

“How You Should Pray”

NEW YEAR 2021



A satellite view of Earth at night, showing the curvature of the planet and the glowing lights of cities and continents. The Google logo is superimposed in the center, with each letter in its characteristic color: blue 'G', red 'o', yellow 'o', blue 'g', green 'l', and red 'e'.

Google

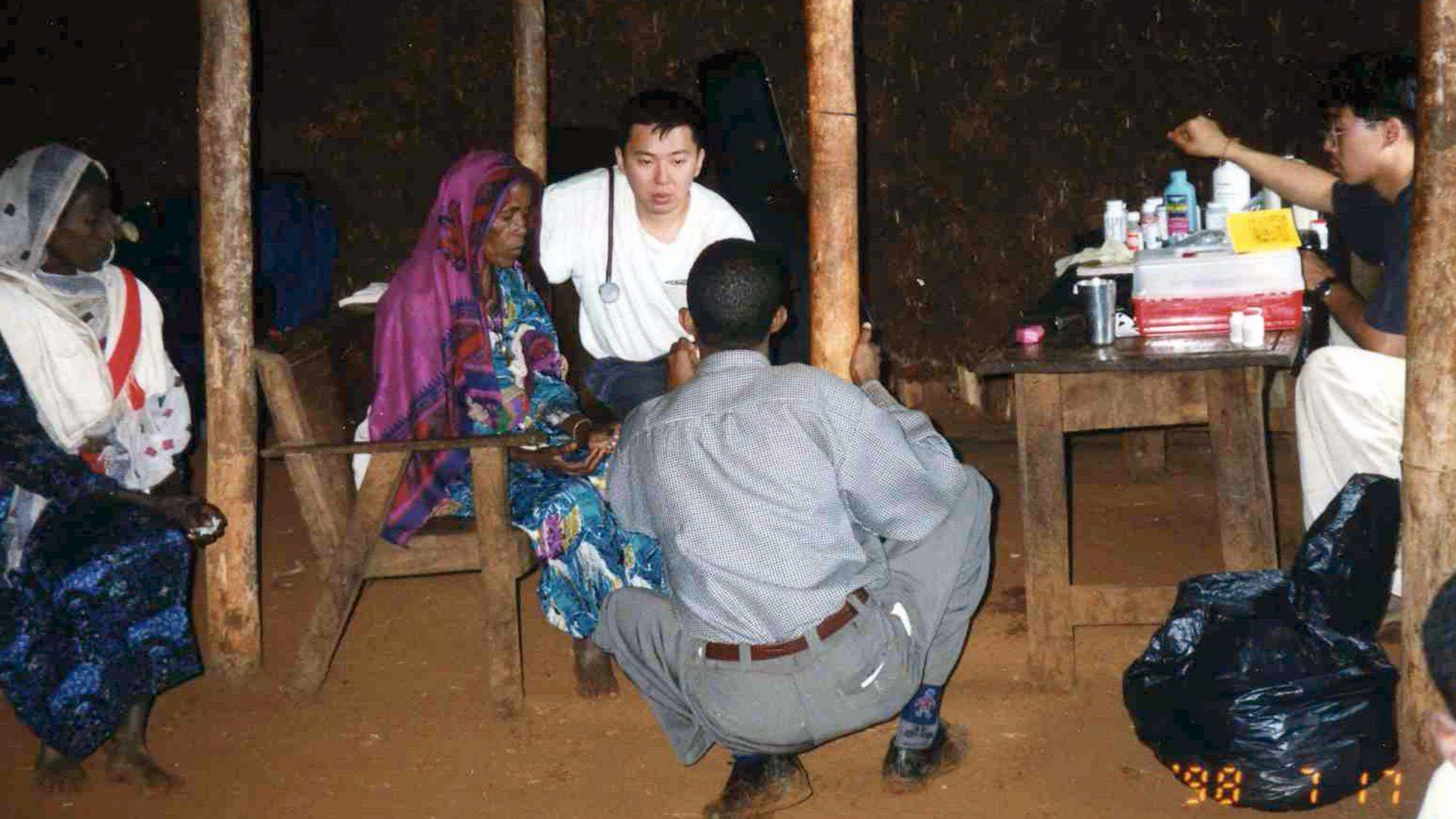
A photograph of a beach promenade. In the foreground, three medical professionals in white coats and masks are pushing a hospital gurney with a patient on it along a paved walkway. The patient is lying down, and medical equipment is attached to the gurney. To the left of the walkway is a sandy beach with a few people and a yellow trash can. In the background, there are palm trees, a city skyline, and the ocean under a clear sky. A semi-transparent white rounded rectangle with a microphone icon is overlaid on the image, containing the text 'why is it called covid-19'.

why is it called covid-19



Romans
8:28

And we know that **in all things** God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.



Ephesians
4:22-24

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

I believe that in this coming year God wants to use the Lord's Prayer as an essential tool for our spiritual growth.

Matthew
6:9-13

This, then, is how you should pray:
"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be
your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us today our daily
bread. And forgive us our debts, as
we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one."

In 2021, I want to invite
you to pray the Lord's
Prayer on a daily basis.

Luke
11:1-2

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

He said to them, "When you pray, say: ...



Scot
McKnight

(The Blue Parakeet)

Here is a fact from church history: to the best of our knowledge, the followers of Jesus have always recited the Lord's Prayer whenever they have gathered for worship and prayer. The evidence for this is universal—every major denomination in the world prior to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries recited the Lord's Prayer every Sunday. Why? Because Luke 11:2 taught them to do this. But most evangelical churches I have worshiped in



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and preached in do not recite the Lord's Prayer *whenever* they pray together. ... Why? Because there is an unwritten, contrary-to-what-Jesus-taught principle at work among us that reciting set prayers leads to vain repetitions. ... We have chosen, for pastoral reasons, not to do what Jesus commanded us to do and have chosen instead to apply these words in another way. How? We take them as a



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general principle instead of a specific commandment, and this permits us to gather together in prayer without reciting the Lord's Prayer. This decision permits us to see the Lord's Prayer as a "model" prayer instead of a recited prayer. (For what it's worth, I think the Lord's Prayer is both a model and the precise words we should use whenever we gather in prayer. I recite it several times a day.)

"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name"

Matthew 6:5-8

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father,

Matthew
6:5-8

who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.



Galatians 4:6

Because you are
his sons, God sent
the Spirit of his Son
into our hearts, the
Spirit who calls out,
“Abba, Father.”



Tim
Keller

(Galatians for You)

Why would Paul use an Aramaic idiomatic phrase in a letter to Greek-speaking Galatians, who probably didn't know Aramaic, the common language of Palestine? Because *Jesus Christ used* it in talking to His Father (Mark 14:36). It was a daringly familiar term to use to address the Lord Almighty. So when Paul says that we should use it, he is vividly asserting that we have legally inherited the rights of Jesus Himself. We can approach God as if we were as beautiful, heroic, and faithful as Jesus Himself. All that is His is ours.