



MONTHLY PRAYER UPDATE



Children in Africa going through The Greatest Journey

A Teenager's Request for Prayer

I'm thirteen years old and I'm a student secondary school in Niger. I am from a practising Muslim family. I have two elder brothers and one sister. I thought there is no other religion than that of my father. This year, I received a gift-box from Christians that organized a distribution event. After the distribution, many of us were enrolled in The Greatest Journey classes along with a group of children in our area. I completed the twelve lessons.

After the fourth lesson I decided to accept Jesus Christ in my life. However, my problem is my father. A friend of mine reported me to him about my conversion to Christianity. As a result, he stopped feeding me for two days, thinking that I will change my mind. But I stood the test because my mother was feeding me in secret.

Now my father is no longer saying anything to me about my Christian faith. I go to church at nouveau Marché and I always attend Sunday school.

Since I received JESUS in my life, everything has changed in my life and I look forward to seeing Sunday coming in order to go to church. My desire is that my brothers also become Christians. Pray for us!

What it Means to Pray in Jesus' Name

Jesus gave us a tremendous promise in John 14:13-14, *"Whatever you ask in my name, this will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."* So what does it mean to pray in Jesus' name? Is it simply a ritualistic way to close each of our prayers out of habit? Or, is it a sweeping promise that we will get everything we ask for if we simply tag onto the end of each prayer "in Jesus' name?"

To pray in Jesus' name is first a matter of identity. It signifies that we realize that on our own we are spiritually bankrupt, but in Christ we are a new creation with full access to the Father's throne. To pray in Jesus' name means to offer prayer to God the Father through the work, righteousness, and merit of Jesus. In addition, to pray in Jesus' name also means that we are praying with authority. Jesus has granted to every born-again believer the use and authority of His name when asking the Father of something. When we pray in Jesus' name it's as if Jesus Himself were making the request of the Father.

When we pray in Jesus' name it also signifies that we are seeking God's will above our own. This connection between our willing submission to God's will and answered prayer is explained in 1 John 5:14-15, *"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."*

So, praying in Jesus' name is not simply a cliché or catch-phrase that we tack onto the end of our prayers for good measure. When we pray in Jesus' name it signifies our deep dependence on Jesus, our belief in God's goodness and our understanding of our new identity in Christ.

Operation Christmas Child International Prayer Requests: **Africa**

Week 1: March 1-7 **Tanzania**

- Praise God for the quick Reception of Certificate from TFDA (Tanzania Food and Drug Authority) as the permit to receive and distribute OCC shoebox gifts for the year 2018.
- Please pray for the new clearing agent in Tanzania that he will do the work well and be used by God after having a few difficulties with the previous agents.
- Please pray for safety and success of the Senior Regional Teams, National Leaderships Teams and Regional Managers as they travel for OCC in the regions to conduct trainings of Ministry Partners across the country.
- Please pray for the churches in Tanzania that are involved in OCC and that they will continue to use the shoebox gifts as a tool for outreach in their communities.

Week 2: March 8-14 **Togo**

- Praise the Lord for the new OCC season in Togo. Ask the Lord to anoint and flow through the ministry activities of the teams involved.
- Praise the Lord for the many OCC volunteers in Togo. These faithful men and women sacrifice so much to serve the Lord. Please pray for God's protection and favor on them and all of their family members.
- Please pray that our Ministry Partners in Togo will all embrace and understand clearly the key OCC ministry principals. May they glorify God as they steward His resources.
- Please pray for peace and tranquility in Togo. Pray that any instability will not disrupt the OCC ministry or prohibit many children from hearing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Week 3: March 15-21 **Uganda**

- Praise God for a new Consignee and new Clearing Agent this season who are both doing a tremendous job.
- Praise God for the opportunity for Uganda to host a Vision Trip of over 50 Volunteers that will be coming in May.
- Praise God for the IHQ support especially getting the shoeboxes into the regions and supporting our local teams.
- Please pray for OCC ministry in Uganda to get tax exoneration which has been a challenge for the ministry.
- Please pray for the OCC leadership in Uganda for strength and steadfastness in ministry.

Week 4: March 22-28 **Zambia**

- Join in thanking and praising our gracious God that Zambia now has a complete National Leadership Team.
- Please pray that all of the OCC leadership would grow in unity as a team together encouraging each other well.
- Please pray for the Gospel of Jesus Christ to go out in life-saving power during OCC Outreach Events and that thousands of children would believe and receive Jesus as Savior & Lord.
- Please pray for spiritual and physical protection for all of the OCC leadership, volunteers and those who are hosting the outreach events.

Forward this e-mail to a friend who you think would be interested praying for or learning more about the ministry of Operation Christmas Child.

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