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CultureBound
MAGAZINE



GO and Make Disciples: Prayer

How can prayer make an impact?
What should we be praying for?
What does it look like to “go”
through prayer?



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CultureBound training incorporates the Bible as the foundation of our learning. Pray with us and learn!

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CultureBound

Dear friend,

Thank you so much for reading our monthly magazine. We hope you are able to learn more about cultural topics as you read these articles.

At CultureBound, we seek to send people from everywhere to everywhere equipped with the Gospel and tools needed to build relationships with God and with other people. We hope this magazine is one of the tools you can use to grow your understanding of culture, language, and relational ministry.

We would love for you to share this magazine with anyone you feel would benefit. Thank you for your continued support of this organization.

The CultureBound Team

WHY PRAY?

What does the Bible say about prayer?

In 2023, the presence of the internet and social media allows us to find out about world events very quickly. Whenever a tragedy occurs, people everywhere will know very soon after. There are pros and cons to this, but one positive is that people all over the world can band together to support the victims of tragedies. A very common way people send their support quickly is prayer.

When thoughts and prayers are expressed after a tragedy, there are some people who doubt the effectiveness of such actions. Why should we pray? What does this actually do to support the victims? Those who believe the Bible know that prayer is the most powerful action you can take. Petitioning the God of the universe to intervene supernaturally does more than any other action will do.

What does the Bible say to support what we know about prayer? Philippians 4:6 says, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” We can see in this powerful verse that prayer is more than just asking a request of God. Through prayer we can show thanksgiving and receive his peace.



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John 14:13 says,
“Whatever you ask in
my name, this I will do,
that the Father may be
glorified in the Son.”
When we pray...God is
glorified.

What about prayer as a way to “go” to the nations? Sitting at home or church and asking God to be with the missionary that you know who is serving in East Asia may not seem like much. 1 John 5:14-15 tells us that it is! “And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.” What an incredible truth! For those who are unable to go in other ways, prayer is THE most powerful action you can take.

John 14:13 says, “Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” When we pray for others and for the mission of God to be furthered around the world, God is glorified. He may or may not directly answer our prayers. We may never know the impact our prayers have around the world. But the action of prayer is vital to spreading the gospel around the world.

Next time you see someone sending thoughts and prayers, whether it be for a tragedy or for a global gospel worker, stop and pray yourself. Ask God to be with those who have uprooted their lives to go to other nations and share the gospel. Ask God to be with those who are called to stay home and welcome people from other nations. Ask God to give you opportunities to join in those efforts.





PRAY FOR THE NATIONS

CultureBound seeks to send people from everywhere to everywhere prepared to share the gospel. When you go to a new place, you are faced with a different culture, language, and traditions. These can all be stumbling blocks when building relationships and sharing the gospel with others.

You can pray specifically for the nations in many different ways. Think about a nation that God has put on your heart. Maybe you have met people from that place or you know someone in that place. Pray specifically for those people and their families. Pray for that people group and for their culture, that they would all come to know Jesus.

Pray for the missionaries who are going to the nations. Pray that their relationship with Jesus would be the foundation for all their interactions. Pray that they feel the presence of God when times get hard. Pray that God will open doors and hearts to his message. Pray that they learn cultural traditions quickly and are able to build long-lasting relationships.

Lastly, you can pray for the gospel effort around the world. There are people everywhere hoping to share the gospel with those who have never heard or believed. Your prayers matter!





Thoughts

The most common way to pray is through your own thoughts. This way you can pray without ceasing.



Group

When you are at church, you may take turns praying out loud with others in a small group.



Leader

In some churches, it is common to have a teacher say a pray and the congregation repeat it.



Song

Worship music lyrics are powerful prayers to God. Singing is a creative way to say your prayers.



Text

If your mind is blank, you can read the psalms and pray them to God. He tells us to do so!

WAYS TO PRAY

Prayer is a personal action - you are having a conversation with God. But it can also be shared with others. It can be done at home or in a group. It can be done in a variety of ways. See the graphic for the most popular ways to pray. Next time you are praying, try something new. God hears all.

