough against the spirits of the power of darkness has been achieved. Don't do this unless you know in your spirit that it is true. Proclaim that we are now free to accomplish the aim of the project. Explain that it is God's purpose to have all of His word into the hands of the people group, in their heart language, so that they may understand it and be blessed by it!

13. Pray that God's purpose for this land might be restored. Everything in God's universe has a purpose, and that includes this land and its people. Whatever darkness is present, speak light into it. If death, speak life (1 Corinthians 15:54). If fear, speak power, love, and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). If pride, speak a humble and contrite spirit of repentance (Psalm 51:17). If witchcraft, speak freedom and a spirit submissive to God (1 Peter 4:6-7).

14. Continue with worship and praise to God for His fulfillment of the good things spoken. All things listed here may not happen in exactly the same order as listed. But as you enter into spiritual warfare for your project, know that the victory has been won by Jesus and so we can expect that victory to manifest itself as we prepare for the work ahead. Once we have the correct understanding and we bring our whole being in line with that understanding, God can use us to accomplish His will. Praise Jesus.

2 - Fifteen Spiritual Warfare Scriptures

1. **Deuteronomy 28:7** The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.
2. **Isaiah 54:17** “No weapon that is formed against you will prosper; and every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their vindication is from Me,” declares the Lord.
3. **Zechariah 4:6** “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord of hosts.
4. **Matthew 18:18-19** Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in Heaven.
5. **Luke 10:19** Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.
6. **John 10:10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
7. **John 16:33** I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.
8. **Romans 8:37** In all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.
9. **1 Corinthians 15:57** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
10. **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
11. **Ephesians 6:11-17** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rules, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

12. **2 Thessalonians 3:3** But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.

13. **James 4:7** Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

14. **1 Peter 5:8-9** Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith.

15. **1 John 4:4** You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

3 - The Whole Armor of God

In the midst of spiritual warfare, the single most powerful weapon is ... PRAYER

Pray the promises of God's Word:

Lord, we pray for national Bible translators living and working in the midst of spiritual warfare. We recognize that the enemy is real and translators face real dangers, both spiritual and physical. We lift them before you, Father, entrusting them to your care and keeping. We pray you will encourage them by your Spirit and fortify them for the work to which you have called them. Interrupt any work of the enemy that would hinder their mission and the advancement of your Word in the world.

God, I know that I, too, am engaged in spiritual warfare as one supporting Bible translation. So I pray all these protections for myself and my loved ones as well.

Father, I trust in the truth of Ephesians 6 and pray that our Bible translators will put on the whole armor of God – even as I declare that I also am putting on the armor of God!

- The belt of truth* – protection from lies, misunderstandings, and confusion, which the enemy uses to infiltrate our lives.
- The breastplate of righteousness* – protection from temptation to sin, tactics deployed by the enemy every day!
- Feet fitted with the gospel of peace* – protection against strife, contention, and disagreement, which can so easily sidetrack us in our walk with God and our work for the Lord.
- The shield of faith* – protection against doubts and discouragement, which can undermine our spiritual lives and our contribution to the kingdom of God.
- The helmet of salvation* – protection against insecurity, feeling that God can't use us, that we're not worthy or capable when, in fact, we are more than conquerors through Christ!
- The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God* – our only offensive weapon, our spear, our standard for truth!

4 - Praising God as Spiritual Warfare

Praising and worshiping God in church services is common in the church of Jesus Christ. Individuals gather together and sing songs of praise and worship, sometimes with great energy and other times in a more solemn tone. It is all supposed to be directed to Him, but sometimes is just sung like people singing a popular song together. But if praise and worship is to be used as spiritual warfare against Satan and His demons, it must be directed to God with a fervent expectation that God will intervene and do something miraculous.

Do you want to prepare to do this when the congregation gathers together? Then practice it every morning as you have your devotions and prayer time. Don't just make it a habit, but really bring heartfelt praise to God through your singing. Then, when you and your congregation come together, all the voices can be joined together in unity and directed toward Him.

So what is praise? We praise people for their good works, and God's good works are so much greater than anything a person has done. We can adore Him and worship Him because of who He is and what He has done. If you don't know much about Him, dig into the Word to see all the things that He has done to be a blessing to His people and a just judge to all who walk in this world. Praise Him for His goodness, His love, His character, His mercy, His power, His omniscience, His omnipresence, His justice, His joy, His peace, His patience, His kindness, His gentleness, His faithfulness and His self-control in dealing with His creation. Tell Him that for all these things and for loving us before we loved Him that He is worthy of praise, honor, glory and power. And, on top of all of that, thank Him for who He is and what He has done. Give specific examples as you thank Him for life and events in it. There are all kinds of ways to praise Him, be it spoken word, singing music, lifting up hands, bowing, taking a knee or even lying prostrate before Him. The point is not the form of the praise and worship, but the heart's intent in coming into His presence with thanksgiving in our hearts and praise upon our lips.

