

Pray for Eastern Asia and Oceania

27. Australia

Christian Witness to Israel (CWI) has a long heritage of reaching out to Jewish people across the globe. Australia has a Jewish population of 120,000, with an estimated 50,000 of those in New South Wales alone. In addition, many young Israeli backpackers also pass through the area each year. CWI will be reaching out to Jewish people in the Sydney area. Please pray for all the Jewish people that will be reached and that many will turn to Jesus as they hear the Good News proclaimed. (Christian Witness to Israel)

28. Taiwan

St John's University in Taiwan faces an increasingly difficult time due to falling admissions as the birth rate has long been declining steadily. As numbers continue to drop, the university tries hard to reassess, reinvent, revive and transform itself in order to stay financially viable. Pray for the new bishop of Taiwan, Rev Dr Lennon Yuan-Rung Chang, as he works with the trustees and the university to find a way forward. (Church Mission Society)

29. Myanmar

In Eastern Shan, Myanmar, many people diagnosed with leprosy are forced to live hand to mouth surviving on subsistence farming. Praise God for the success of the new system of 'Rice Intensification', a method to improve rice yields. Pray that many people will benefit from this training and for the success of other income generating crops such as rubber and star beans. Pray too for the success of 'Lunch for Leprosy', a fundraising opportunity for supporters to share food together, raising funds to help people affected by leprosy. (The Leprosy Mission England & Wales)

30. Indonesia

In September 2018, a devastating earthquake and tsunami shook the coast of Palu in Central Sulawesi, resulting in over 4,000 deaths.

Thousands lost their homes. Since then the rebuilding has been taking place and one Christian radio station in Palu has been reaching out to the local community, providing food packs and installing ten new clean water wells. The station has also been distributing solar-powered radios to provide information, comfort, healing and hope through its broadcasts. Pray that this witness will impact many as the community rebuilds. (Reach Beyond)

31. China

Across China the enforcement of religious regulations is having more and more impact. Education is a major target. School students and their parents are being told that religion will harm their education. University students are being given questionnaires which ask about religious activity, and Christians are told their graduation may be at risk. Some recent graduates have had job offers taken back once the applicant has indicated that they are a Christian. Pray that these young Christians will be willing to trust God in these circumstances. Pray they will have peace and be able to witness to God's provision and protection. Ask that Christian teachers will know how to continue teaching yet also be faithful to their beliefs. (Chinese Church Support Ministries - CCSM)

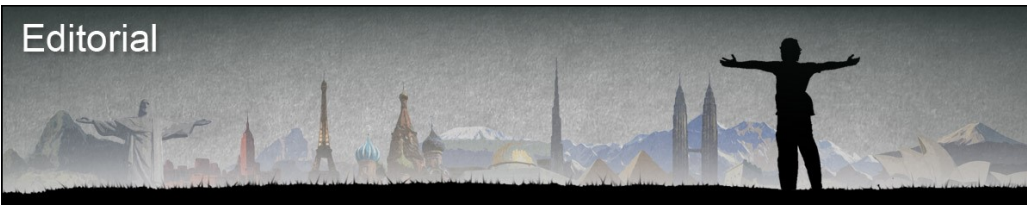


World Prayer News

A guide to help you pray for people around the world

November - December 2019





Driven to Prayer

Our cycle of ministry at Friends International is heavily influenced by the academic year; but when should we pray? Lots of new students arriving in the autumn, hospitality schemes in the holidays, events weeks, exams, and summer trips, then pre-sessional and language school students feed right back into the autumn. At all times, it seems!

And how should we pray? For those biblical gifts of hospitality as a beginning of friendship – as we say, it all starts with a cup of tea? For the fruit of those from strategic countries hearing the gospel and responding, ready to transform their nations in future years? For the practical support of caring for students far from homes, families and cultural comfort zones? Yes, all of the above.

What should we be doing about the enormous challenges of reaching the million international students in the UK each year? These are the 450,000 in our universities, often highly qualified and destined to significant roles in their home countries in the future. Also, the 550,000 language students, who are often European teenagers visiting for only a few weeks. What are the decisions and organising that would help us if resources were available to reach a greater number of them with the gospel? We are driven to prayer, recognising our inadequacies, knowing that even as we edge towards strategies and effective responses they

are nothing without the filling with God's presence by his Holy Spirit that turns individual hearts to him.

We know something of what God has done in the past, that we stand on giants' shoulders as we search for a way forward, and are amazed at what God has done, can do, and we pray will do in our day. We ask him to renew his activity among us. Perhaps that starts with learning to recognise what he is already doing among us, and discerning his nudges into where we should focus our efforts. We need to know what God is saying so that we respond, but also so that others respond, recognise God at work, determine to put him first, and that in this way his name will be glorified. The alternatives are uncomfortable. His wrath is valid but his mercy in love is remembered.

