

PRAYING FOR THE MINISTRY OF VILLAGE SCHOOLS

We ask all of those who are partnering with Village Schools International to concentrate on praying for three things: **more workers, more open doors, and discernment for our leaders.**

Workers

We ask people to pray for workers because we believe it is in keeping with Jesus' teaching in Matthew 9:37-38 when He told His disciples that the field was ripe for harvest and so they should pray that God would send workers into His harvest field. We don't believe Jesus would tell them to do something that was a meaningless exercise, so we conclude that somehow in the way God works, He uses the prayers of His people to touch the hearts of people and to call them into service. Since this work began in 2005, word has spread of what God has been doing in villages in Africa. More than 220 missionary teachers from the United States, Canada and Europe to come join over 700 Christians in Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Uganda to carry out this work. We believe this is a result of them many people we have praying for workers. While we are always building more schools and there is a continually growing opportunity for people to serve, it is key for people to genuinely feel called by God to come to teach and to share their faith in Christ with their students. So, we would be grateful for people's prayers that God would call workers to serve with us.

Open Doors

We ask people to pray for open doors because we see that Paul asked the Colossians to do this in Colossians 4:3-4. Again, we don't fully understand how it works, but somehow God uses the prayers of His people to open doors for ministry. In every place where we are working it is because people invited us to come -- somehow God opened the doors of their hearts! -- and then we have simply responded positively to those open doors. Currently we are partnering with people in over 200 villages who are working together to build schools -- 63 are already open and another 15 are in various stages of their construction. We have never asked to go to a single village, nor have we ever "targeted" a specific area or village -- instead we have waited for the prayers of God's people to prepare the hearts of people and to cause them to invite us to come partner with them. We see this as essential to this ministry because of the tremendous amount of work that people will have to do to make bricks and haul stones in order to build the school for their children. We only want to go where we know that God has clearly opened the doors and where He has prepared the hearts of people and readied them for the painful sacrifices that they will have to make.

Discernment for our Leaders

We ask people to pray for discernment for the leaders of Village Schools Tanzania (specifically Godfrey Hiari, Emmanueli Masumbuko, Janerose Sauzand and Justin Hiari), the leaders of Village Schools Malawi (specifically Davies Nderema and Alfred Mwale), the leaders of Village Schools Zambia (in particular Austine Kachila), the leaders of Village Schools Uganda (in particular Boaz Namanya), the leaders of Village Schools Kenya (Michael Wafula and Thomas Wamalwa) as they make the key decisions about who to send to represent us in the initial phases of our new schools projects, and for discernment in handling the inevitable "bumps" along the way. The commitment we made to each community was to work at the pace *they* set. There can, however, be the temptation to want results, to pick a fruit before it has ripened, or to somehow hasten the ripening process. Everyone is very excited about moving into new villages -- but we would ask people to join us in praying for the wisdom and the patience to not try to rush things and to make sure that we lay a firm foundation for the continued expansion of this work. James 1:5 teaches us that, "if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." Pray not only for wisdom but also for humility for our leaders that they might continually go before the Lord and ask for His wisdom and His guidance.

"We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the Gospel, but our lives as well because you had become so dear to us." - 1 Thessalonians 2:8