If you can't think of reasons to praise Him, consider these passages from scripture.

1. ***Praise is the natural result of being in the presence of God.*** Job, after the LORD appeared to him, praised Him in Job 42:1-6. Solomon praised Him when the temple was dedicated and God's presence filled it like a cloud, so that they all had to stop and just worship the LORD, 1 Kings 8:12- 53. Isaiah witnessed the Seraphim praising the LORD as He sat on His throne, Isaiah 6:1-5. John witnessed the elders around the LORD's throne praising Him, Revelation 4:8-11.
2. ***God lives in the praises of His people.*** Psalm 22:3, *Yet Thou are holy, O thou who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel.* Zephaniah 3:17, *The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love, He will joy over thee with singing.*
3. ***Therefore, praising Him gives us access into His presence.*** Psalm 100:4, *Enter His gates with thanksgiving, And His courts with praise, Give thanks to Him; bless his name.* Psalm 134:1-2, *Behold, bless the LORD, all servants of the LORD! Lift up your hands to the sanctuary, And bless the LORD.*
4. ***Mankind was created to praise God.*** Isaiah 43:21, *The people whom I have formed for Myself, Will declare My praise.* Ephesians 1:4-6, *In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*

5. **God's people are born again for praise.** Psalm 102:18, *This will be written for the generation to come; That a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.* 1 Peter 2:9, *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*
6. **God delights in the praises of His people.** Psalm 149:1,3-4, *Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, And His praise in the assembly of the saints ... Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp. For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation.*
7. **God is worthy to receive praises.** Revelation 4:11, *You are worthy, O LORD, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.* Psalm 29:1-2, *Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD that glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.*
8. **God commands it in the Scriptures.** Psalm 34:1,3, *I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. Oh magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together.*
9. **Jesus gives us instruction to praise Him in the Lord's Prayer.** Matthew 6:9, *Our Father in heaven, Hallowed by thy name.*
10. **Praise is the God-given garment in exchange for a spirit of heaviness.** Isaiah 61:3, *...The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness...*
11. **Praise given results in faith.** Romans 4:20-21, *He (Abraham) did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.*

The power of God is released against His enemies when His people praise Him. In spiritual warfare, praising God is a weapon that can be used to bring victory or deliverance. Praise in unison by many intercessors moving by God's command brings victory or deliverance.

Here are three examples:

1. Joshua 5:14-15 through 6:2. *So He (Jesus, preexistent Christ) said, "No but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so. Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. And the LORD said to Joshua; "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor."*
2. Judges 7:15. *And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, "Arise, for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand."*
3. 2 Chronicles 20:21-22. *And when he had consulted with the people, he (Jehoshaphat the king) appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever." Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.*

Always be prepared to praise the Lord, no matter how dire the circumstances may seem; for you are on His mission and doing His bidding.

5 - The Victorious Prayer Warrior

When you hear the term, “prayer warrior,” what pops into your mind? Is it a picture of a Roman gladiator decked out with a large shield and an enormous sword? Do you see in your mind’s eye a petite grandmother with grey hair, dressed in an old house dress with her Bible open on her lap, quietly praying? It is my hope that after reading the first two documents, when you think of the term prayer warrior you see a picture of yourself looking into a mirror.

The term prayer warrior infers that we are going to battle in some way. Let me point out that we are in a battle; but we must know that the war we are fighting in has already been won. As a follower of Jesus Christ, **we fight not for victory, but rather from victory.** We not only apply the righteousness of Jesus but also the authority of Jesus, along with the victory He won conquering sin and death.

The ultimate war was fought on the cross of Calvary and in the tomb where Jesus was laid on Good Friday. Once Jesus was raised from the dead on that first Easter Sunday morning, the sting of Satan (sin and death) were defeated. Hebrews 10:12 (NLT), *But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God’s right hand.* Matthew 28:17-19 (NLT), *When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted! 18 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

Understanding that, we fight for the souls of men and women who have yet to know the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and for our own flesh that continually wants to rebel against the holiness of God. We are then ready to take that fight to the enemy that desires to limit our effectiveness in the kingdom of God.

A prayer warrior is a follower of Jesus Christ who first and foremost has asked the Holy Spirit to search his or her heart. Psalm 139:23-24 (NLT), *Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 Point out anything in me that offends you and lead me along the path of everlasting life.*

I remember sitting in my office with a young man offering this same piece of advice. His response to this was, “*Pastor, I am to do this every day? I know what 1 John 1:9 says so I know He is going to forgive me; so why take time to confess my sins? He knows I am sorry.*”

Why Confess Sin?

