

## **A prayer for IJM investigators (for use during prevalence studies)**

*Kind Father, thank you for commissioning me into this ministry of rescue and deliverance.*

*I have answered your call this day/night. Even as you left the light of heaven to dwell in the darkness of earth, I have followed you deliberately into a kind of darkness and evil from which most righteous people are taught to flee.*

*I have seen with my eyes, heard with my ears, touched with my hands, a kind of suffering and despair that is more than my humanity can bear. O God of Light: By your mercy, dispel this darkness and speed the dawn.*

*May all those who now lie beyond my reach remain in your watchful, tender care. And as this day draws to a close, I leave all that I have seen in your gentle hands.*

*Lift from me the burden of sadness, fear, and despair that weighs me down because of my work this day/night. Where I have been tempted to anger, lust, or hopelessness, fill me instead with your joy, love, and peace.*

*And receive especially these images that cling to my heart, soul, and mind.*

*(Call to mind, one by one, any particularly troubling things you have seen or heard. Leave them in the presence of God. It may be helpful to use a physical gesture such as placing your palms upward with your fists clenched as you call each image to mind, Then, as you release each image to God, open your hands. Repeat as God brings images to mind.)*

*In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:*

*(The three moves below may be accompanied by a simple action such as washing hands with water from a water bottle.)*

*I step now out of darkness and into light—acknowledging that in you there is no darkness at all.*

*I step now out of my assumed role, into my truest self—acknowledging that you lovingly knit me together in my mother's womb.*

*I step now out of work and into rest—acknowledging that you neither slumber nor sleep.*

*Protect me and my family from all sickness and harm. Bind the enemy from all influence and authority in our lives.*

*Renew us with your power, your love, and your joy.*

*In the strong name of Jesus,*

*Amen*