

Praying the Great Commission

For Team AIM: Andhra Pradesh

This morning, we had the opportunity to hear from Carley (learn more at cgasperin.tumblr.com) about her upcoming trip to Andhra Pradesh, India. She shared about her team, the duration of the trip, what she anticipates doing and the needs (spiritual and physical) of the people and the trip. In addition to hearing about the trip, we spent some time praying for the team and the trip. Instead of merely praying spontaneously (which certainly has its time and place), we read the Great Commission and prayed through some of the main points. It's so encouraging to pray through Scripture and allow God's Word to direct the ways we seek Him. Here's the guide we used to pray. Consider similar prayers yourself! We know that the Scriptures are a reliable guide to what God values.

Read aloud: "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

[\(Matthew 28:18-20 ESV\)](#)

1) "All Authority"

- a) Pray for Jesus Christ to be the consuming joy, purpose and passion of the missions team that travels to Andhra Pradesh.
- b) Pray for the trip to Andhra Pradesh to be characterized by the power, presence and divine protection of Jesus Christ.

2) "Make Disciples"

- a) Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring life to the hearts and minds of those who receive this team.
- b) Pray for this ministry of care and help to bear much fruit of new disciples (followers) for Jesus Christ.

3) "Baptize Them"

- a) Pray for new birth of internal faith to erupt into external displays of new life and obedience.
- b) Pray that there would be opportunities to baptize new believers or those who are seasoned believers yet have not obeyed the command to be baptized.

4) "Teach Them"

- a) Pray for a hunger and spiritual receptivity to God's Word when it is shared casually or formally by the team.
- b) Pray for opportunities to teach God's Word in Andhra Pradesh; knowing that the Word of God is living and active and makes simple people wise, especially for salvation.

5) "All That I Have Commanded You"

- a) Pray for boldness that springs (not from personal pride or ambition, but) from Christ's authority to command obedience.
- b) Pray for supernatural confidence in the team, not to merely stand for Jesus and serve for Jesus, but to also speak for Jesus.

6) "I am With You Always"

- a) Pray for Jesus Christ to be the center of the people's lives in Andhra Pradesh.
- b) Pray for the Spirit's presence to stay with the people ministered to by this team.

What a joy to seek the Lord together as a church family. I hope you will consider being intentional with your gatherings and your prayers as well!