'LORD (Yahweh), I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.' (Habakkuk 3:2).

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22. India (1)

The Dohnavur Fellowship is a Christian organisation that works towards holistic development running projects across the areas of child development, education, health care, community development and conservation of nature as a home for rescued children. Please pray for the right children to be brought to the Dohnavur Fellowship. Pray also about the stringent regulations for children's homes in India and for help for our leaders in complying with all of these. (The Dohnavur Fellowship)

23. Pakistan

Christians are marginalised because of their faith, forced to work at menial jobs such as in brick kilns or as domestic servants. A good education for their children is hard to find, and they are vulnerable to accusations of blasphemy purely to settle personal scores. Victims can be imprisoned for years before their cases are resolved and if they are exonerated there is no guarantee they won't be targeted by extremists. For some like Asia Bibi, who spent eight years on death row after being convicted of blasphemy, a charge later overturned by the Supreme Court, their only option is to leave the country. For those who convert to Christianity the risks are greater, as they are rejected by family and friends and can be forced into hiding. Pray for protection, justice and provision for Christians in Pakistan. (Release International)

24. Sri Lanka

Our Leprosy Mission partner in Sri Lanka, Reverend Joshua Sivagnam, recently attended a ten-week farming and training course in the UK. This special training teaches people from the developing world how to 'grow their way out of poverty.' Pray that Revd. Joshua will have many opportunities to share these new skills in Sri Lanka. Pray too that people affected by leprosy will be blessed as they learn how to develop sustainable food sources. (The Leprosy Mission England & Wales)

25. Nepal

Nepal's Chhetri people are predominantly Hindu and speak Nepalese. They have many racial, cultural, and linguistic similarities to the people of northern India. Their domestic and religious practices are also patterned after the caste system found in India. They are mostly found in rural areas and depend on farming to make a living. Very few of the Chhetri in Nepal know Jesus. There are only 6,000 believers amongst the 4.1 million Chhetri. Christianity is looked at as a foreign religion. New believers are considered "untouchables" - the caste with whom you do not mix. Baptism is considered the ultimate proof of conversion, and the person performing the baptism can face up to a six-year prison term. Pray that God will encourage and strengthen those who have converted to Christianity. Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of the Chhetri towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the gospel. Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Chhetri. (AsiaLink)

26. India (2)

Please pray for people in mission at Christian Medical College (CMC) in Vellore, where a new 1,500-bed hospital is due to open in January 2020. Please pray for all the necessary planning and administration; for God to provide the right staff as well as all the practicalities that go into running a hospital of a high standard. (Church Mission Society)

Pray for the Americas



17. Paraguay

The Viva network is implementing a city-wide child protection programme which is already seeing 3,000 children empowered in self-protection strategies, 15 child protection committees actively at work and one new agreement with the City Council to support the programme. Pray that it will continue to strengthen and grow to reach more children into the future. (Viva)

18. Chile (1)

Millions of people around the world do not have access to the Bible but long to have a copy of their own. The *Bible-a-Month* Partnership is a commitment by the Scottish Bible Society to twelve different projects each year where Bibles or Bible-based resources reach those who need and want them. The November *Bible-a-Month* Partnership project is in Chile. The '*Light at Sunset*' project brings comfort, care, and community through God's Word to older people who are being encouraged to gather together to study the Bible. Pray that they will find renewed joy in scripture by reading the large-print bibles provided. (Scottish Bible Society)

19. Bolivia

This beautiful and diverse, land-locked country has seen church growth and allows believers freedom to worship. However, this liberty has come under pressure from proposed government legislation to restrict evangelism. Low literacy rates hinder Bible study and there is a need for more discipleship. Pray for churches to join together in unity as they face difficulties and to continue reaching out with the good news. (Echoes International)

20. Chile (2)

In recent months there have been reports of several chemical spills at multi-national factories located in low income areas of Chile. Although local inhabitants of these areas have protested, little has been done to challenge the

multi-national companies or make changes to the factories' working processes, leaving the local inhabitants in danger of serious health problems. Please pray for justice in the face of these struggles. (Latin Link)