We confess sin because in doing so we are agreeing with God and accepting His principals and purposes for our lives. As we make the act of confession we are also disagreeing with the enemy and declaring war on our flesh. Confession of our sins is an act of humility with the understanding that our sin offends our holy God and in doing so we are agreeing with His desire that we are to be like His Son Jesus. Jesus is righteousness and as we confess our sins, take a look at what takes place in our lives spiritually. 1 John 1:9 (NKJV), *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* Notice the verse says that we are to take the initiative to confess our sins *before* they are forgiven. Jesus was the only human being who walked upon our earth without sin. We too, can be like Him; but only by going to Him for His righteousness: We do not have any righteousness on our own merit. Consider this passage from Romans 3:9-11 (NKJV), *What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. 10 As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.*

Once we have confessed our sins, we are then positionally in the spirit realm ready to do battle. The book of James tells us in chapter 5 that the prayers of a righteous man are powerful and effective. Notice it does *not* say the prayers of a good man or a spiritual man or a holy man. It says the prayers of a *righteous* man. We can only be righteous through the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ. There is no other way. Now, take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart and then confess your sin with true repentance. This action will then put you positionally in the spirit realm ready to pray effective prayers.

What really happens when we pray and how do we wage war against the enemy? Let's begin to answer those questions. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NLT), *We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. 5 We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.*

The Unseen Realm There is a spiritual realm that we cannot see. As we permit the Holy Spirit to work within us and we begin to grow spiritually in the knowledge of His Word, and as we apply those truths in our lives, we begin to understand that there is a spirit realm that is all around us. The apostle Paul wrote about this in 1 Corinthians 13:11-12 (NKJV), *When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.*

The prophet Elisha is a great example of the truth of the spirit realm and the comfort we can have when we trust in the sovereignty of God. 2 Kings 6:15-17 (NLT), *When the servant of the man of God got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. "Oh, sir, what will we do now?" the young man cried to Elisha. 16 "Don't be afraid!" Elisha told him. "For there are more on our side than on theirs!" 17 Then Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes and let him see!" The LORD opened the young man's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.*

How is your view of the world? Elisha, by faith, was willing to face great opposition because He knew the God he served is greater than any opposition he would face. This is the stance of a true prayer warrior. We are not the one doing the fighting. Elisha asked God to open the eyes of his servant. I am praying that as you read this, God would strengthen your faith and realize the greatness of our God. We are a tool being used by God to wield the power Jesus won for us on the cross.

As a young man, who had been following Jesus for less than two years, I became involved in a small group Bible study. I had attended the study for about a year and was helping to facilitate the study through the oversight of my pastor. A young man who attended the study had shared he was having real emotional problems. He shared he was not sleeping very well and was very troubled because he felt another presence in his bedroom even though he lived alone. My friend and I decided we would pay him a visit for the purpose of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with him. We left his home very troubled because we found out he was very heavily involved in transcendental meditation.

Transcendental Meditation claims to be a religiously neutral method of relaxation and rejuvenation. Its goal is to find God within you because it teaches that God and self are really one and the same. This is the same lie that Satan used on Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. He told them that if they ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they would be like God. My pastor told us that this young man was being spiritually oppressed, and we needed to go and share the gospel once again with him, ask him to confess his sins before God, and ask the Holy Spirit to fill him and denounce the enemy in Jesus name. The young man did just that and slept peacefully that night. Five years later he was involved in a car accident that took him to be with Jesus forever.

Through the years in ministry I have found that one of the greatest tools the enemy uses is to cause people to believe he does not exist. Another tool he uses is apathy. I pray that as you read this you realize Satan is real. He is a created being, and he has limited powers. The Bible tells us that one day Our Lord will destroy him once for all time. 2 Thessalonians 2:8 (NLT), *Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming.*

I recall doing a study in my office about this topic and I asked the Lord, *“If you have already won the war then what is my role in spiritual warfare?”*

Our Standing in Christ As stated before, spiritual warfare is simply agreeing with God about who He is. He is our Victor, He is our Chief Priest, He is our Mediator, He is our Counselor and so much more. We come into agreement with God as He defines Himself in His Word. We not only agree with Him on who He is, but we agree with Him on who we are in Christ.

