

## Pray for Eastern Asia and Oceania

### 27. North Korea (1)

There are strict limitations on ministry in this country but foreign NGOs, both Korean and Western, are active through aid and development projects. The very presence of believers can make a difference in many lives through this 'ground force'. But there is also an 'air force'. Radio is able to reach into North Korea, and despite many radios being pre-tuned to government stations, greater numbers of tuneable radios from China are making their way into the country. Pray for the impact of Reach Beyond gospel broadcasts that are transmitted via shortwave radio from Australia, and more opportunities for local people to tune in. (Reach Beyond)

### 28. Taiwan

Some Taiwanese have student-exchange programmes with universities in mainland China, allowing hundreds of mainland Chinese students to go to Taiwan. Most have been taught that there is no God and that belief in a deity is for the weak. Yet some come with curiosity, wanting to know what the Bible teaches. Pray that exchange students will hear the gospel, study the Word, and respond. Ask that preconceived ideas will be removed, and truth will be evident. Pray that they will count the cost, open their hearts to Christ, and take advantage of every opportunity, while in Taiwan, to grow and be discipled. (Platform 67)

### 29. Vanatu

The IFES movement in Vanuatu, Gud Nius Yunivesiti Felosip (GNYF), praises God that permission has been granted for their groups to meet on campus at the University of the South Pacific. Please pray for them to be able to expand their ministry into seven tertiary colleges and a new bilingual French-English university opening next year. Pray also for Australian Joel, who leads the movement, to be able to remain in the country, and for local graduates to be able to take on leadership,

particularly challenging as most of their graduates move to Vanuatu to study from other Pacific Islands, and then move home after graduation. (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students: IFES)

### 30. Japan

Japan has one of the highest suicide rates in the world. One Japanese person attempts suicide every 15 minutes. While the suicide rate in Japan has decreased somewhat recently, mental health remains a top concern. Suicide among Japanese children is the highest in the world, and suicide is the leading cause of death for young people aged 15-29. Christians in Japan, through churches and other organisations, are working to minister to those at risk. Emmanuel, the God who came to save the lost and heal the broken-hearted, is at work in Japan. Pray with us that he would work powerfully through his church in Japan to bring hope and light for those on the edge of hope. (Japan Christian Link)

### 31. North Korea (2)

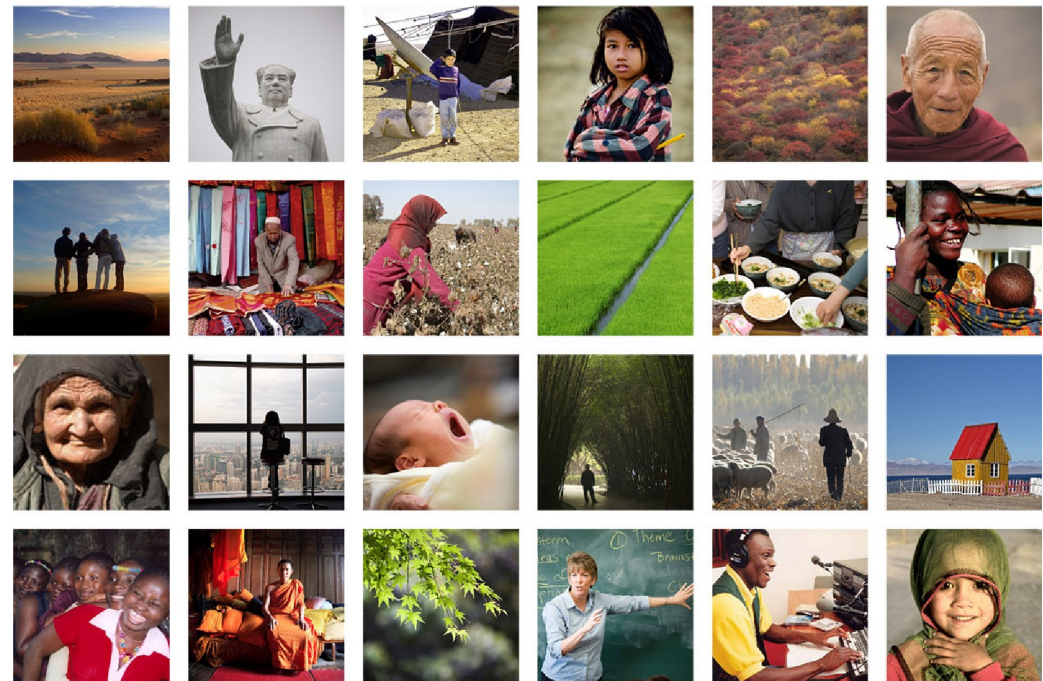
Getting God's Word into North Korea remains an extraordinary challenge; pray for current efforts to be fruitful. Pray for technological solutions where importing paper Bibles is impossible. Ask for Spirit-led understanding of God and His ways among those with access to even a carefully preserved page of a Bible. May His Word give deep comfort to the suffering. Some North Korean refugees have (amazingly) managed to flee the country and are trekking across Asia to find a new and safe place to call home; pray that they would meet Christians and be lovingly welcomed. Pray also for the Korean women and children who have been drawn all too easily into slavery in China. (Platform 67)