21. Peru

House of Glory is a shelter for teenage girls and their babies who have been victims of domestic violence resulting in pregnancy. Girls come into the home as young as 13 years of age, pregnant from rape or incest, and suffering family breakdown in a culture of poverty, drug abuse and crime. These girls are given a loving home and help with important prenatal care. As they make decisions about whether to keep their babies or give them up for adoption, we offer support and encouragement. We also provide post-natal care as well as training in parenting skills for those girls who decide to keep their babies. Some of the girls stay with us until they can be safely reunited with their family, and others remain here until they turn 18 years of age. Pray for healing, both emotional and spiritual, for the girls at House of Glory, and for wisdom for the staff as they meet the needs of these mothers and their babies. (Hope for Kids International)

Pray for Northern Africa and the Middle East



1. Iran

Fatemeh Bakhteri has begun a one-year prison sentence in the infamous Evin Prison in Iran because she refuses to renounce her faith in Christ. Fatemeh was first informed of her sentence for "acting against national security" in September 2018. In an appeal hearing earlier this year, Fatemeh was pressured by presiding judges to renounce her faith, which she refused to do. The decision upholding the verdict was announced in May, and Fatemeh presented herself to the prison in Tehran on 31st August. Continue to remember the many in Iran who are being imprisoned for merely refusing to renounce their faith in Christ, including Fatemeh. Praise God for enabling these Christians to stand firm and not deny their Lord. Pray for their safety and well-being. (AsiaLink)

2. Egypt

Across the Arab World, speaking openly about doubts and questions on religious issues is strongly discouraged. Sadly, there is a discernible trend of young people from Christian families declaring themselves to be atheists. They have real doubts about their faith but many parents are not equipped to engage with their children. To address this challenge, Arab Vision is producing a 13 part series: *Help, my child claims to be an atheist* to be broadcast on satellite channels across the Middle East. The programmes will help parents to be open about their faith with their children. Counsellors in our Follow Up Team will be available through social media as well as telephone, text, and email to respond to viewers' questions. Please pray that the series will meet the needs of families and their children. (Arab Vision)

3. Lebanon

Since the onset of the crisis in Syria, more than 1.5 million Syrians have fled to Lebanon to seek refuge. Around 12% of Syrian refugees have a physical and/or mental disability. Medair is the lead agency for shelter intervention for 'People

with Specific Needs' in Lebanon. Please pray for increasing access to services for People Living with Mobility Impairment, e.g. physiotherapy and rehabilitation services. Please pray for increased access to psychosocial support for people living with a disability, their caregivers and families. (Medair)

4. Turkey

As many in the world look on in despair and desperation at what is happening in Turkey, the advancement of his kingdom and opportunities for the gospel through Al Massira (AM) increase. With rising tensions politically and the expulsion of many foreign missionaries, the Turkish church is strengthening. Al Massira is being used amongst Turks, Iranians and Afghans within Turkey. A testimony coming out of Anatolia is that a new Afghan follower of Jesus 'has more questions than his leader can answer!' Al Massira is helping to equip the Church for service, especially in areas of discipleship. Pray for the Farsi version of AM being used within small group settings, as well as the Turkish version being used amongst seeking groups, in and outside of Turkey. (Al Massira Trust)

5. Middle East, Africa and Asia

The urban poor comprise one of the biggest and fastest growing sectors of society across much of the globe, particularly in Africa and Asia where most Muslims live. One estimate is that there are already more than 250 million Muslims living in slums, shanty towns, and poor urban neighbourhoods across the world; a number which will grow rapidly in the coming decades. Pray for the millions of Muslims living in city slums, that Jesus indeed would become their Lord; for the millions more who will join them in the cities in the coming decades; for many more workers to go and preach the good news in poor urban Muslim neighbourhoods, and for many new communities of Christ-followers to be established. (Frontiers)

Pray for Europe



6. France

The 18th-19th November sees the major annual gathering of evangelicals in France at an event called the Centre Evangélique. The theme for this year's gathering is 'Living out the Gospel in a Connected Society'. Please pray for fruitful conversations and mutual encouragement and envisioning for the many hundreds of church leaders who will attend. (France Mission)

7. United Kingdom (1)

Please pray for Ambassadors' Genesis Football Program in Whitechapel, London, UK. We seek to reach the lost and marginalised in society with the good news of Jesus, through the medium of football. The group meets every Wednesday for a match and then returns to the church for lunch and a look into the Bible. Many of the men say Genesis has given them a new sense of purpose and something to leave their accommodation for. A lot of the guys coming through our doors have battled with family rejection, addiction and homelessness, leaving Genesis as the only real community they have. We believe God cares about these individuals and football is a great way of building relationships and sharing this good news with them. Please pray for growth and ultimately, salvation. (Ambassadors Football)