THE PRIZE

It's not about the money. It's not about the sacrifice. It's about the goal. It's about the prize, the purpose, the reason. In Matthew 13:46, Jesus tells a story of a merchant who sold everything so he could buy a pearl of great value. Imagine what that pearl was worth, that this man would sell everything to own it. It wasn't about the money or the sacrifice, it was about the goal of owning a pearl of great value.

There's more to the promise that he will build his church. According to Revelation 5, his church will include those "from every tribe and language and people and nation (Revelation 5:9)." Let that settle in your mind.





CultureBound has a goal, a purpose. We are here to equip God's people to be effective as His ambassadors in unfamiliar cultures and languages. We are here to see the Gospel -- that priceless pearl -- enter every tribe and tongue and people and nation. We are here because Gospel messengers need to learn to live and talk with the people they are sent to.

"I just wish I had received this training years ago," said a veteran missionary after a CultureBound training event. CultureBound training gives tools for self-directed learning of new cultures and languages. That new culture itself is not the prize. The prize is seeing people from that culture declare Jesus is King. The veteran missionary in our training had that same goal, and CultureBound's training led her to be more effective in talking to families and children she had been sent to.

"Learning culture is not so I will be comfortable. It is so the person I am talking to can be comfortable!" The excitement of understanding spread across their faces. They were all from northwest Mexico, preparing for ministry outside of their own cultures. They thought, like many do, that the purpose of culture training was for their own comfort. They weren't entirely wrong -- knowing how to adjust to a new culture will make you more comfortable!

But comfort is not the prize. The prize is when people you are reaching feel comfortable enough to welcome you into their circle of trust. The prize is an open door to share the Gospel. The prize is when those listening to the Gospel feel like it is a message meant for them, even though it is being delivered by someone from a foreign place.

The prize is when the message of God's love crosses any cultural barriers that are in place. The prize for CultureBound is the stories from those who have used our training to successfully share the Gospel in other cultures and languages.

Our prize is not money, but to get to the true prize requires financial support. This month, your gifts are matched up to \$5,000. Would you prayerfully consider partnering with us? You can give at donorbox.org/gaps-and-bridges.

PRAY AND LEARN

As a Christian organization, CultureBound trainers teach Biblical truths. One of these is prayer. Without prayer, we will be unsuccessful in our learning process. Our trainers will incorporate prayer into every facet of our learning experience.

CultureBound philosophy is simple: in order to share the gospel, you need to connect with people. In order to connect with people from other cultures, you need to build trust through a relationship with them. In order to build trust, you need to meet them where they are and not expect them to conform to your culture.

CultureBound trainers teach all of these things! From the uncertainties of moving to a new place to the steps needed to help immigrants in your home to the tools needed to build relationships across cultures - we have the lessons to help you thrive in your ministry environment.

Our training is developed from years of on-the-field experience, research, and knowledge. Our trainers have lived these lessons and know that what they're teaching is extremely effective.





CultureBound offers foundational culture and language courses designed for global workers. When you join these group sessions, you will watch videos, take part in field trips, and have live discussions with experienced trainers and other long-term workers. The format includes experiential learning because we believe that learning is a lifestyle.

Our language course teaches you how to learn a language rather than the specifics of a particular language. Understanding the foundations of language, how to get involved with a language helper, and building a language learning community are all key steps to being successful.

The incredible thing about CultureBound training is that it applies to many scenarios, not just long-term missions. If you are part of a church, we want to help you “go” to your own neighborhood. The United States is becoming more of a melting pot every day. You can reach immigrants and people from other cultures every week! Our church curriculum is designed for a small group teaching. You will understand the fundamentals of culture learning as it applies to your church and neighborhood community.

If you are a mission agency and called to send your global workers prepared, we would love to partner with you! With the investment required to send believers to the field, it only makes sense that money is spent to make sure they are prepared.

Not everyone is called to physically go. Some are blessed with financial resources. You can fulfill your calling to the nations through giving and supporting CultureBound. Training and going takes many resources, and by giving to CultureBound you are giving to the global expansion of the gospel.