# World Prayer News

A guide to help you pray for people around the world

September - October 2019



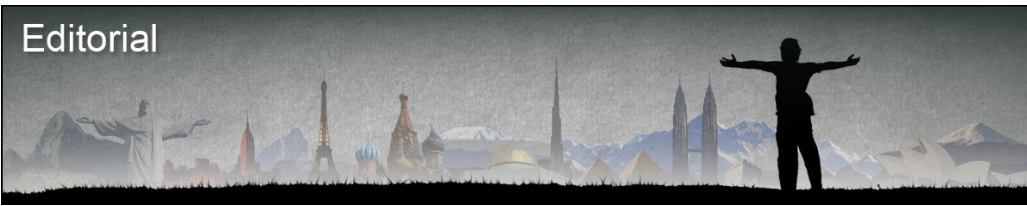
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## Surrender to God

I recall an occasion when Dr Ron Boyd-Macmillan reminded his audience that the evil one likes to work in 6D in his pursuit of Christians. He is out to destroy, disrupt, distract, distort, deceive and demoralise God's people! Do you ever feel that despite giving yourself fully to a task, you are just getting nowhere? Sometimes the devil pursues us to the point of paralysis, yet important decisions still need to be made and there is a temptation to soldier on because we are determined that we are going to get the job done. Too often, however, taking a grip of the situation with our own two hands, we end up wrestling the matter out of God's hands. In challenging circumstances, human drive and determination may be good, but more often the best decision is surely to surrender, to commit to being totally dependent upon Him. I love the paraphrase of Romans 12 v 1 in The Message:

"...Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him."

This verse encourages God-focused prayer, full of thankfulness for the finished work of Christ, prayer that places all our perplexities in God's hands, trusting they will be met with divine perspective, and that whatever the crisis, we will ultimately enter into a deeper sense of God's all-conquering presence.

In his book, 'Wild-Bird Child', a life of Amy Carmichael, Derick Bingham recounts a time when Amy and two colleagues were gathered at the bedside of a dying child. The doctor had not appeared and the child was in dreadful distress for breath. Amy so wanted to be fully present with this dying child, yet she decided to go into the next room alone to pray. She asked the Lord that the child would be at peace and to be taken to be with Him. Returning to the child, Amy could hardly believe it, the child's face was smiling with such a smile as she had never seen before. Amy had simply asked for peace but God had blessed with joy. As this little one passed into the Lord's presence, those at her bedside gazed on in awe. When the evil one is in pursuit and we don't know what to do next, may prayer be so intricately woven into the rhythm and pattern of daily living, that it expresses our utter dependence on all God has done for us, ultimately revealing His perspective and purpose.

**Uel Marrs (Rev)**  
Global Mission Secretary  
Presbyterian Church in Ireland



### 22. India (1)

Please pray for the children who are in the care of The Dohnavur Fellowship, for their education and further training opportunities, that each one may be able to fulfil God's purpose in life. Pray for wisdom as the leaders look at new ways of demonstrating the love of Jesus through impacting the community around them, particularly in outreach to vulnerable children. (The Dohnavur Fellowship Corporation)

### 23. Bangladesh

For the approximately two million people who live on the island of Bhola in Bangladesh, life is defined by hardship. With practically no medical facilities or social provision available, Bhola's name: 'forgotten place,' is sadly apt. Thank the Lord for the work of Bhola's Children UK, a NGO that supports the orphaned and disabled children of Bhola, through cleft-lip surgeries and medical help, sign-language lessons, academic education and life skills such as farming and cooking. Pray that through the support these children receive, they can grow up to live full and healthy lives. (Mission Aviation Fellowship)