8. Germany

A recently renovated disused post office building houses The Patchwork Center in Schwerin. It is multi-functional and includes a community café, workshop space, music and function rooms. The café and workshop space are managed with the help of local people. The European Christian Mission (ECM) team aims to bring people closer to the gospel through its diverse activities, where everyone is welcome, where anyone can participate and where everyone can encounter Jesus at their own pace. Please pray for one man: his body is full of tattoos which express how many bad things have happened in his life. He has a very broken

past, but every day he is in the Patchwork Center, and that means that his future might be beautiful; only God can do that. (European Christian Mission Britain)

9. Romania

A legacy of brokenness remains from the days of Ceausescu's regime. Substance abuse, prostitution, pornography, human trafficking and challenges to child welfare are widespread. Romania has one of the highest abortion rates in the world. Poverty is still common, with widespread unemployment and economic instability. Divisions in government reduce its effectiveness. Pray for leadership that has the wisdom to chart the right path and the integrity to implement the right policies in its legal, education and health care systems. Pray for the unity needed amongst the Christian denominations in Romania to be effective in sharing the gospel. Christian radio and television are powerful tools for the gospel in Romania. Pray that many people would be reached, and for a positive impact on society in promoting Christian values. (Transform Europe Network)

10. United Kingdom (2)

In this first term, *freshers* can feel increasingly anxious and unsettled. Many Christian Unions (CUs) are providing a warm welcome for new students within the framework of genuine, deep relationships. CU members have been able to share Christ naturally with their peers and have seen many respond in faith as a result. Pray that many more would keep exploring Christianity after experiencing God's love and welcome from the CUs' witness on campus. Also, as Christmas approaches there are increased opportunities to share the gospel as it is a time of year when students are most likely to sing carols or attend festive events, often in a church. Pray that many will attend such festivities and that they hear the gospel message and are convicted to give their lives to Christ. (UCCF)

Pray for Sub-Saharan Africa



11. Uganda

Viva, and its partner network in Uganda, CRANE (Children at Risk Action Network), is empowering local Christians in Kampala to work together in collective action to change the lives of vulnerable children, and make a noise to influence the city leaders. One area of work is in rescuing children from situations of particular risk, such as the streets, child labour or child trafficking, and reuniting them with their families following a period of rehabilitation. Pray for vulnerable children who are supported by this ministry; that there would be a marked difference in their lives, not only in the short-term, but for many years to come. Pray for great diligence and organisation by all the leaders of training programmes, which are supporting social workers, church leaders, and families to be more effective in helping children. (Viva)

12. South Sudan

Over four million people have been uprooted and displaced from their homes in South Sudan. Hunger is rampant and alarming levels of malnutrition are seen across the country, with some of the highest rates in the world. Please keep children who are suffering from malnutrition in your prayers. Pray that they will receive immediate therapy and recover quickly. Pray that more communities can be educated on preventative services and nutrition education. (Medair)

13. Tanzania

There's a significant gap in countries across sub-Saharan Africa when it comes to the topic of menstruation. The importance of addressing this gap cannot be stressed enough: girls need to become empowered to take care of their changing bodies. UNICEF estimates that 1 in 10 African girls skip school 4 to 5 days per month or drop out completely because of menstruation. With studies showing that every year of school increases a girl's future earning power by 10 to 20 percent, can reduce the risk of HIV infection, and delay teenage pregnancy, keeping girls in

school is a must. Please pray for the "Nguvu na Hadhi" project (strength and dignity) being launched in Mwanza, Tanzania. We want these girls to learn they are loved beyond measure by their creator! (Emmanuel International UK)

14. Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Please pray for the people of DRC who are experiencing the second largest Ebola epidemic in the world. Over 3,200 cases have been reported, leading to 2,150 deaths and just over 1,000 survivors. The disease not only poses a risk to those in DRC, but in neighbouring countries too, where steps are in place to prevent the spread of this deadly disease. Pray for all the health workers on the ground from WHO and other NGOs who are assisting in the response efforts. (Mission Aviation Fellowship UK)

15. Ethiopia

The 'cooking stoves project' has been a success: five co-operatives from leprosy-affected communities have produced energy-efficient cooking stoves which provide an income, improves health and makes cooking safer, and has also improved the attitude of the general community towards people affected by leprosy. Pray for more innovative ideas and opportunities for communities. (The Leprosy Mission England & Wales)

16. Malawi

Starfish has created an orchard of fruit trees that will benefit the community of Glad Tidings Orphan Care, as well as local primary schools. The fruit supplements diets and the community is educated about the nutritional importance of including fruit, fibre, and vegetables in their diet. Pray that the fruit trees grow without being damaged by disease. Pray for well-wishers to help build a brick wall around the Orchard. (Starfish Malawi)