Since we are His children, through His grace we:

- Are justified, completely forgiven and righteous in His sight (Romans 5:1)
- Are free forever from condemnation (Romans 8:1)
- Have been given the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:16)
- Are dead to the power of sin and death’s rule our lives (Romans 6:1-6)
- Have direct access to Jesus through His Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:18)
- Have been rescued by God from Satan’s rule and transferred to the kingdom of God (Colossians 1:13)
- Have been blessed with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3)
- Have been given a spirit of power, love and self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7)
- Have the right to come boldly before the throne of God (Hebrews 4:16)

What a treasure we have in Jesus! That is just a partial list of all the goodness, mercy and grace He gives freely to each of us! Prayer warriors, our role is to worship our God by declaring who He is and who we are in Him. Worship Him. Declare who He is in His Word and then declare the promises we find in His Word. As we declare His promises we will begin to intercede for others because that is what intercession truly is: reminding God of His promises.

I smiled as I wrote the last line because we remind God of His promises not because He is old and is losing His memory (like I am). Rather, as we remind God of His promises, we are speaking in faith declaring to Him we believe and agree that He will do what He has said He will do.

Intercession for Others What happens as we worship and intercede on behalf of others in the spirit realm? The book of Daniel gives us answers to this question. In Daniel 9:20-23 (NLT), *I went on praying and confessing my sin and the sin of my people, pleading with the LORD my God for Jerusalem, his holy mountain. 21 As I was praying, Gabriel, whom I had seen in the earlier vision, came swiftly to me at the time of the evening sacrifice. 22 He explained to me, “Daniel, I have come here to give you insight and understanding. 23 The moment you began praying, a command was given. And now I am here to tell you what it was, for you are very precious to God. Listen carefully so that you can understand the meaning of your vision.”*

Notice in verse 20 Daniel was confessing his sin. He was agreeing with God on what sin is in Daniel’s life. Daniel was a humble man who realized that He needed God’s goodness and grace in his life. We should mimic this character of Daniel. Secondly, in verse 23, Gabriel tells Daniel that the moment he began praying a command was given for Gabriel to act on Daniel’s behalf. How exciting is that! We need to pray and begin to ask God to move, because He has proven in His Word that He will respond to

us.

Individually and corporately, we can have an effect on this world as we pray and ask God to move in the lives of political leaders around the world. We may feel small in our prayer closets and without any power to affect the world. That is the truth. However, it is also true that we are children of the King of the World who has all authority on, above and below the world. He has promised that the prayers of a righteous man are effective. Therefore, as we pray for world leaders; as we pray for those working in ministry translating scriptures; as we pray for family members who have yet to come to know Jesus; we can expect God will move.

Look at what the apostle Paul writes: 1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NLT), *I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf and give thanks for them. 2 Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.*

Let me remind you in Daniel 9 that Gabriel was not doing anything on Daniel's behalf until Daniel prayed. We also find in Daniel 10 that he was persistent in his prayers. Daniel 10:2-3 (NLT), *When this vision came to me, I, Daniel, had been in mourning for three whole weeks. 3 All that time I had eaten no rich food. No meat or wine crossed my lips, and I used no fragrant lotions until those three weeks had passed.*

About two years had passed between Daniel 9 and Daniel 10. Daniel continued to pray and ask for God's help in his life. He had remained humble before God. Once again, in response to Daniel's prayer a mighty angel came to assist him. It is vital as a prayer warrior we understand what happens next.

Daniel 10:12-13 (NLT), *Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. 13 But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia.*

Do you see it? In verse 12 the angel tells Daniel the same thing Gabriel told Daniel in chapter 9. As soon as Daniel began to pray, the angel began to move on his behalf. What a great truth that you and I can stand upon as we pray. We must first confess our sins as we humble ourselves before our Holy God. Once we do, we can pray with expectation that God will hear and respond.

There is also a sobering thought in this passage. Daniel prayed for twenty-one days. He persisted and toiled in his prayers. He fasted and prayed and did not stop. The angel pointed out that the spirit prince of Persia blocked him. However, Michael the archangel came and helped him. Isn't it interesting that Daniel prayed for the same amount of time that the spirit prince blocked the angel? As prayer warriors we, at times, do not know exactly how our prayers are affecting situations we are praying for. That is when we stand in faith and trust in our God. One thing is certain: If we do not pray, we will have no effect at all. When I first studied this passage I wondered, *"Lord, why did Daniel have to pray? Why didn't you simply take care of that spirit prince immediately when he blocked your angel?"*

Do you remember what Jesus told his disciples just before he ascended into heaven? Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT), *Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

As the Holy Spirit spoke to me and answered my question, I was reminded that the entire reason Jesus came to suffer and die for our sins was so we could once again have a relationship with Father God. He wants us to partner with Him. Could God have easily overpowered that angel without the prayers of Daniel? Absolutely He could. Yet, He wants us to witness His power. He wants us to align our lives

with His truth in His Word and recognize that He desires to work through us in partnership with Him. We are to be His witnesses and have His power flow through us. That will build our faith, build His kingdom and ultimately give glory to His Son Jesus Christ.