### 24. Central Asia

An IFES movement in Central Asia praises God that, with the help of local churches, they have been able to get permission to import gospels designed for students into the country. Pray for Christian students as they invite friends to study God's word. In a neighbouring country, God is helping IFES to share the gospel with international students from South Asia and elsewhere in Central Asia. The South Asian students had been very badly treated, so the witness of Christians who loved and served them was very powerful. IFES spoke to police, landlords and even hired a lawyer to defend them. This practical ministry showed students the reality of gospel truth. Ask God to continue to bless this growing ministry. (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students: IFES)

### 25. India (2)

The stigma and shame attached to disabilities in India extends to the whole family and affects people from any class and any community — Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh, Christian or Jain. Whispering neighbours and the judgmental stares of strangers mean most persons with disabilities remain isolated behind closed doors. Those who do go out are confronted with a world that is acutely inaccessible. Families, especially outside urban areas, lack the resources or knowledge to help or advocate for people with disabilities. This isolation extends into the church, where people with disabilities too often face the same stigma and lack of access. SIM India is praying about how to remove the barriers around people with disabilities, so that these individuals and their families can participate in the life and mission Christ has for them. (Serving in Mission)

### 26. India (Kashmir)

On 5th August, the Indian government ended the special status of autonomy enshrined in the Indian constitution and enjoyed by the princely state of Jammu & Kashmir since India's independence in 1947. Kashmir is the only Muslim majority state in India. Tensions are always high in the region because of the ensuing dispute between the two nuclear powers. The removal of the special status was also accompanied by a clampdown in communication and large congregations banned, escalating the already significant tension in the area. AsiaLink has partners in the Kashmir region with whom they work closely and have not heard anything at all from them since this clampdown, which is obviously a cause of concern. They have no idea of their safety or of their current situation. Please pray for the whole situation and especially for the partners in Kashmir. (AsiaLink)

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## Pray for the Americas



### 17. Dominican Republic

Pray for over 200 needy and vulnerable children and youth in Caraballo in the north of the country as they benefit from a quality basic education through 6th grade. Pray for local government favour as we seek to add grades 7 to 9 to enable children to develop and gain confidence in their schooling. We are blessed to see academic results that are many percentage points higher than the government schools in the country. Please pray for the high school discipleship programme that helps former students stay connected and be encouraged on their faith journey. Please pray for healing for the children who have suffered severe trauma and are receiving care from the recently-appointed psychologist. Pray also that more children and families would be able to benefit from new classroom space, a dental clinic and new playground equipment, and the expansion of vocational training for older students and graduates. (Hope for Kids International)

### 18. Haiti

Please pray for political stability in Haiti. Recent protests and strikes have meant that Haiti Christian Schools have struggled to source food and supplies, and when they have, prices have been inflated. Currently, they feed 130 children each day, so this is a huge concern for them. (Worldshare)

### 19. Paraguay

People belonging to most of the 19 distinct indigenous groups in Paraguay live and die with almost no access to God's good news. SIM Paraguay is addressing this by partnering with other missions to record scriptures and Bible materials in the heart languages of these communities. By sending ministry teams to disciple and train believers from indigenous communities, we pray that as leaders, these indigenous believers will, in turn, effectively convey the gospel to other groups. (Serving in Mission)

### 20. Jamaica

Jamaica has the most churches per square mile than any other country in the world, but widespread poverty means that there is pervasive scamming and dishonesty. Volunteer Winsome asks for prayer that Christian students would stand for integrity on campus and in society and trust God to provide for them. Student Kenneka shares that she and her peers also face a lot of peer pressure to be sexually active, and to find their identity far from Christ. She would appreciate prayer for God to give them strength to live pure lives and that Jamaican students would reject confusion caused by campus society and social media about identity and values. Instead may they seek God's approval. (IFES)

### 21. Argentina

The country is going through a difficult time as inflation is beyond control and the situation is unstable. Pray as elections are coming up in October and they are expected to be complicated. In this context, more non-Christians are attending the Sunday services. People coming to Christ are helped on by keen Christians who keep in contact with them. Pray for many more to find hope in God at this tumultuous time. (Echoes International)