No matter your calling or expertise, CultureBound is here to help. If you are interested in cultural topics, we offer short, independent, and virtual courses for you to learn more. Visit our website for more information at www.culturebound.org.

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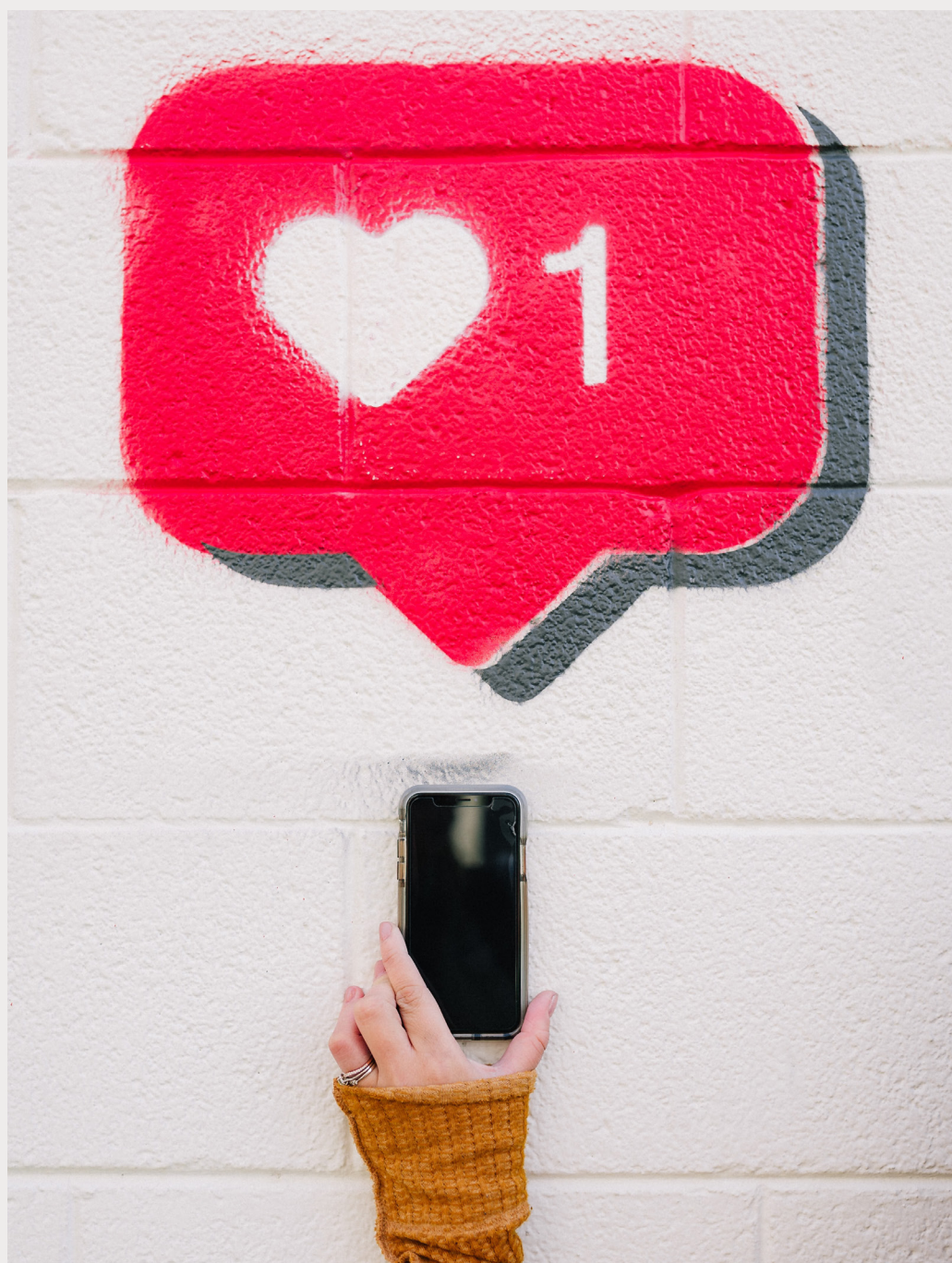
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