

## Suggestions for Prayer Group Leaders

### INTRODUCTION

As you lead or hope to lead a prayer group, we would like to offer some suggestions to keep your group alive and growing. You have come together to "ask the Lord of the Harvest to send out labourers into the harvest fields" (Matthew 9:37) and to pray for those who have gone out in His Name. There are no right or wrong ways to lead a prayer group; ask God to direct you by His Holy Spirit. There is a place for order, focus and consistency in a prayer group, as well a need to be sensitive to the new and different ways the Spirit may lead.

### PRAYER

God is calling you to meet with Him and to encourage others to do so! His only requirement is a pure heart, which He cleanses when we ask Him to.

\* Praying is communication; sometimes it is talking to God, sometimes it is listening. It is not just going to Him with a list (though He loves to provide for His children)!

\* God does want us to be sensitive to His will. "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:2). Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pray.

\* Keep your Bible handy for any verse the Lord may bring to mind that might help you to understand the need mentioned.

\* Pray in concert with God's commands: that He would send out workers (Matthew 9:37), that His will would be done (Matthew 6:9-13), that we would go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20), etc.

### LEADERSHIP

\* A coordinator who enjoys delegating will do a good job!

\* Wycliffe believes in serving within the local church. Encourage prayer within groups already formed in the local church. (There are a number of inter-church prayer groups that have been meeting over the years and are doing a great job of praying. We do not wish to disband these groups to create a more formal Wycliffe prayer group.)

\* The reason for the short "Prayer Alive" video is to encourage prayer for Wycliffe's Bible translation work and for those people without any translation in their own language. It is not meant to take over the prayer time. It is a brief video, sent out approximately every three months. Hopefully, it will encourage families and churches to pray for each other as well as for mission work.

\* Prayer groups can also begin within a family. Encourage couples to pray or parents to meet with their children to pray. Decide to pray once a month for Bible translation and Bibleless peoples. God is so good. He promises to be there, wherever two or three meet in His name. Trust Him & pray!

## FOCUS

- \* Focus on prayer. Set time limits, but pray. Feel free to add a speaker, a video or a report by a missionary but make sure you pray!
- \* If you have a devotional, it should be short and to the point.
- \* If you wish to include refreshments, that's fine. Don't feel that you have to do so. Don't allow social time to take away from your main focus.

## IDEAS

- \* You may wish to take up an offering at each meeting and send it to a missionary or a project. Remember, the Lord loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7)!
- \* Encourage each member to receive the prayer letter of one missionary. It may be better to read the letters at home so that one person can bring specific praise or prayer items to share at the meeting.
- \* Have a missionary home on home assignment (furlough) visit your group.

## TIME & LOCATION

- \* Would your group like to meet in different homes each month or in the church? In any case, make sure your pastor knows about your meeting-this is Church work!
- \* When would it suit your group to meet? The meeting should not conflict with other church events.
- \* Don't stop for the summer or for Christmas. Meet even if there are only two or three of you! The enemy doesn't take a vacation.

## DON'T FORGET

- \* Prayer is hard work and takes time and perseverance; sometimes answers are not immediately visible (Daniel 10:1-14).
- \* If you would like the names and addresses of missionaries that you could write to, ask Wycliffe Canada Prayer Ministries.
- \* Your involvement is vital! Prayer is crucial! We are at war, but remember Christ has won!

## HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

- Use e-mail to request up-to-date or emergency prayer requests from Wycliffe missionaries or from Wycliffe Canada's head office. E-mail: [prayer\\_canada@wycliffe.ca](mailto:prayer_canada@wycliffe.ca)
- Call Prayer Ministries for praise and prayer items at (403) 250-5411 or toll free at 1-800-463-1143