## Pray for Northern Africa and the Middle East



### 1. Middle East (1)

The challenges faced by the Muslim diaspora are many. Islamophobia, mostly rooted in racism, is one factor. Many young Muslims are torn by the difference between the culture of their adopted countries and that of their parents' countries of origin, notably by learning styles, openness to questioning and generational differences, especially the rejection of patriarchal structures. Many Imams in the UK, for example, are trained abroad, making it hard for them to understand the younger members of their communities. One message of Al Massira is to treat Muslims as human beings. As such, it confronts Islamophobia within Christian circles which often manifests itself as a fear of Islam taking over. In this more understanding environment the message of Jesus the Messiah is easier to hear. Please pray for a great harvest from this more fertile soil as people in Islam are drawn to become followers of Jesus. (Al Massira International)

### 2. Middle East (2) and North Africa (1)

In October, Christian graduates from IFES movements across the Middle East and North Africa will gather for Bible teaching and training on living for Christ in the workplace. Ask God to provide the visas and finances required for all who want to come to be able to do so. God has been growing student ministry in this region, and many graduates serve as Bible study leaders for local student groups. Ask God to bless and equip these young people, many of whom face very challenging circumstances, to live for Christ in their families, workplaces and communities. (IFES)

### 3. Arab Gulf

The Arab Gulf is the birthplace of Islam. This is the major religion practised by approximately 65% of the population. There is little freedom of religion in this region and becoming a follower of Jesus can be dangerous. Owing to its natural oil and gas reserves, the Arab Gulf countries

(with the exception of Yemen) have become vastly wealthy and many people see little reason for the Good News. Ask God to draw Muslim men and women to Jesus in the Gulf region. Social media and the internet are a great means of reaching people with the Good News there. Pray that many will come across Christian material and be curious to know more. Pray for dissatisfaction with material things and a hunger to know more about the God who can meet their every need. (Frontiers)

### 4. North Africa (2)

In many Muslim cultures, special needs children are considered a source of shame. Mothers and daughters struggle to care for these children in unseen rooms without assistance or training. Many are suffering. We have partnered with those whose vision is to see the light of Christ shining into this darkness. They enable local initiatives, creating spaces for people with disabilities and their care-givers to grow, learn, gain skills and simply be loved. Pray for more professionals to serve those with special needs, the dying, and people at risk. (Serving in Mission)

### 5. Middle East (3)

Pray for Christians experiencing ongoing and devastating trauma as a result of the conflict in Iraq, Syria and other parts of the Middle East. Please pray for refugees who are asking for Bibles, that, as they read the Scriptures, God will draw close to them. (Scottish Bible Society)



## Pray for Europe



### 6. United Kingdom (1)

Part of CWI's history goes back to The Barbican Mission to the Jews in 19th century London. Today, the city has around 185,000 Jewish residents and contains Europe's highest population of Ultra-Orthodox Jewish people. During our recent Summer Outreach in London, CWI missionaries and a team of volunteers distributed thousands of leaflets to Jewish people, actively engaging in conversations with Jewish tourists and Jewish locals alike. Our missionaries will be touring the United Kingdom this autumn to share news of their mission work including inspiring stories of Jewish people coming to faith in Jesus. Please pray that the autumn tours will bless the churches visited and that through continued outreach, Jewish people in the UK will learn to put their trust in Jesus as their Saviour. (Christian Witness to Israel)

### 7. Turkey

The Christian population in Turkey has declined from 22% to 0.21% since 1900. Very few people in Turkey are evangelical Christians. There are 60 people groups in Turkey, of which 63% are unreached. Few of the 73 million Muslims have heard the gospel. Pray for the people of Turkey to be reached for the gospel. The situation for Christians is becoming increasingly difficult. In recent times, when long-term Christian mission partners in Turkey go abroad, they have great difficulty returning. They are sent back to their own countries, their residence permits are cancelled and they are not allowed to enter the country. There has also been an increase in hate speech. Pray for God's protection over Christians, as they continue to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. (Transform Europe Network)

### 8. United Kingdom (2)

One in eight 5 to 19 year olds in the UK has a diagnosable mental health condition, yet only a quarter of these have had contact with specialists in the past year. Viva's partner

network based in Oxford, called Doorsteps, aims to release children and young people from issues such as this so that they can fulfil their God-given potential. One of Doorsteps' programmes is called Find Your Fire. This runs each week over a nine-month period to build the confidence, aspiration and resilience of vulnerable young people in East Oxford each week over a nine-month period. Please pray for the teenagers who were on last year's programme – that they will put into practice what they have learned. Pray too for the next cohort of 24 young people; that they would grow into who God created them to be by taking part in this initiative. (Viva)

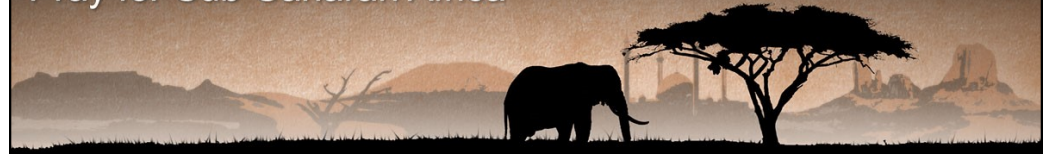
### 9. The Czech Republic

In the Czech Republic over 70% of people say they are 'non-religious'. This is not unusual in Europe. Evangelicals make up a minority of around 1% in Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Portugal, Slovakia and Spain, meaning that none of these countries is considered "reached" with the gospel. Pray for widespread spiritual awakening in Europe. Pray that God would give local churches renewed confidence in His power to save. (Platform 67)

### 10. United Kingdom (3)

Many young people around the world are learning English to help them progress their careers and increase their ability to connect in this global culture. One way that UK believers can help is to offer an hour each week to chat online with a small group of international young people to help them improve their English conversation skills. As relationships are built, questions are asked about faith, and many people from countries antagonistic to the gospel hear about Jesus for the first time. Pray for these English Conversation Club leaders, that they will build bridges for the gospel as they build friendships through English practise. (Reach Beyond)

## Pray for Sub-Saharan Africa



### 11. Angola

The Angolan Government has recently committed \$60 million to clearing a large area of land around the Okavango river watershed. Please join us in praying for the safety of those involved in landmine clearance, and praise God for organisations like The HALO Trust, Mines Advisory Group, and the Angolan Government that are making mine clearance a priority. Pray that by the Ottawa Treaty deadline of 2025, Angola would be landmine-free. (MAF-UK)

### 12. South Sudan

The Laarim people: Pray for Angelo, who is a Laarim believer. He became a Christian attending school outside the Laarim area and has returned home, wanting to share the gospel with his own people. He is also helping with the translation of Bible stories into Laarim. Pray for Angelo, that he will stand firm; that he will remain close to Christ and continually acknowledge him as his Saviour. Pray that everyday he will be a light for Christ among the Laarim. (AIM International)

### 13. Kenya

Residential care for orphans and vulnerable children has to be a last resort. God's best for children, when it is an acceptably safe option, is for children to be brought up within their own family. Please pray that the right support is available to allow children to have their basic needs met, including healthcare and an education. In addition, pray that adult relatives would not only be encouraged to release their children to go to school but also to find hope, dignity and self-respect themselves through tailored programmes that enable them to provide for their families and grow towards becoming financially independent. Reaching out to these families in need not only shows the love of Jesus in practical ways, but also opens doors to share the transforming gospel message. (Hope for Kids International)

### 14. Malawi (1)

We ask for God's favour and protection in this coming academic year for our secondary school student sponsorship; and for good outcomes to staff changes. Pray for the Bible Explorer (BX) programme teaching the Bible to children in school, for spiritual growth in the lives of all BX presenters, and for their good health. Pray also for the expansion of this programme in schools in the Matenje zone, where ten schools are expected to be added this year, and that in the Glad Tidings Orphan Care the nursery school children would excel in their education. (Starfish Malawi)

### 15. Uganda

Please pray for the first phase of the construction of the Fields of Life Vocational Training Institute in Gulu, Northern Uganda. The ground breaking ceremony took place in June and we pray that the construction will go as planned, and pray for all involved in building and supervising this exciting project. Please pray for the wonderful donors who have helped make this phase possible and that we are able to raise the funds to complete this project. (Fields of Life GB)

### 16. Malawi (2)

The Evangelical Bible College of Malawi (EBCoM) is run by a group of international mission agencies together with several indigenous evangelical churches. Limited access to scripture means that there is little detailed Bible knowledge, causing susceptibility to false teaching. EBCoM prepares local believers to teach and preach the Bible faithfully and make it applicable to situations that local believers face. This autumn EBCoM will be starting a new degree programme; please pray for EBCoM, particularly that the Holy Spirit would inspire all its students to grow in faithfulness, godliness and love of the Lord as they prepare to serve God in Malawi and even beyond. (zambesi mission)